## WOODRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 68 DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

## RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RECORDS UNDER THE ILLINOIS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

DATE: December 8, 2025
TO: Judiciocracy LLC
Max Binnington
foia@judiciocracy.com

The District 68 Freedom of Information Officer, Dr. William Schmidt, received your request for public records pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1, et. Seq. (the FOIA).

We preface this response by advising you that the Illinois FOIA imposes no obligation on a public body to create a record in response to a request for information under the Act.

Date Requested: December 1, 2025 Date Responded: December 8, 2025

## Request:

On November 21, 2025, Woodridge School District 68 (the "District") received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The District extended the time for its response pursuant to Section 3(e) of the FOIA. Your request and the District's responses are as follows:

Request:

- 1) All bills from external attorneys or law firms for the year 2024, and through July 18, 2025 for 2025.
- 2) All engagement agreements with attorneys or law firms affiliated with any of the legal bills for the time period in item #1.
- 3) All other engagement agreements with attorneys or law firms executed in 2024 and in 2025 through July 18, 2025 not affiliated with any legal bills produced in item #1.
- 4) Documents showing any and all attorneys or legal professionals (attorneys, law firms, law clerks, paralegals and the like) who appeared on behalf of, represented, advised, or otherwise counseled the entity in 2024, and for 2025 through July 18, 2025.

The District responds to your request as follows:

Dear Mr. Binnington:

**Response:** Enclosed are records in the District's possession that are responsive to your first request. I redacted records containing student identifying information, which is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 6 of the Illinois School Student Records Act and Sections 7(1)(a) and 7.5(r) of the FOIA. 105 ILCS 10/6; 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(a); 5 ILCS 140/7.5(r). The Illinois School Student Records Act prohibits the District from providing records that identify students and the FOIA exempts such information from disclosure. 105 ILCS 10/6; 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(a); 5 ILCS 140/7.5. I also redacted the District's account numbers, the disclosure of which could result in identity theft or impression or defrauding of the District. Such information is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b); 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(kk).

As it pertains to records responsive to your second and third requests, the District conducted a thorough search and did not locate any records which met these criteria. Specifically, the FOIA Officer conducted a review of emails with the District's law firm and did not locate any potentially responsive records through this search. Additionally, the FOIA officer consulted with the District's Business Office, directing the staff to conduct a search for 3468440.1 responsive records. Finally, the FOIA Officer directed the District secretary to conduct a review of the District's files for records responsive to the criteria contained in the second and third requests. These searches did not generate any records responsive to the requests during the time frames provided.

In response to your first request, the attorneys who advised on behalf of the District during the time frames provided include the following individuals: J. Todd Faulkner, Dana F. Crumley, Brian P. Crowley, Nicki B. Bazer, Jared M. Costanzo, William R. Pokorny, Jennifer Smith, Emily Tulloch, Brittany H. Begley, Ares G. Dalianis, Scott Metcalf, Rachel E. Domash, and Kristen R. Kinast. The District is providing this list in lieu of providing records because these records are likely to contain information that is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA or prohibited from disclosure by law—such as predecisional information and attorney-client privileged information—and would require careful review by both a District staff member and outside counsel, which would take considerable time to accomplish, at significant public expense. The FOIA does not require the District to undertake such an exercise and to do so would be unduly burdensome. 5 ILCS 140/3(g). Fully responding to these requests would unreasonably disrupt the duly undertaken work of the District and would require the District to go beyond what is reasonably expected of a public body, contrary to the intent of the FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/1. The burden placed on the District to respond to these requests outweighs the public interest in the information. 5 ILCS 140/1.

If you disagree with the nature of the records provided to you in response to your request, please reach out to me. Similarly, if you believe that this response is an improper denial of your request, I invite you to discuss your objections with me. You have the right to have the denials reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by contacting the PAC at: Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General; 500 South 2nd Street; Springfield, Illinois 62701; Fax: 217-782-1396; E-mail: public.access@ilag.gov; Phone: 1-877-299-3642. If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days after the date of the denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original request for documents and the denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

<u>Dr. William Schmidt</u> Woodridge School District No. 68 Freedom of Information Office