

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

3340 S. Harlem Ave. Riverside, IL 60546
708-447-5007
708-447-3252 fax
www.district96.org



September 15, 2026

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Richard Doty
E-mail: rickldoty@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Doty:

On September 9, 2026, the District received your request for records pursuant to the Illinois *Freedom of Information Act*, 5 ILCS 140/et seq. as follows:

Request 1 — August 2026 Billing

All invoices, statements, or ledger entries reflecting billing from Engler Callaway Baasten & Sraga, LLC to Riverside School District 96 for the period August 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026, consistent with the format and scope of the invoices previously produced in response to Supplemental FOIA Request 5 (invoices #37050, #37213, #37344).

Request 2 — Renewed Privilege Log Demand

For each invoice previously produced in this matter in which a narrative task description has been redacted but the associated date, hours, and dollar amount remain visible (including but not limited to invoices #36602, #36603, #36743, #36882, and #36883), I request a privilege log identifying, for each redacted entry: the date, the general subject matter category (without disclosing privileged content), and the specific FOIA exemption relied upon for withholding. This request renews and restates the privilege log demand first made on July 1, 2026, which remains unfulfilled.

In the alternative, for each such invoice, I request that the District confirm in writing whether the redacted billing relates to any matter involving Richard Doty, Madeleine Jensen, WorldStrides, any FOIA request submitted by Richard Doty, or the Policy 2:260 grievance investigation. This is a request to confirm or deny relevance, not to disclose privileged content.

Request 3 — Audit Management Letters

Copies of the management letter, management representation letter, or any comparable communication from the District's independent auditor (including but not limited to Eder Casella & Co. or any successor auditor) accompanying each annual financial audit for fiscal years 2016 through the most recently completed audit, to the extent such letters exist and are in the District's possession.

The District now timely responds to your FOIA request, in accordance with the Illinois *Freedom of Information Act* (5 ILCS 140/1, et seq.) as follows:

Response

Request 1: Your request is denied because it does not apprise the District of what public record(s) is (are) being sought. A request under FOIA must reasonably identify a public record. *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Fin. and Prof. Reg.*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, 8 N.E.3d 11. Pursuant to Section 3 of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/3), the District has made a preliminary determination that your request is unduly burdensome for failure to reasonably identify a public record and forcing the District to self-interpret the request for unidentified records.

Request 2: Your request with respect to a privilege law is denied. Under the Illinois FOIA law, a request to inspect or copy a record must reasonably identify a public record, as opposed to general data, information or statistics to be gleaned from documents which have not otherwise been created by a public body. Accordingly, FOIA applies to the provision of existing public records; a public body is not required to answer questions or generate new records in response to a FOIA request.

Additionally, with respect to your alternative request for confirmation related to your request(s), the District notes that a request under FOIA must reasonably identify a public record and not general data or information, and FOIA does not compel a public body to create a new record or to provide answers to questions posed by the inquirer. See generally *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Department of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, 8 N.E.3d 11.

Request 3: Your request is denied, to the extent such responsive documents exist, because such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(m) as “[c]ommunications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation” (materials prepared or compiled with respect to internal audits of public bodies). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(m).

The person responsible for the decisions above is the undersigned. You are hereby notified that you have the right to request a review of the decisions above by the Office of the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted as follows:

Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
Phone: (877) 299-3642 / Fax: (217) 782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

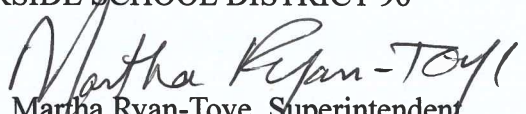
You also have the right to judicial review of this decision under Section 11 of FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this correspondence, please let me know.

Sincerely,

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

By:


Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye, Superintendent
Freedom of Information Officer