

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

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708-447-5007
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www.district96.org



October 5, 2026

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

Dear Mr. Doty:

On September 21, 2026, the District received your request for records pursuant to the Illinois *Freedom of Information Act*, 5 ILCS 140/et seq. On September 28, 2026, the District notified you that it required an extension for the deadline to respond, pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3. The District now timely responds. The September 21, 2026, request was as follows:

PART I — RENEWAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS 2 AND 3

- a. *Supplemental FOIA Request 2, submitted July 13, 2026, sought compensation records, including prior-year Form 1099 or W-9 documentation issued to Matthew Muto for 2022 through 2024, compensation records for any District employee serving as a WorldStrides Program Leader or Course Leader for the 2027 trip (including but not limited to Sara Venegas, Rebecca Kos, and Robert Brown), stipend payment records for Meredith Harvey, and documentation of MacKenzie Mahy's chaperone registration. The District's response to Request 2 consisted of ten pages, all of which comprised a single forwarded e-mail chain concerning a Washington D.C. trip at a different school district, unrelated to any of the categories requested. Not a single responsive compensation record was produced.*
- b. *Supplemental FOIA Request 3 sought, among other things, all communications with any attorney or law firm concerning this matter, records reflecting Molly Marquardt's search methodology, and any records identifying the redacted recipients on the three forwarded communications addressed in my July 1, 2026 notice. The District's response to Request 3 consisted of 490 pages, the substantial majority of which were duplicate copies of correspondence already produced or already in my possession. No privilege log was included. No search methodology was disclosed. No recipient identity was disclosed.*
- c. *I request that the District explain, in writing, why two of three supplemental requests specifically directed at compensation records and attorney communications were met with productions containing none of the requested material, while requests for correspondence already known to the District were fulfilled at substantial volume. If the District's position is that no additional responsive records exist, I request that position be stated explicitly and in writing, so that I may evaluate it accordingly.*

PART II — BASIS FOR THE ONGOING WORLDSTRIDES RELATIONSHIP

I request the following, for the period January 1, 2016 through the present unless otherwise specified:

- a. *Any contract, memorandum of understanding, participation agreement, vendor agreement, or other document — in whatever form, and regardless of whether it is styled as a “contract” — establishing or governing the District's relationship with WorldStrides, Lakeland Tours LLC, WH Blocker Inc., or any predecessor or affiliated entity.*
- b. *Records sufficient to identify each school year in which a WorldStrides-organized or WorldStrides-affiliated student trip was made available to students at Hauser Junior High School.*
- c. *For each school year identified in response to Item 2, records sufficient to identify which District employee(s) served in the role of WorldStrides Program Leader, Course Leader, or any substantially equivalent role.*
- d. *Board meeting minutes, agendas, or administrative memoranda reflecting the initial approval, authorization, or adoption of a relationship with WorldStrides or any predecessor entity.*
- e. *Copies of any parent-facing or student-facing marketing, promotional, or informational materials distributed by or on behalf of WorldStrides through District channels (including but not limited to email, SchoolMessenger, or in-school distribution), for each school year since January 1, 2016.*

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:

Request I(a): With respect to your renewed request for “compensation records, including prior-year Form 1099 or W-9 documentation issued to Matthew Muto for 2022 through 2024,” your request is denied as unduly burdensome, as responsive records, to the extent they exist or were not exempt from disclosure, were previously provided in response to your July 14, 2026, FOIA request. Although no further response is required, the District responds to the renewed request that there are no records responsive to your request.

With respect to your request for “compensation records for any District employee serving as a WorldStrides Program Leader or Course Leader for the 2027 trip (including but not limited to Sara Venegas, Rebecca Kos, and Robert Brown),” the District views this as a new request, given that the prior request was for “communications” and not “compensation” records. See attached responsive records. The following information has been redacted from the documents in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(b): Social Security numbers, employee identification numbers personal email addresses, and home addresses. Such information is “private information” within the meaning of FOIA Section 2, and is exempt from copying and inspection pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(b).

With respect to your request for “stipend payment records for Meredith Harvey,” the District considers this a new request. See attached responsive records.

With respect to your renewed request for “documentation of MacKenzie Mahy's chaperone registration,” your request is denied as unduly burdensome, as responsive records, to the extent they exist or were not exempt from disclosure, were previously provided in response to your July 14,

2026, FOIA request. Although no further response is required, the District responds to the renewed request that there are no records responsive to your request.

Request I(b): With respect to your request for “all communications with any attorney or law firm concerning this matter,” your request is denied as unduly burdensome given the District’s response to your July 14, 2026, FOIA request. Specifically, on July 27, 2026, the District denied your request as follows: *to the extent such responsive documents may exist, because such responsive documents are exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 7(1)(m) of FOIA: Privileged communications. Such information is “Communications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation” exempt from copying and inspection pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(m).*

With respect to your request for “records reflecting Molly Marquardt’s search methodology,” your request is denied as unduly burdensome as all responsive records, to the extent they exist or were not exempt from disclosure, were previously provided in response to your July 14, 2026, FOIA request. Specifically, on July 27, 2026, the District responded to your request as follows: *Your request is granted in part. See attached responsive records. Please note the following information has been redacted from the documents or has not been produced in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(l) and 7(1)(m): information related to closed session agendas because “Minutes of meetings of public bodies closed to the public as provided in the Open Meetings Act” pursuant to Section 7(1)(l) and privileged information including “Communications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation” pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(m).*

With respect to your request for “any records identifying the redacted recipients on the three forwarded communications addressed in my July 1, 2026 notice,” your request is denied. The information requested relative to these e-mails is currently the subject of 2026 PAC 95361. Please see the District’s September 17, 2026, response to the PAC. Until such time as the PAC issues a decision in response to your request for review, the District denies your request, as the requested information has been redacted in accordance with Section 7(1)(m) as privileged information as “Communications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation.” 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(m).

Request I(c): The District declines your request to provide explanations for its responses to prior FOIA requests. The District has provided written responses, including appropriate citations to statutory exemptions for redactions to records and for records not produced, sufficient to respond to each request. Additionally, 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 II(a): There are no records responsive to your request.

Request II(b): 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 II(c): 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 II(d): Regarding your request for "Board meeting minutes, agendas," from January 1, 2016, to present, please see <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1668> for all Board meeting agendas and minutes from August 2010 to present.

Request II(e): See attached responsive records.

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:

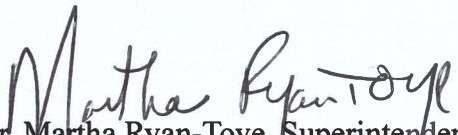
Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
Phone: (877) 299-3642 / Fax: (217) 782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

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