



Lori Rupsch &lt;lrupsch@d56.org&gt;

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**(no subject)**

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**Rachel Solomon** <rsolomon@d56.org>

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 10:38 AM

To: Lori Rupsch &lt;lrupsch@d56.org&gt;

Cc: Luis Correa &lt;lcorrea@d56.org&gt;, "Dawn M. Hinkle" &lt;dhinkle@ecbslaw.com&gt;

Please find attached the FOIA request to be included for the April, Board of Education meeting's agenda. Luis and I will be handling this matter, so no further action is required at this time.

Thank you

Rachel

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Selene Cortes** <selene\_cortes24@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 25, 2025 at 8:50AM

Subject: FOIA Request for Legal Fee Invoices Related to Title IX Matters

To: Luis Correa &lt;lcorrea@d56.org&gt;

Cc: Lori Rupsch &lt;lrupsch@d56.org&gt;

To: Dr. Luis Corea, Superintendent of Schools / FOIA Complaint Officer

Cc: Lori Rupsch, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk/Human Resources

Gurnee School District 56

[3706 Florida Ave](#)[Gurnee, IL 60031](#)

Subject: FOIA Request for Legal Fee Invoices Related to Title IX Matters

Dear FOIA Officer,

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140), I request copies of legal fee invoices related to Title IX matters for Gurnee School District 56 from December 01, 2024, to the date this request is fulfilled.

Requested Information:

I am requesting only non-privileged billing details, specifically:

- Dates of service
- Service provided
- Total amounts billed
- Names of law firms or attorneys providing services

General descriptions of services rendered (excluding any privileged legal advice or confidential attorney-client communications)

I understand that portions of the invoices containing legal advice may be redacted under 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(m). However, attorney-client privilege only applies to legal counsel provided to the school district as a public entity, not to individual employees who may have consulted district-paid attorneys for personal defense or non-official matters.

Additionally, billing details, attorney names, and general descriptions of services are not privileged and must be disclosed under FOIA (Illinois Education Ass'n v. Illinois State Board of Education, 204 Ill. App. 3d 406 (1990)).

If the request is denied in full or in part, please cite the specific FOIA exemption(s) applied and provide a written explanation for the denial.

Legal Protections for FOIA Requesters & Title IX Records:

Right to Access Public Records (5 ILCS 140/3) – Public bodies must provide requested records within **five business days**, unless an extension is requested in writing.

Right to a Detailed Denial Explanation (5 ILCS 140/9(a)) – If my request is denied, the district must provide a written response with legal justification.

Prohibition Against Retaliation (5 ILCS 140/4 & 5 ILCS 140/9.5) – Public bodies cannot punish, intimidate, or retaliate against a requester for filing a FOIA request.

Right to Appeal (5 ILCS 140/9.5(a)) – If denied, I have the right to seek review by the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor (PAC) or pursue legal action in circuit court.

Prohibition Against Willful Denial or Delay (5 ILCS 140/9.5(f)) – A public body cannot knowingly delay or improperly withhold public records. Willful violations may result in legal consequences.

Federal Title IX Compliance Requirement (34 C.F.R. § 106.8 & § 106.45) – Schools must keep accurate records of Title IX complaints and legal matters. Any attempt to withhold, delay, or destroy relevant documents could violate federal law.

#### **Attorney-Client Privilege Limitations in FOIA Requests:**

Attorney-client privilege applies only to confidential legal advice given to the school district as an entity.

It does not protect information related to an individual administrator's personal legal defense, especially if district resources were used for personal legal matters.

FOIA requires disclosure of all non-exempt billing records, including dates of service, amounts billed, and general descriptions of work performed.

I request these records in electronic format (PDF).

As this request is in the public interest, I request a waiver of any fees. If fees apply, please notify me in advance within the legally required timeframe.

I look forward to your response within five business days, as required by law.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Selene Cortes Tapia



Reply

Reply all

Forward



**Rachel B. Solomon**

**Director of Pupil Services, Gurnee SD56**

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