



Jessica Miller <jmiller@panaschools.com>

## Freedom Of Information Request

2 messages

**Michael Henry** <michaelfhenry@live.com>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 10:31 AM

To: Michael Henry <michaelfhenry@live.com>

Cc: "dveile@cusd1.org" <dveile@cusd1.org>, "kelle.bunch@libertyschool.net" <kelle.bunch@libertyschool.net>, "esmith@cusd3.com" <esmith@cusd3.com>, "scott.riddle@cusd4.com" <scott.riddle@cusd4.com>, "mcguirla@qps.org" <mcguirla@qps.org>, "lan.eberle@bchornets.com" <lan.eberle@bchornets.com>, "odaniellb@beardstown.com" <odaniellb@beardstown.com>, "mneathery@virginia64.com" <mneathery@virginia64.com>, "azahm@a-central.us" <azahm@a-central.us>, "jwaggener@franklinhigh.com" <jwaggener@franklinhigh.com>, "rpipher@waverlyscotties.com" <rpipher@waverlyscotties.com>, "twalker@mcsd11.net" <twalker@mcsd11.net>, "adean@triopiacusd27.org" <adean@triopiacusd27.org>, "sptacek@jsd117.org" <sptacek@jsd117.org>, "kylee.orr@phwolves.com" <kylee.orr@phwolves.com>, "capps@griggsvilleperry.org" <capps@griggsvilleperry.org>, "rtepen@pikeland.org" <rtepen@pikeland.org>, "dpowell@westerncusd12.org" <dpowell@westerncusd12.org>, "jabell@winchesterschools.net" <jabell@winchesterschools.net>, "bpennock@bluffs-school.com" <bpennock@bluffs-school.com>, "cbowman@mgschools.com" <cbowman@mgschools.com>, "wolson@bccu2.org" <wolson@bccu2.org>, "pmurphy@ga.mohawks.net" <pmurphy@ga.mohawks.net>, "bbruley@tcusd3.org" <bbruley@tcusd3.org>, "afrancis@ecusd4.com" <afrancis@ecusd4.com>, "jmiller@panaschools.com" <jmiller@panaschools.com>, "cclark@southforkschools.com" <cclark@southforkschools.com>, "cadam@altamontschools.org" <cadam@altamontschools.org>, "plark@beehercity.org" <plark@beehercity.org>, "cjackson@dieterichschools.org" <cjackson@dieterichschools.org>, "johnsona@unit40.org" <johnsona@unit40.org>, "sturgeom@ttown.k12.il.us" <sturgeom@ttown.k12.il.us>, "dlund@bcusd201.com" <dlund@bcusd201.com>, "tportz@stelmo.org" <tportz@stelmo.org>, "jgarrison@vandals203.org" <jgarrison@vandals203.org>, "mritter@ramseycusd.org" <mritter@ramseycusd.org>, "ahopper@panhandleschools.com" <ahopper@panhandleschools.com>, "hmcbrain@hillsboroschools.net" <hmcbrain@hillsboroschools.net>, "kmcclain@litchfieldpanthers.org" <kmcclain@litchfieldpanthers.org>, "scottdoerr@nokomis.k12.il.us" <scottdoerr@nokomis.k12.il.us>, "cschug@district100.com" <cschug@district100.com>, "mcascio@nbcusd.org" <mcascio@nbcusd.org>, "terrell.yarbrough@harlem122.org" <terrell.yarbrough@harlem122.org>, "kfreedlund@kinnschools.org" <kfreedlund@kinnschools.org>, "czizekc@prairiehill.org" <czizekc@prairiehill.org