

WOODRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
Administration Office

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. William Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

DATE: July 21, 2024

SUBJECT: **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BOARD REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The Illinois School Code (10-6) requires that “The Board President or Superintendent shall report to the Board at each regular meeting any requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and shall report the status of the response

Enclosed with the Board Agenda is a report on the status of such requests.

All that is necessary to comply with the Act is for the Board President to note for purpose of the public record that the Administration has reported to the Board of Education requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the status of the requests, and that a copy of the report as presented will be attached to the official minutes.

Date(s) Submitted	Date Responded	Requester	Company
June 15, 2025	June 17, 2025	Michael A. Ayele	AACL
June 17, 2025	June 17, 2025		CT Mills
June 18, 2025	June 24,2025	Owen Wang	DuPage Policy Journal

WOODRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 68
DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RECORDS UNDER THE ILLINOIS FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT**

DATE: June 17, 2025
TO: Michael A. Ayele
P.O. Box
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
waac113@gmail.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: June 16, 2025

Date Responded: June 17, 2025

Request:

Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such. I am writing this letter for the purpose of filing a request for records with your office.^[i] The bases for this records request are [1] the decision of the United States government to commemorate the month of June as “*Gun Violence Awareness Month*,”^[ii] [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned Case No.: 1531505 – 000 and [3] the April 17th 2025 mass-shooting perpetrated by racist Phoenix Ikner on the campus of Florida State University.^[iii]

Please find attached to this email the content of my records request as well as information explaining my request for a fee waiver and expedited processing. Thank you.

Be well. Stay well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Work Cited

[i] Please be advised that I have previously disseminated a vast number of documents obtained through records request using the means of various digital publishing platforms. As a representative of the media, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the records you disclose to me could be made available to the general public at no financial expense to them. This records request is being filed for non-commercial purposes to inform members of the general public / representatives of the media [who may be interested in the written content of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W – Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)] about the activities, the engagements and the priorities of the U.S government at the local, state and federal level.

[ii] *On January 21st 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.*

Wear Orange honors Hadiya and the 125 people shot and killed every day in the United states, along with the hundreds more who are wounded and the countless others whose lives have been changed by gun violence. Wear Orange.: <https://wearorange.org/>

Gun Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise public awareness about gun violence and is a call to action on educating communities on how to prevent it. District of Columbia Government (DC.Gov) Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.: <https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/june-gun-violence-awareness-month>

[iii] *Alleged Florida State University shooter Phenix Ikner touted vile "white supremacist" views, according to his classmates – including that "Rosa Parks was in the wrong" and that Black people were destroying his community. Ikner, who allegedly killed two people and wounded six others when he opened fire on campus Thursday, horrified other students with his "gross" racial rhetoric.*

One classmate from Ikner's former school, Tallahassee State College, recalled how he was asked to leave a "political roundtable" club over his hate speech. "Basically our only rule was no Nazis – colloquially speaking – and he espoused so much white supremacist rhetoric, and far-right rhetoric as well, to the point where we had to exercise that rule," Reid Seybold said.

Another classmate said Ikner was vocal in their federal politics class, promoting his disturbing views about Black people, as well as far-right conspiracy theories, such as that former President Joe Biden was fraudulently elected in 2020. His opinions were so troubling that the classmate, Lucas Luzietti, chillingly remembered thinking that "this man should not have access to firearms." "I got into arguments with him in class over how gross the things he said were," Lucas Luzietti said. "What are you supposed to do? His mother was a cop, and Florida doesn't have very strong red flag laws," Lucas Luzietti added.

Ikner, whose stepmother is a Leon County sheriff's deputy, made it very clear that he had guns, classmates said. One of the firearms he allegedly used on Thursday, April 17th 2025 is believed to belong to his stepmother. "It's so sad and so shocking," Luzietti said of the shooting. "Then to see it was him – I'm sadly not surprised." Ikner's motive for the mass shooting is unknown. Suspected Florida State

University shooter promoted “white supremacist” views, spewed racist vitriol against black people: report. New York Post.: <https://nypost.com/2025/04/18/us-news/fsu-shooter-phoenix-ikner-allegedly-promoted-white-supremacist-views-spewed-racist-vitriol-against-black-people-report/>

The April 17th 2025 fatal shooting on the Florida State University campus came the same day a symposium against gun violence was supposed to be held. The event organizer, whose daughter was shot and killed during Tallahassee’s 2018 Hot Yoga shooting, now plans to reschedule the symposium for the fall.

