

River Forest  
Public Schools

Administration Building  
7776 Lake Street  
River Forest, IL 60305  
708-771-8282

September 21, 2021

Vince Espi

Communicated via email to: [news@news.locallabs.com](mailto:news@news.locallabs.com)

Dear Mr. Espi:

This letter is in response to your electronic *Freedom of Information Action* (FOIA) request received in my office on September 16, 2021.

Request: 1) *“RECORDS REQUESTED: Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records (preferably non-PDF such as CSV, Excel) of the following:*

- *A list of all materials in your district that fall under the 1619 project.*

*For reference, the 1619 project contains works with the following titles and authors: "America Wasn't a Democracy Until Black Americans Made It One", essay by Nikole Hannah-Jones*

- *"American Capitalism Is Brutal. You Can Trace That to the Plantation", essay by Matthew Desmond*
- *"How False Beliefs in Physical Racial Difference Still Live in Medicine Today", essay by Linda Villarosa*
- *"What the Reactionary Politics of 2019 Owe to the Politics of Slavery", essay by Jamelle Bouie*
- *"Why Is Everyone Always Stealing Black Music?", essay by Wesley Morris*
- *"How Segregation Caused Your Traffic Jam", essay by Kevin Kruse*
- *"Why Doesn't America Have Universal Healthcare? One Word: Race", essay by Jeneen Interlandi*
- *"Why American Prisons Owe Their Cruelty to Slavery", essay by Bryan Stevenson*
- *"The Barbaric History of Sugar in America", essay by Khalil Gibran Muhammad*
- *"How America's Vast Racial Wealth Gap Grew: By Plunder", essay by Trymaine Lee*
- *"Their Ancestors Were Enslaved by Law. Now They're Lawyers", photo essay by Djeneba Aduayom, with text from Nikole Hannah-Jones and Wadzanai Mhute*
- *"A New Literary Timeline of African-American History", a collection of original poems and stories*
  - *Clint Smith on the Middle Passage*
  - *Yusef Komunyakaa on Crispus Attucks*
  - *Eve L. Ewing on Phillis Wheatley*
  - *Reginald Dwayne Betts on the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793*
  - *Barry Jenkins on Gabriel's Rebellion*
  - *Jesmyn Ward on the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves*
  - *Tyehimba Jess on Black Seminoles*
  - *Darryl Pinckney on the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863*
  - *ZZ Packer on the New Orleans massacre of 1866*
  - *Yaa Gyasi on the Tuskegee syphilis experiment*
  - *Jacqueline Woodson on Sgt. Isaac Woodard*
  - *Joshua Bennett on the Black Panther Party*
  - *Lynn Nottage on the birth of hip-hop*

*Excellence in Education: A Continuing Tradition*

- *Kiese Laymon on the Rev. Jesse Jackson's "rainbow coalition" speech*
- *Clint Smith on the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina*

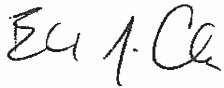
*A list of all books written by authors Ibram X. Kendi (aka Henry Rogers) or Robin DiAngelo that are used in curriculum or libraries in your school district.*

**Response:** We have the following resource in our Roosevelt Middle School LLC – Reynolds, Jason, and Ibram X. Kendi. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*. New York City, Little, Brown and Company 2020. A remix of the National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi. No other resources are used in District 90 at this time.

As Superintendent of the District, I am responsible for granting and denying the requests for records under the Freedom of Information Act. Please be aware that this response to your request is pursuant to my understanding of your FOIA request.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Condon, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

**From:** Vince Espi news@news.locallabs.com  
**Subject:** FOIA Request - 1619 Project Curriculum  
**Date:** September 16, 2021 at 11:56 AM  
**To:** condone@district90.org



To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of LocalLabs which is an online publication that reports on and informs the public about local government activities. If you are not the FOIA officer please forward it to the FOIA officer or reply to this email with the correct FOIA contact.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records (preferably non-PDF such as CSV, Excel) of the following:

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The purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information as a matter of public interest and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. I qualify as media under the definition in Section 2 (c-10) ("Commercial purpose"), Section 2 (f) ("News media"), Section 2 (g) ("Recurrent requester"), and Section 2 (h) ("Voluminous request") of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6 (Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Therefore, I request you furnish any responsive documents and items without charge.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please let me know if you have questions.

Vince Espi

LocalLabs