

Todd Hellrigel

From: Todd Hellrigel
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:23 AM
To: ACB
Subject: FW: FOIA REQUEST #5 March 25, 2025_Financial Records Data (5 ILCS 140/2.5)_ROE Grouping - 53
Attachments: FY22 FOIA Request.xls

Hello,

See the attached response to your recent FOIA request. We can only provide FY 22 data as Midwest Central has retained no documents responsive to the request for the years 2012 or 2002.

Thank you,

Todd

From: ACB <Ad.Cuius.Bonum@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:44 PM
To: alee@havana126.net; jdurbin@illinicentral.org; Todd Hellrigel <toddh@midwestcentral.org>; callaman@d50schools.com; dheidbreder@central51.net; pminasian@d52schools.com; sjohnson@cc76.org; bbennett@robein.org; tony@epd86.org; mgordon@rankin98.org; jlindsay@dist102.org; Leonard.Ealey@pekin108.org; smingus@spgs.net; dnowens@pekinhigh.net; kwfreesman@wacohi.net; mgreuter@ep309.org; dgreen@springlake606.org; dhackett@deemack.org; sean.berry@d702.org; gearya@delavanschools.com; craig.smock@mcusd709.org; blee@mgsredbirds.org; tturner@rgsting.org; djohnson@unit6.org; deann.heck@unit11.org; johnson@lwcusd21.com; jstreit@rb60.com; dmair@ghills69.com; solaughl@mths.us; robert.bardwell@district140.org
Subject: FOIA REQUEST #5 March 25, 2025_Financial Records Data (5 ILCS 140/2.5)_ROE Grouping - 53

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Reply above this line.

***NOTICE:** Please refer to FOIA #1's Notice section (dated March 14, 2025) for detailed instructions on handling this request. 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.*

March 25, 2025

Subject: **FOIA REQUEST #5** March 25, 2025_Financial Records Data (5 ILCS 140/2.5)_ROE Grouping - 53

Dear Superintendent,

This request is submitted for non-commercial purposes under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140). It is similar to FOIA #1, FOIA #2, FOIA #3 and FOIA #4, 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 #5: FY2022, FY2012, FY2002

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 **2022, 2012, and 2002** by the 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 **2022, 2012, and 2002** as additional worksheet tabs to the Excel workbook delivered to us in response to FOIA #1 (containing FY, 2024, FY2014, and FY2004). This would result in a single Excel workbook containing multiple "annual" tabs, organizing all responses to date in one file. If this is not feasible, please provide the data for fiscal years **2022, 2012, and 2002** 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 **2022, 2012, and 2002**.

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, 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: **Tuesday, April 1, 2025**.

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

Email Address:

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 #X_Date_RequestedRecord(s)_Tags". For such emails:

1. *If not already done so in response to a previous FOIA request*, immediately add 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:

4. 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.**
5. 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.
6. 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.

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