District Freedom of Information Officer
FOIA@rps205.com

Re: FOIA Request for Records Regarding Student Discipline

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, Chapter 5, Act 140 of the Illinois Code.

I request that the following documents containing the following information be provided to me:

1) The total number of disciplinary referrals per student (identified by student ID code) for each of the following school years: 2016-2017 (to date) and 2015-2016 identifying the race, grade, gender, ESL status and disability status of each student.

2) For each school in the District 205 system for school years 2016-2017 and 2015-2016: A breakdown of the number of referrals by offense/District 205 Code of Conduct level and subsection (i.e. Level I f, Level III c, etc.). In addition, a further breakdown of each “problem behavior”/District 205 Code of Conduct level and subsection category by student race, grade, ESL status, and disability status.

3) For each category of offense/District 205 Code of Conduct level and subsection: a breakdown of the resulting discipline consequence: i.e., warning, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension (including the number of days of suspension), referral to an alternative school, expulsion etc. (as well as any other category of discipline cited by District 205 and its staff and agents) by student race, grade, gender, ESL status and disability status.

4) A copy of District 205’s discipline policies, including any Board policies related to student discipline and any parts of any parent handbook or other document distributed to parents that contains information about student discipline policies. Additionally, a copy of the Student Code of Conduct for District 205.

I am not requesting any records by which a student may be individually identified and request that any potentially identifying information, including but not limited to student names, addresses, telephone numbers, and private information not be transmitted to me. Please forward this request to the appropriate personal if you believe any responsive records would be kept by other public bodies.
Since the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR) is a non-profit public interest organization and this is a public interest request, I request that all responsive records be furnished without charge. The primary purpose of this request is to obtain and use information regarding the legal rights of students in the Rockford School District. The Chicago LCCR promotes civil rights in education and positive educational outcomes for poor and minority students through its Educational Equity Project. The requested information will aid the Chicago LCCR in determining how to best achieve its organizational goals, including preventing, reducing, and eliminating the known disproportionate complications in the Rockford School District burdening minority and low-income communities. The Chicago LCCR has no commercial interest in the requested information. If you need additional information to process this request for a fee waiver, please contact me.

Please provide responsive records, if possible, in electronic format. Records responsive to this request can be sent via email to me at jhallclc595@gmail.com or transmitted to me via facsimile at (312) 630-1127.

Please feel free to contact me at (312) 888-4195 or by email for any reason. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jordan Hall
Legal Intern