

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

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August 20, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Santino Collazo

santinocollazo887@gmail.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Santino Collazo:

You submitted a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") to the School District (the "District") on August 12, 2026, after hours. The District received your request on August 13, 2026. Your request and the District's response are below:

Request: *I would like to formally request a demographic breakdown of the hires by racial and ethnic categories—Caucasian, Hispanic, African American, Asian, and others—so that I can better understand the diversity among the new hires. I have noticed a troubling pattern that the current group seems to lack diversity, and I am also concerned by reports that some individuals—particularly from certain racial or ethnic backgrounds—are not receiving timely responses to their inquiries. This raises concerns of potential bias in the process.*

I would appreciate it if you could share the steps Blythe School is taking to ensure a fair and multicultural hiring process. I believe that a diverse staff is essential to fostering an inclusive learning environment and reflecting the richness of our community.

Response: There are no records responsive to your request, as the District does not maintain records that are responsive to this request. Responding fully would require the District to create a new record, which the FOIA does not require a public body to do. Rather, FOIA requires the disclosure of existing, non-exempt records. Additionally, compiling and creating such information would be unduly burdensome. See 5 ILCS 140/1; 3(g). That said, in the interest of providing helpful information, the District values workforce diversity and includes diversity initiatives as part of its strategic plan. The District's ISBE report card, which is publicly available on the ISBE website, reflects an increase in staff diversity. Information on teacher demographics from the District's ISBE report card can be found here: <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/district.aspx?districtid=06016096002&source=teachers&source2=teacherdemographics>.

If you believe that this response is an unlawful denial of your request, I invite you to discuss your objections with me. You have the right to have the denial 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 62701, Fax: 217-782-1396, E-mail: public.access@ilag.gov, Phone: 877-299-3642. If you choose to file a Request for Review with 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.

Sincerely,



Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye
Freedom of Information Act Officer