

Name: Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a.) W

Organization: N/A

Email: waacl13@gmail.com

Subject: FOIA Request - 5 ILCS 140/1

Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a.) W,

Thank you for reaching out to Winfield School District 34 with your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, as per the Illinois FOIA statute (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.).

Summary of Your Request (2/19/26):

You requested the following public records:

Prompt disclosure are records in your possession detailing your discussions about [1] Black History Month as an event that enables individuals and organizations to raise awareness on the legacy of the 1960s civil rights movement; [2] the manner in which your school district has commemorated Black History Month after January 31st 2009; [3] Psychology Today as an American news media outlet which had on (or around) November 21st 2010 (i) sardonically noted how *"once upon a time, a strange thing happened at the Ionia State Hospital in Michigan: a diagnosis of schizophrenia exited the body of a white housewife, flew across the hospital, and landed on a young Black man from the housing projects of Detroit, burrowing into his body and stubbornly refusing to leave;"* (ii) recognized that before the 1950s, *"the overwhelming majority of those diagnosed with schizophrenia were white women;"* (iii) recognized that the *"schizophrenia" diagnosis underwent a "rhetorical transformation from an illness of white feminine docility to one of Black male hostility"* as a direct consequence of the civil rights movement of the 1960s; [4] the decision of the American Psychological Association (APA) to recognize in the month of February 2021 that (i) *"racism has been an enduring, insidious, and pervasive feature of the United States (U.S.) landscape;"* (ii) *"racism is not only limited to racist ideas, attributions, expectations, assumptions, and behaviors held by individuals but also has shaped and undermined almost every aspect of U.S society, including our laws, policies, educational systems, customs, and cultural narratives, weakening our political and civil institutions and creating many political and social fissures;"* (iii) *"racism intersects with other social and personal identities (e.g., age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability status, socioeconomic status, etc.) in ways that compound experiences of oppression among diverse groups in the form of sexism, heterosexism, ableism;"* (iv) *"white privilege is unearned power that is afforded to white people on the basis of status rather than earned merit and protects white people from the consequences of being racist and benefitting from systemic racism."* **[iii]**

Response to Your Request:

In response to Question 1: Please see the [attached file](#).

The District has conducted a reasonable search and determined that no responsive records exist for Questions 2-5.

This response fulfills your request within the five-business-day timeframe mandated by the Illinois FOIA. Should you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Best regards,

Amanda Melsa

FOIA Officer

Winfield School District 34