Maura Blinkley was just 21 when she and Dr. Nancy Van Vessel were killed at the Hot Yoga studio in Betton Place. Since then, Maura’s father, Jeff Blinkley, has helped host a gun violence symposium at FSU called “Maura’s Voice.” This year, the event was set for April 17th. The same day a gunman killed two and injured six on campus. Blinkley is planning to reschedule the event for shortly after the start of the fall semester. (...) Cancelled by last month’s FSU tragedy, the next “Maura’s Voice” event will take place this fall. WFSU.: <https://news.wfsu.org/wfsu-local-news/2025-05-15/cancelled-by-last-months-fsu-tragedy-the-next-mauras-voice-event-will-take-place-this-fall>

Pursuant to the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of government, it is declared to be the public policy of the State of Illinois that all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees consistent with the terms of this Act. Such access is necessary to enable the people to fulfill their duties of discussing public issues fully and freely, making informed political judgments and monitoring government to ensure that it is being conducted in the public interest.

The General Assembly hereby declares that it is the public policy of the State of Illinois that access by all persons to public records promotes the transparency and accountability of public bodies at all levels of government. It is a fundamental obligation of government to operate openly and provide public records as expediently and efficiently as possible in compliance with this Act. 5 ILCS

140/1.: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=85>

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0ad8db9783&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1835091138614751075&th=19778daaf7996f63&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_mbyewun20&zw

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0ad8db9783&attid=0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1835091138614751075&th=19778daaf7996f63&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_mbyex0911&zw

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0ad8db9783&attid=0.3&permmsgid=msg-f:1835091138614751075&th=19778daaf7996f63&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_mbyex3ba2&zw

The District responds to your request as follows:

Dear W:

The requested information was provided electronically on June 17, 2025, to waac113@gmail.com ; waac1313@gmail.com ; waac142913@gmail.com

The District is not in possession of such records.

The FOIA specifically provides that a public body is not obligated to prepare a public record for the purpose of responding to a FOIA request. 5 ILCS 140/1. The FOIA only requires that a public body provide existing non-exempt records in response to requests.

To the extent you interpret the responses in this letter to be a denial of your requests, you have the right to have the denials to your requests 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, 62706, Fax: 217-782-1396, E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, Phone: 1-877-299-3642.

If you choose to file a Request for Review 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.

Dr. William Schmidt

Woodridge School District No. 68
Freedom of Information Office

WOODRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 68
DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RECORDS UNDER THE ILLINOIS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

DATE: June 17, 2025

TO: CT Mills
Public Info Access LLC
esnetworkllc1@gmail.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: June 17, 2025

Date Responded: June 17, 2025

Request:

Dear FOIA Officer,

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140), I am requesting access to public records in the form of a current staff contact directory for your district. Specifically, I am seeking a list of all school and district-level administrators, including:

- Name
- Title/Position
- Work Email Address
- Work Location (School Name or Central Office)

Please provide this information in electronic format (Excel, CSV, or PDF preferred) if available.

If any clarification is needed, I'm happy to assist. If the records are maintained in a different format, please let me know.

This request is **not** intended for commercial use.

If you are not the right person to handle this request, kindly let me know or forward to the appropriate contact.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

CT Mills
Public Info Access LLC
esnetworkllc1@gmail.com

The District responds to your request as follows:

The requested information was provided electronically on June 17, 2025, to esnetworkllc1@gmail.com

The District is not in possession of such records.

The FOIA specifically provides that a public body is not obligated to prepare a public record for the purpose of responding to a FOIA request. 5 ILCS 140/1. The FOIA only requires that a public body provide existing non-exempt records in response to requests.

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Dr. William Schmidt
Woodridge School District No. 68
Freedom of Information Office

WODRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 68
DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RECORDS UNDER THE ILLINOIS FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT**

DATE: June 24, 2025
TO: Owen Wang
DuPage Policy Journal
news@dupagepolicyjournal.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: June 18, 2025

Date Responded: June 24, 2025

Request:

From: news@dupagepolicyjournal.com
Date: June 18, 2025 at 10:27:58 AM CDT
To: broncatop@woodridge68.org
Subject: FOIA Request- Illinois School District last 5 years graduates

To whom it may concern,

I am a news reporter from DuPage Policy Journal, a media organization committed to providing comprehensive and accurate news coverage on local

A list of all graduates in the past 5 school years with the following fields:

- Graduation years
- Names
- Hometown
- Gender

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Owen Wang,

DuPage Policy Journal

The District responds to your request as follows:

We are providing the attached list of students who graduated within the last five years, 2021 - 2025. Please note that this information has been compiled in accordance with applicable privacy laws and institutional policies.

Important Privacy Considerations:

The attached list contains only the names of graduates and excludes:

- Names of students whose parents have opted out of directory information sharing
- Student hometown information
- Gender information
- Any other personally identifiable information beyond names

This limited disclosure is consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and our institution's directory information policies.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

The FOIA specifically provides that a public body is not obligated to prepare a public record for the purpose of responding to a FOIA request. 5 ILCS 140/1. The FOIA only requires that a public body provide existing non-exempt records in response to requests.

To the extent you interpret the responses in this letter to be a denial of your requests, you have the right to have the denials to your requests 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, 62706, Fax: 217-782-1396, E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, Phone: 1-877-299-3642.

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Dr. William Schmidt
Woodridge School District No. 68
Freedom of Information Office