

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

3340 S. Harlem Ave. Riverside, IL 60546
708-447-5007
708-447-3252 fax
www.district96.org



August 12, 2026

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Richard Doty
rickldoty@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Doty:

On July 29, 2026, the District received a "Supplemental FOIA Request 4" from you pursuant to the *Illinois Freedom of Information Act*, 5 ILCS 140/et seq. The request was as follows:

V. SUPPLEMENTAL FOIA REQUEST 4

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq., I request the following additional records, each for the period January 1, 2023 to the present unless otherwise specified:

- 1. All direct communications between any member of the Board of Education and any attorney at Engler, Callaway, Baasten & Sraga, LLC, including but not limited to Cynthia Baasten, referencing Richard Doty, Madeleine Jensen, WorldStrides, or this matter.*
- 2. Any engagement letter, retainer agreement, or other document establishing the scope and commencement date of Engler, Callaway, Baasten & Sraga, LLC's representation of Riverside School District 96, whether as general counsel or in connection with this matter specifically.*
- 3. Any contract, memorandum of understanding, vendor agreement, or other document establishing or governing the relationship between Riverside School District 96 (or any school within the district) and WorldStrides, Lakeland Tours LLC, or WH Blocker Inc.*
- 4. All records reflecting WorldStrides-affiliated trips, programs, or presentations at any Riverside School District 96 school other than Hauser Junior High, from January 1, 2023 to the present.*
- 5. All records reflecting in-school presentation access granted to any third-party commercial organization, other than WorldStrides, at any Riverside School District 96 school during instructional time, from January 1, 2023 to the present.*
- 6. Written confirmation of whether a search of district-issued and personal mobile devices for text messages responsive to my July 2, 2026 preservation notice was conducted, identifying who*

conducted it, when, and using what search terms; and production of any responsive text messages located.

7. A log or index of all Freedom of Information Act requests received by the district referencing WorldStrides, Hauser Junior High trips, or related third-party commercial vendor activity, from any requester, from January 1, 2023 to the present, identifying at minimum the date of each request and a general description of its subject matter.

As with my prior requests, I request a fee waiver on the grounds that disclosure is in the public interest, and I request all responsive records in their original electronic format, including metadata where available.

On July 30, 2026, the District informed you of its intention to extend the deadline response to August 12, 2026, pursuant to Section 3(e) of the *Illinois Freedom of Information Act* (5 ILCS 140/3(e)). 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:

Response

- **1:** Your request is denied in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(m): 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" pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(m).
- **2:** See attached responsive records.
- **3:** Your request is denied as unduly burdensome because all responsive records, to the extent they exist, were previously provided in response to your June 14, 2026 FOIA request.
- **4:** There are no records responsive to your request.
- **5:** 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 and not general information. *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. A search of the District's database based on a self-interpretation produced in excess of 70,000 e-mails. Therefore, at this time, I am extending to you an opportunity to confer with us to attempt to identify the public record(s) sought and narrow the request to manageable proportions. We ask that you respond within 10 business days after the date of this letter.

- 6: Your request is denied because 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.
- 7: See attached responsive records. The following information has been redacted from the documents in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(b) and 7.5(r): Student identifying information. Such information is prohibited from disclosure as "information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law" pursuant to Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA (school student records under the *Illinois School Student Records Act* (105 ILCS 10/1, et seq.) and/or education records under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (20 U.S.C. §1232g) and their implementing regulations (23 Ill. Admin. Code §375.10, et seq. and 34 CFR §99.1, et seq.); "personal information" the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and disclosure that has not been consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA (students' names and sex); and "information prohibited from being disclosed by the *Illinois School Student Records Act*" pursuant to Section 7.5(r) of FOIA (student records/information).

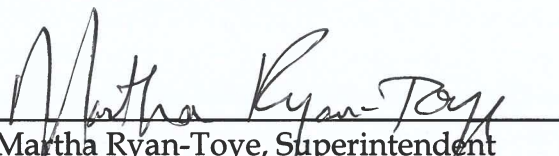
You are hereby notified that you have the right to request a review of the decisions above by the Office of the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted as follows:

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

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