

Percentage of first choice matches

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Forest Gregg filed this request with the Chicago Public Schools of Chicago, IL.

Tracking #

N011350-062422

Submitted

June 23, 2022

STATUS

Completed

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From: Forest Gregg

06/24/2022

Subject: Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Request: Percentage of first choice matches

Portal

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act., I hereby request the following records:

Please provide records sufficient to show the percentage of students who receive an offer from the first choice school for each annual round of admissions starting in 2017.

This figure should be of the same type as is referenced in a 2021 Chicago Tribune article, which paraphrased CPS officials as saying that in the 2021-2022 GoCPS admissions process "a record high of 63% of students received an offer from their first choice school, officials said"[1]

[1] <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-cps-selective-enrollment-high-schools-diverse-learners-20210506-c5t2momt5jg7zkj3iceyapjlv4-story.html>

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Forest Gregg

From: Chicago Public Schools

06/24/2022

Subject: FOIA Request :: N011350-062422

Portal

Dear Forest:

Thank you for your interest in Chicago Public Schools. Your FOIA request has been received and is being processed. Your FOIA Center reference number for tracking purposes is: N011350-062422

You have requested the following records: To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act., I hereby request the following records:

Please provide records sufficient to show the percentage of students who receive an offer from the first choice school for each annual round of admissions starting in 2017.

This figure should be of the same type as is referenced in a 2021 Chicago Tribune article, which paraphrased CPS officials as saying that in the 2021-2022 GoCPS admissions process "a record high of 63% of students received an offer from their first choice school, officials said"[1]

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Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Forest Gregg

Upload documents directly: <https://www.muckrock.com/>

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) responds to all public records requests in accordance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

If further time is needed to assemble and copy all documents responsive to your FOIA request, we will contact you with a time estimate and a request to extend.

Upon the completion of a response, CPS will provide the first 50 pages to you at no charge. If a response is more than 50 pages, a fee of 15¢ per page will be charged for each additional page. Copies of video recordings have a fee of \$48. All applicable fees must be paid prior to the copying. CPS will inform you of any fees due if your paper response exceeds 50 pages. You can monitor the progress of your request at the link below and you'll receive an email when your request has been completed. Thank you for using the CPS FOIA Center.

From: Chicago Public Schools

06/27/2022

Subject: Non-Commercial FOIA Request :: N011350-062422

Portal

--- Please respond above this line ---

06/24/2022

Forest Gregg
MuckRock News, DEPT MR130669 263 Huntington Ave
Boston MA 02115

Dear Forest:

RE: Chicago Public Schools FOIA Request N011350-062422

Thank you again for using the Chicago Public Schools FOIA Center.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, a public body may extend the time to respond to a FOIA request by up to 5 business days for a limited number of reasons. 5 ILCS 140/3(e).

We are extending the time to respond to your request by 5 business days for one or more of the following reason(s):

- () the requested records are stored in whole or in part at other locations than the office having charge of the requested records;
- () the request requires the collection of a substantial number of specified records;
- () the request is couched in categorical terms and requires an extensive search for the records responsive to it;
- () the requested records have not been located in the course of routine search and additional efforts are being made to locate them;
- () the requested records require examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7 of this Act or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions;
- (x) the request for records cannot be complied with by the public body within the time limits prescribed by 5 ILCS 140/3 (c) without unduly burdening or interfering with the operations of the public body;
- () there is need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another public body or among two or more components of a public body having a substantial interest in the determination or in the subject matter of the request

Sincerely,

Annie Righi
FOIA Officer
Chicago Public Schools

From: Chicago Public Schools

07/12/2022

Subject: Non-Commercial FOIA Request :: N011350-062422

Portal

--- Please respond above this line ---

07/11/2022

Forest Gregg

Dear Forest:

RE: Chicago Public Schools FOIA Request N011350-062422

Thank you again for using the Chicago Public Schools FOIA Center. We are writing regarding your Freedom of Information Act Request for the following records: To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act., I hereby request the following records:

Please provide records sufficient to show the percentage of students who receive an offer from the first choice school for each annual round of admissions starting in 2017.

This figure should be of the same type as is referenced in a 2021 Chicago Tribune article, which paraphrased CPS officials as saying that in the 2021-2022 GoCPS admissions process "a record high of 63% of students received an offer from their first choice school, officials said"[1]

[1] <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-cps-selective-enrollment-high-schools-diverse-learners-20210506-c5t2momt5jg7zkj3iceyapjlv4-story.html>

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.

business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Forest Gregg

Upload documents directly: <https://www.muckrock.com/> The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) FOIA Office is seeking ten additional business days to respond to this request. If agreed, we will respond by end of business day Monday, July 25, 2022. Please note that the CPS FOIA Office is still gathering responsive documents and we are working diligently on fulfilling your request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you, Annie Righi Freedom of Information Act Officer Chicago Public Schools

From: Forest Gregg

07/13/2022

Subject: RE: Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Request #N011350-062422

Portal

Hi Annie,

Happy to grant this request. Can you also please let me know the status of the request and the reason for the delay?