>, "rwlodek@shirlan134.com" <rwlodek@shirlan134.com>, "Phelps@rockton140.org" <Phelps@rockton140.org>, "ehren.jarrett@rps205.com" <ehren.jarrett@rps205.com>, "mdugan@hononegah.org" <mdugan@hononegah.org>, "nbutenhoff@sb320.org" <nbutenhoff@sb320.org>, "carlcarlson@pecschools.com" <carlcarlson@pecschools.com>, "kalberstett@cusd322.org" <kalberstett@cusd322.org>, "schwuchowj@winnebagoschools.org" <schwuchowj@winnebagoschools.org>, "heinzl@ccsd15.net" <heinzl@ccsd15.net>, "michael.connolly@ccsd21.org" <michael.connolly@ccsd21.org>, "dangelaccio@d23.org" <dangelaccio@d23.org>, "smallek@sd25.org" <smallek@sd25.org>, "jmegerle@rtsd26.org" <jmegerle@rtsd26.org>, "deiter.j@nb27.org" <deiter.j@nb27.org>, "jpearson@northbrook28.net" <jpearson@northbrook28.net>, "stangee@srd29.org" <stangee@srd29.org>, "etammaru@district30.org" <etammaru@district30.org>, "emurphy@district31.net" <emurphy@district31.net>, "ddelli@glenview34.org" <ddelli@glenview34.org>, "wanga@glencoeschools.org" <wanga@glencoeschools.org>, "kellytess@winnetka36.org" <kellytess@winnetka36.org>, "arreguins@avoca37.org" <arreguins@avoca37.org>, "kdonegan@kenilworth38.org" <kdonegan@kenilworth38.org>, "cremasck@wilmette39.org" <cremasck@wilmette39.org>, "andyduross@sd54.org" <andyduross@sd54.org>, "mgorr@d57.org" <mgorr@d57.org>, "bresnahan.terri@ccsd59.org" <bresnahan.terri@ccsd59.org>, "amadeim@d62.org" <amadeim@d62.org>, "sschleizer@emsd63.org" <sschleizer@emsd63.org>, "bcollins@d64.org" <bcollins@d64.org>, "turnera2@district65.net" <turnera2@district65.net>, "scoleman@golf67.net" <scoleman@golf67.net>, "sgrens@skokie68.org" <sgrens@skokie68.org>, "clausonm@skokie69.net" <clausonm@skokie69.net>, "mcondon@mgsd70.org" <mcondon@mgsd70.org>, "jkosirog@niles71.org" <jkosirog@niles71.org>, "cwhittaker@fairview72.com" <cwhittaker@fairview72.com>, "pgoldberg@eps73.net" <pgoldberg@eps73.net>, "ckyle@sd735.org" <ckyle@sd735.org>, "drusso@sd74.org" <drusso@sd74.org>, "campbellm@eths202.org" <campbellm@eths202.org>, "tragosp@newtrier.k12.il.us" <tragosp@newtrier.k12.il.us>, "tbonuma@maine207.org" <tbonuma@maine207.org>, "jucampbell@d211.org" <jucampbell@d211.org>, "scott.rowe@d214.org" <scott.rowe@d214.org>, "thomoo@d219.org" <thomoo@d219.org>, "rgravel@glenbrook225.org" <rgravel@glenbrook225.org>, "bpender@rosemont78.org" <bpender@rosemont78.org>, "kkopta@pennoyerschool.org" <kkopta@pennoyerschool.org>, "mguzik@norridge80.net" <mguzik@norridge80.net>, "mkartsimas@sd81.org" <mkartsimas@sd81.org>, "giralodod@d83.org" <giralodod@d83.org>, "dkatzin@d84.org" <dkatzin@d84.org>, "jprather@rhodes845.org" <jprather@rhodes845.org>

