



S Buslik <sbuslik@norridge80.net>

FOIA Request - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

Vince Espi <news@news.locallabs.com>
To: sbuslik@norridge80.net

Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 10:56 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of LocalLabs which is an online publication that reports on and informs the public about local government activities. If you are not the FOIA officer please forward it to the FOIA officer or reply to this email with the correct FOIA contact.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records of the following:

(1) how much money has the district received under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant program, otherwise known as ARP ESSER? Please provide totals and dates of receipts along with a grand total of money received from this program.

(2) Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act requires any district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on its website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Prior to making the plan public, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into consideration when developing the plan. Where is this plan available currently on your district web site? When did you publish the plan? Did you seek public comment on the plan? When/where/how? Please provide all documents relating to the communication of this plan to the general public.

(3) Also under the ARP act, every district that receives ARP ESSER funds must develop a plan for its use of them and submit it to the Illinois State Board of Education within 90 days. Did you provide this plan to the Illinois State Board of Education? When? Please provide a copy of what you provided to ISBE.

(4) ARP ESSER also requires enhanced reporting on spending of these funds from districts and the ISBE. Have you provided any reporting thus far? If so, please provide all reports.

The purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information as a matter of public interest and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. I qualify as media under the definition in Section 2 (c-10) ("Commercial purpose"), Section 2 (f) ("News media"), Section 2 (g) ("Recurrent requester"), and Section 2 (h) ("Voluminous request") of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6 (Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Therefore, I request you furnish any responsive documents and items without charge.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please let me know if you have questions.

Vince Espi

LocalLabs



S Buslik <sbuslik@norridge80.net>

FOIA

S Buslik <sbuslik@norridge80.net>
To: news@news.locallabs.com

Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 1:37 PM

Mr. Espi,

This email is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request dated September 30, 2021. You requested the following:

- (1) how much money has the district received under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant program, otherwise known as ARP Esser? Please provide totals and dates of receipts along with a grand total of money received from this program.
- (2) Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act requires any district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on its website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Prior to making the plan public, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into consideration when developing the plan. Where is the plan available currently on your district website? When did you publish the plan? Did you seek public comment on the plan? When/where/how? Please provide all documents relating to the communication of this plan to the general public.
- (3) Also under the ARP act, every district that receives ARP ESSER funds must develop a plan for its use of them and submit it to the Illinois State Board of Education within 90 days. Did you provide this plan to the Illinois State Board of Education? When? Please provide a copy of what you provided ISBE.
- (4) ARP ESSER also requires enhanced reporting on spending of these funds from districts and the ISBE. Have you provided any reporting thus far? If so, please provide all reports.

Norridge School District 80 has not submitted to ISBE their ARP ESSER Plan. As such the district has received no ARP ESSER funds to date. The district has not spent or obligated any ARP ESSER funds.

You have a right to have the denial of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the 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, IL 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
email: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

You also have a right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court, 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter, 5 ILCS 140/9(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sarah Buslik
FOIA Officer