



TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Dr. Charles Johns  
RE: FOIA

**FOIA Response:** Please find the FOIA requests and available responses [here](#).

**Background:** The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA - 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) is a state statute that provides the public the right to access government documents and records. A person can ask a public body for a copy of its records on a specific subject and the public body must provide those records unless there is an exemption in the statute that protects those records from disclosure (for example records containing information concerning student records or personal privacy).

A public body must respond to a FOIA request within 5 business days after the public body receives the request or 21 business days if the request is for commercial purpose. That time period may be extended for an additional 5 business days from the date of the original due date if:

- The requested information is stored at a different location;
- The request requires the collection of a substantial number of documents;
- The request requires an extensive search;
- The requested records have not been located and require additional effort to find;
- The requested records need to be reviewed by staff who can determine whether they are exempt from FOIA;
- The requested records cannot be produced without unduly burdening the public body or interfering with its operations; or
- The request requires the public body to consult with another public body who has substantial interest in the subject matter of the request.

If additional time is needed, the public body must notify the requester in writing within 5 business days after the receipt of the request of the statutory reasons for the extension and when the requested information will be produced.