Dear District FOIA Officer,

This is a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.  
I request copies of the following public records:

From 2019 thru the present please provide Documentation the District Complied with Illinois law and Performed the Background checks the District Superintendent is supposed to perform of who ever is designated to perform

The Background Checks for Board members Prior to them being Goven the Oath Of Office.

Please Provide the background reports as Required under Illinois Law for each School Board elected in the State Of Illinois from 2010 Present, Performed by Each of the Government Entities in this Email.

Under Illinois Law (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9), the legal responsibility to initiate and ensure that criminal background checks are conducted on school board members—prior to being sworn into office—lies with the School District, typically managed by the Superintendent or the Board’s designated Human Resources Department/officer.

Key Details on Responsibility and Process:

- Legal Mandate: Illinois law requires that school board members, who are essentially considered "applicants" for the position of managing the school district, must submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check.
- Responsible Party: The School District must initiate these checks, which include fingerprint-based checks through the Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Databases Searched: The required background check includes:
  - Illinois State Police (ISP) Criminal History Records Information.
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national crime information databases.
  - Statewide Sex Offender Registry.
  - Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Reg

I am requesting these records for a non-commercial purpose  
If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50.00

However, I request a waiver of all fees because the disclosure of this information is in the public interest.

As provided by law, I expect a response within five working days.  
Sincerely,

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**Jessica Miller** <jmiller@panaschools.com>  
To: Michael Henry <michaelfhenry@live.com>

Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 12:55 PM

Dear Mr. Henry:

Thank you for writing to the Pana Community Unit School District 8 with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq. On February 5th, you requested the following documents:

*This is a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.  
I request copies of the following public records:*

*From 2019 thru the present please provide Documentation the District Complied with Illinois law and Performed the*

*Background checks the District Superintendent is supposed to perform of who ever is designated to perform The Background Checks for Board members Prior to them being Given the Oath Of Office. Please Provide the background reports as Required under Illinois Law for each School Board elected in the State Of Illinois from 2010 Present, Performed by Each of the Government Entities in this Email. Under Illinois Law (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9), the legal responsibility to initiate and ensure that criminal background checks are conducted on school board members—prior to being sworn into office—lies with the School District, typically managed by the Superintendent or the Board’s designated Human Resources Department/officer.*

*Key Details on Responsibility and Process:*

*Legal Mandate: Illinois law requires that school board members, who are essentially considered "applicants" for the position of managing the school district, must submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check. Responsible Party: The School District must initiate these checks, which include fingerprint-based checks through the Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Databases Searched: The required background check includes: Illinois State Police (ISP) Criminal History Records Information. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national crime information databases. Statewide Sex Offender Registry. Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Reg I am requesting these records for a non-commercial purpose If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50.00 However, I request a waiver of all fees because the disclosure of this information is in the public interest.*

After reviewing your request and the applicable provisions of the State Code/law, the District provides the following response:

### 1. Background Checks for School Board Members

Illinois School Code Section 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 requires criminal background checks for employees of a school district. This statute does not require fingerprint-based criminal history checks for elected school board members prior to taking the oath of office. As such, the District does not initiate or maintain fingerprint-based ISP or FBI criminal background reports for school board members, and no such records exist. Because the requested records do not exist, the District cannot provide documentation showing compliance with a legal requirement that is not imposed by statute.

### 2. Background Reports for School Board Members Statewide (2010–Present)

The District does not possess records for school board members elected in other Illinois school districts or records maintained by other governmental entities. FOIA applies only to records that a public body has in its possession or control. The District is not required to create records or obtain records from other public bodies in response to a FOIA request. Accordingly, this portion of your request is denied.

### 3. Privacy Considerations

Even if such records existed, criminal history background checks would constitute highly personal and private information. Disclosure of such records would be exempt from disclosure under FOIA Sections 7(1)(b) (private information) and 7(1)(c) (unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), 5 ILCS 140/7.

You have the right to request a review of this response by the Illinois Attorney General’s Public Access Counselor (PAC) within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter.

Requests for review must be submitted in writing to:

Public Access Counselor  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General  
500 South Second Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
[publicaccess@ilag.gov](mailto:publicaccess@ilag.gov)

Please confirm receipt of this email and response to your FOIA request.

[Quoted text hidden]

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*Jessica L. Miller*

Superintendent

Pana CUSD 8

[jmiller@panaschools.com](mailto:jmiller@panaschools.com)

