



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
Phone: 708-771-8282
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October 5, 2021

Vince Espi

Communicated via email to: 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 30, 2021.

Request: *“RECORDS REQUESTED: Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records of the following:*

(1) How much money has the district received under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant program, otherwise known as ARP ESSER? Please provide totals and dates of receipts along with a grand total of money received from this program.

RESPONSE: \$0

(2) Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act requires any district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on its website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Prior to making the plan public, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into consideration when developing the plan. Where is this plan available currently on your district web site? When did you publish the plan? Did you seek public comment on the plan? When/where/how? Please provide all documents relating to the communication of this plan to the general public.

RESPONSE: See Attached

(3) Also under the ARP act, every district that receives ARP ESSER funds must develop a plan for its use of them and submit it to the Illinois State Board of Education within 90 days. Did you provide this plan to the Illinois State Board of Education? When? Please provide a copy of what you provided to ISBE.

RESPONSE: Not at this time because we have not yet submitted an ESSER III grant application for ISBE approval.

(4) ARP ESSER also requires enhanced reporting on spending of these funds from districts and the ISBE. Have you provided any reporting thus far? If so, please provide all reports.

Response: Not at this time because we have not yet submitted an ESSER III grant application for ISBE approval.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. J. Condon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Edward J. Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent

From: Vince Espi news@news.locallabs.com
Subject: FOIA Request - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief
Date: September 30, 2021 at 10:55 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 of the following:

(1) how much money has the district received under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant program, otherwise known as ARP ESSER? Please provide totals and dates of receipts along with a grand total of money received from this program.

(2) Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act requires any district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on its website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Prior to making the plan public, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into consideration when developing the plan. Where is this plan available currently on your district web site? When did you publish the plan? Did you seek public comment on the plan? When/where/how? Please provide all documents relating to the communication of this plan to the general public.

(3) Also under the ARP act, every district that receives ARP ESSER funds must develop a plan for its use of them and submit it to the Illinois State Board of Education within 90 days. Did you provide this plan to the Illinois State Board of Education? When? Please provide a copy of what you provided to ISBE.

(4) ARP ESSER also requires enhanced reporting on spending of these funds from districts and the ISBE. Have you provided any reporting thus far? If so, please provide all reports.

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