Thank you!

Forest

From: Muckrock Staff

07/25/2022

Subject: RE: Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Request #N011350-062422

Portal

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm following up on the following Illinois Freedom of Information Act. request, copied below, and originally submitted on June 24, 2022. You had previously indicated that it would be completed on July 25, 2022. I wanted to check on the status of my request, and to see if there was a new estimated completion date. You had assigned it reference number #N011350-062422.

Thanks for your help, and let me know if further clarification is needed.

From: Chicago Public Schools

07/26/2022

Subject: Non-Commercial FOIA Request :: N011350-062422

Portal

--- Please respond above this line ---

July 25, 2022 Forest Gregg requests@muckrock.com

RE: Chicago Public Schools FOIA Request N011350-062422

Dear Mr. Gregg: This letter is in reply to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking the following information: Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act., I hereby request the following records: Please provide records sufficient to show the percentage of students who receive an offer from the first choice school for each annual round of admissions starting in 2017. This figure should be of the same type as is referenced in a 2021 Chicago Tribune article, which paraphrased CPS officials as saying that in the 2021-2022 GoCPS admissions process "a record high of 63% of students received an offer from their first choice school, officials said"[1] [1] <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-cps-selective-enrollment-high-schools-diverse-learners-20210506-c5t2momt5jg7zkj3iceyapjlv4-story.html> RESPONSE : The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) FOIA Office has reviewed your request and determined that it fails to cite an existing public record for review, and essentially seeks the answer to a question, outside the scope of the FOIA. The CPS does not maintain, in any one record or database, the "percentage of students who receive an offer from the first choice school for each annual round of admissions starting in 2017". In order to respond, the district would be required to conduct original research by way of pulling offer data for both Selective Enrollment and Choice schools, which are maintained in separate databases, and then calculate the requested percentages and manually combine that data into a new report that is not maintained in the normal course of business, and outside the scope of the FOIA. However, the district is able to provide a record reflecting the number of students who did and did not receive an offer from their first choice school. Note that this data pertains to only selective enrollment high schools. Additionally, the GoCPS application process did not exist prior to SY19, and as such the district has no records responsive to the portion of your request seeking data prior to that school year. Documents responsive to your request are available to download via the CPS FOIA Center at www.cps.edu/FOIARequests . Please log in with your username and password to access the records. Further, the CPS is unaware what data the Chicago Tribune utilized in order to produce the percentage referenced in this request and related article. However, the CPS believes it may be based on the following press release:

<https://www.cps.edu/press-releases/cps-nearly-doubles-high-school-selective-enrollment-offers-to-diverse-learners-as-part-of-long-term-high-school-strategy/> Note that the press release refers to data reflective of all first choice offers for all high school applications, not just selective enrollment schools. Accordingly, the data provided in response to this request differs from that referenced in the article. The requirements of the FOIA apply to public records "having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, or in the possession of, or under the control of any public body." [5 ILCS 140/2(c)] Accordingly, and as determined in *Kenyon v. Garrels*, 184 Ill. App. 3d 28,32 (4 th Dist. 1989), the FOIA applies to the provision of existing public records; a public body is not required to answer questions or generate new records in response to a FOIA request. Additionally, a FOIA request must reasonably identify a record(s) for review and not "a general request for data, information and statistics to be gleaned generally from documents which have not been created and which the agency does not generally create or require." [*Kenyon v. Garrels*, 184 Ill. App. 3d 28,32 (4 th Dist. 1989)]. Additionally, "A requester is entitled only to records that an agency has in fact chosen to create and retain." [*Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F. 2d 315, 321 (D.C. Cir. 1922)] Additionally, Section 1 of the FOIA states in part: "This Act is not intended to create an obligation on the part of any public body to maintain or prepare any public record which was not maintained or prepared by such public body at the time when this Act becomes effective, except as otherwise required by applicable local, State or federal law." In accordance with Section 1 of Illinois FOIA, the District is not required to conduct research to answer questions in response to a specific query [5 ILCS 140/1]. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/8.5 (a), "a public body is not required to copy a public record that is

published on the public body's website." To the extent you consider this a denial, pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a) you may file a Request for Review with the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at: Public Access Counselor; Office of the Attorney General; 500 South 2nd Street; Springfield, IL 62706. 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. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (773) 553-3500. Thank you for your request. Sincerely, Annie Righi
Freedom of Information Act Officer Chicago Public Schools



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