

## Todd Hellrigel

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**From:** Todd Hellrigel  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 10:27 AM  
**To:** ACB  
**Subject:** FW: FOIA REQUEST #2 for Financial Records Data ... Fiscal Years 2019, 2009, and 1999 (5 ILCS 140/2.5) (ROE Grouping - 53)  
**Attachments:** FY19 FOIA Request.xls

Hello,

I realize the reply is not timely on this request. The only person who could provide these reports was out of the office last week. In the spirit of cooperation, I've tried to address each request as quickly as possible this morning.

See the attached response to your recent FOIA request. We can only provide FY 19 data as Midwest Central has retained no documents responsive to the request for the years 2009 or 1999.

Thank you,

Todd

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**From:** ACB <[Ad.Cuius.Bonum@proton.me](mailto:Ad.Cuius.Bonum@proton.me)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2025 6:11 PM  
**To:** [alee@havana126.net](mailto:alee@havana126.net); [jdurbin@illinicentral.org](mailto:jdurbin@illinicentral.org); Todd Hellrigel <[toddh@midwestcentral.org](mailto:toddh@midwestcentral.org)>; [callaman@d50schools.com](mailto:callaman@d50schools.com); [dheidbreder@central51.net](mailto:dheidbreder@central51.net); [pminasian@d52schools.com](mailto:pminasian@d52schools.com); [sjohnson@cc76.org](mailto:sjohnson@cc76.org); [bbennett@robein.org](mailto:bbennett@robein.org); [tony@epd86.org](mailto:tony@epd86.org); [mgordon@rankin98.org](mailto:mgordon@rankin98.org); [jlindsay@dist102.org](mailto:jlindsay@dist102.org); [Leonard.Ealey@pekin108.org](mailto:Leonard.Ealey@pekin108.org); [smingus@spgs.net](mailto:smingus@spgs.net); [dnowens@pekinhigh.net](mailto:dnowens@pekinhigh.net); [kwfreeman@wacohi.net](mailto:kwfreeman@wacohi.net); [mgreuter@ep309.org](mailto:mgreuter@ep309.org); [dgreen@springlake606.org](mailto:dgreen@springlake606.org); [dhackett@deemack.org](mailto:dhackett@deemack.org); [sean.berry@d702.org](mailto:sean.berry@d702.org); [gearya@delavanschools.com](mailto:gearya@delavanschools.com); [craig.smock@mcusd709.org](mailto:craig.smock@mcusd709.org); [blee@mgsredbirds.org](mailto:blee@mgsredbirds.org); [tturner@rgsting.org](mailto:tturner@rgsting.org); [djohnson@unit6.org](mailto:djohnson@unit6.org); [deann.heck@unit11.org](mailto:deann.heck@unit11.org); [johnson@lwcusd21.com](mailto:johnson@lwcusd21.com); [jstreit@rb60.com](mailto:jstreit@rb60.com); [dmair@ghills69.com](mailto:dmair@ghills69.com); [solaughl@mths.us](mailto:solaughl@mths.us); [robert.bardwell@district140.org](mailto:robert.bardwell@district140.org)  
**Subject:** FOIA REQUEST #2 for Financial Records Data ... Fiscal Years 2019, 2009, and 1999 (5 ILCS 140/2.5) (ROE Grouping - 53)

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Reply above this line.

March 21, 2025

Subject: FOIA REQUEST #2 for Financial Records Data ... Fiscal Years 2019, 2009, and 1999 (5 ILCS 140/2.5) (ROE Grouping - 53)

Dear Superintendent,

***NOTICE:** Please refer to FOIA #1's Notice section (dated March 14, 2025) for detailed instructions on handling this request. Note that there is no attachment to this FOIA #2; instead, all instructions found in FOIA #1 should be referenced and adhered to for this request as well. This serves as a reminder that you are bound by the same requirements and expectations outlined in FOIA #1. In summary, please respond as a "Reply" to this email, removing any "Re: " prefix or other "Reply" abbreviation from the subject line. By maintaining a single thread, we can ensure that all communications are efficiently organized and retained, facilitating compliance and making it easier to track and archive our interaction.*

This request is submitted for non-commercial purposes under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140). It is similar to FOIA #1 but seeks financial data for different fiscal years. Please refer to FOIA #1 for detailed instructions on handling this request, including the format for the data and the structured communication practice.

