



Winfield 34 - Where Learning is Personal

•Valuing Connections •Fostering an Inclusive Community •Supporting Student Growth
(Staff - Students - Families)

Via Electronic Mail

December 10, 2025

Max Binnington o/b/o Edward Coach Weinhaus, Esq.

foia@judiciocracy.com

RE: RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST

Dear Mr. Binnington:

Thank you for writing to Winfield School District No. 34 (the "District") with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois *Freedom of Information Act* ("FOIA"), 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, received on November 21, 2025. The District previously notified you of the need for an extension of time, and we now provide the District's timely FOIA response. Specifically, you requested:

1. *"All bills from external attorneys or law firms for the year 2024, and through July 18, 2025 for 2025.*
1. *All engagement agreements with attorneys or law firms affiliated with any of the legal bills for the time period in item #1.*
1. *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.*
1. *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"*

To the extent responsive records exist, your request is granted. See enclosed documentation. Note that we did not interpret requests #1 and #4 as including detailed attorney time narratives, which are exempt and would require extensive individualized redactions under FOIA Sections 7(1)(a), 7(1)(c), 7(1)(f), 7(1)(m) and 7.5(r). The District did not locate any engagement agreements with Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn or Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP for request #2. Additionally, the District redacted a bank account number as these are exempt under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b).

Matt Rich, Ed.D.
Superintendent
630.909.4900 TEL
630.260.2382 FAX

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Building Leader
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Visit us at www.winfield34.org

You have a right to have this response 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 writing to:

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

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of any FOIA denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

As the District's FOIA Officer, I am responsible for the District's response to your request. If I have misunderstood your request in any way, please clarify your request in writing to me.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Best regards,
Amanda Melsa
FOIA Officer
Winfield School District 34

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