## REQUEST #2

We are requesting the actual electronic data maintained by the district's Treasurer for the annual expenses paid to identified vendors, firms, and individuals for the fiscal years **2019, 2009, and 1999** by each school district, including any predecessor districts that existed at the end of each respective fiscal year and have since consolidated or annexed into the current district. This request specifically excludes salaries, wages, and benefits paid to staff members. We are interested in vendors, firms, and individuals who have received total payments of \$500 or more for each fiscal year, regardless of whether this total comes from a single payment or multiple payments.

For convenience and organization, we suggest adding the data for fiscal years **2019, 2009, and 1999** as additional worksheet tabs to the Excel workbook delivered for FOIA #1 (containing FY, 2024, FY2014, and FY2004). This would result in a single Excel workbook containing six tabs (FY2024, FY2019, FY2014, FY2009, FY2004, and FY1999), organizing all responses to date in one file. If this is not feasible, please provide the data for **FY2019, FY2009, and FY1999** in a separate Excel workbook following the same format as specified in FOIA #1.

We request that each district's Treasurer certify the electronically maintained data. The certification should be similar to the one requested in FOIA #1, stating that the records are true, correct, and complete copies of all relevant records found in the files of the Office of the School Treasurer, official custodian of all district money as well as all investments owned by the district. This certification should cover the data for fiscal years 2019, 2009, and 1999.

We request a waiver of any applicable copying or processing fees, as this request serves the public interest by promoting transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

Please add our email address, [ad.cuius.bonum@proton.me](mailto:ad.cuius.bonum@proton.me), to your contact lists to prevent future communications from being flagged as spam.

Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, all records in the custody or possession of a public body are presumed to be open to inspection or copying, unless the public body can prove by clear and convincing evidence that the records are exempt from disclosure (5 ILCS 140/1.2). We expect a timely response and adherence to the statutory requirements.

The 5-day due date for this request is: Friday, March 28, 2025

Thank you for your immediate attention to this public records request.

**Email Address:**

[ad.cuius.bonum@proton.me](mailto:ad.cuius.bonum@proton.me)

**NOTICE:**

This email constitutes a formal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request when the subject line follows a format similar to:

**"FOIA Request #\_\_ For Public Records (Date: Day, Month, 2025)".** For such emails:

1. *If not already done so in response to a previous FOIA request*, immediately add [ad.cuius.bonum@proton.me](mailto:ad.cuius.bonum@proton.me) as a trusted contact in all email accounts maintained by, or otherwise confirm that this email address has been added as a trusted contact in all email accounts maintained by:
  - a) The designated FOIA Officer(s) of your public body  
*"Each public body shall designate one or more officials or employees to act as its Freedom of Information officer or officers." (5 ILCS 140/3.5)*
  - b) The Head of the public body as defined in **5 ILCS 140/2(e)**
2. Implement appropriate email filtering rules to ensure communications from this address are not diverted to spam, junk, or quarantine folders.
3. Acknowledge receipt of the initial FOIA request email by clicking the **"Send read receipt"** option in your email client on the same date as received or the next business day. This action:
  - a) Confirms the date and time the FOIA request was sent, as stated in the subject line
  - b) Establishes the timestamp for calculating all subsequent statutory deadlines under FOIA
  - c) Initiates an outbound email from your public body to our address, improving future deliverability

**FAILURE TO COMPLY** with these directives may result in:

1. Constructive denial of the FOIA request due to non-response within the statutorily mandated timeframe. **Note: "The FOIA request was routed to a spam folder" will not be considered a valid excuse, as compliance with directives #1 and #2 above effectively eliminates this possibility. The court is unlikely to find "the dog ate the requester's well-drafted FOIA" arguments persuasive, especially when the dog should have been put on a leash (as per directives #1 and #2) when warned via this Notice.**
2. A determination that the public body has *"acted in bad faith"* as contemplated by **5 ILCS 140/11(j)**, potentially subjecting the public body to civil penalties.
3. Immediate legal action to compel compliance with FOIA and to seek all available remedies under Illinois law.

This notice serves as written documentation of your awareness regarding proper handling of communications from this email address.

Be advised that all actions or inactions related to this FOIA request will be meticulously documented and may be used as evidence in any subsequent legal proceedings.

**Govern yourselves accordingly.**

Footer Notice: Trusted Contact (v1.30)

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