



## MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159

11244 Willowcrest Lane • Mokena, IL 60448-1334 • (708) 342-4900 •  
[www.mokena159.org](http://www.mokena159.org)

To: Delaney Smith

From: Dr. Teri Shaw, CSBO

Date: May 29, 2024

Re: FOIA request received on May 21, 2024

Via: email per your request to: [delaneymomof3@gmail.com](mailto:delaneymomof3@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Smith:

On May 21, 2024, you submitted a request to Mokena Public Schools #159 pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act* ("FOIA"). The School District's response to your request is set forth below.

**Request 1:** "Please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. The total number of band, orchestra, choir, school musical, jazz band, summer band and percussion participants for the following time windows:

School Year 2021/2022

School Year 2022/2023

School Year 2023/2024"

**Response 1:** The District has conducted a search and the results are as follows:

MJHS Participants	Choir	Concert Band	Jazz Band	Musical Technical Crew	Orchestra	Symphonic Band	Musical	Percussion	Summer Band
2021/2022	20	52	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34		29
2022/2023	29	28	17	13	10	26	36	9	37
2023/2024	30	30	13	17	22	29	33	7	46

MIS Participants	Beginning Band	Cadet Band	Orchestra
2021/2022	25	22	N/A
2022/2023	71	22	24
2023/2024	71	43	31

**Request 2:**

2 The type of fee and, amount per participant, collected for band, orchestra, choir, school musical, jazz band, summer band and percussion for the following time windows:

School Year 2021/2022

School Year 2022/2023

School Year 2023/2024

**Response 2:** The District has conducted a search and the results are as follows:

MJHS Fee	Choir	Concert Band	Jazz Band	Musical Technical Crew	Orchestra	Symphonic Band	Musical	Percussion	Summer Band
2021/2022	\$25	\$50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$25		\$75
2022/2023	\$25	\$50	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$50	\$25	\$25	\$75
2023/2024	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$25	\$50	\$50	\$25	\$25	\$75
MJHS Fee Collected	Choir	Concert Band	Jazz Band	Musical Technical Crew	Orchestra	Symphonic Band	Musical	Percussion	Summer Band
2021/2022	\$475	\$2,600	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$825		\$2,175
2022/2023	\$725	\$1,350	\$412.50	\$325	\$500	\$1,263	\$900	\$225	\$2,775
2023/2024	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$650	\$425	\$1,100	\$1,450	\$825	\$175	\$3,450

MIS Fee	Beginning Band	Cadet Band	Orchestra
2021/2022	\$50	\$50	N/A
2022/2023	\$50	\$50	\$50
2023/2024	\$50	\$50	\$50

MIS Fee Collected	Beginning Band	Cadet Band	Orchestra
2021/2022	\$1,250	\$1,050	
2022/2023	\$3,525	\$1,100	\$1,200
2023/2024	\$3,375	\$2,050	\$1,500

The fee information is readily available on the district website under the Parents > Registration and Enrollment > 2023-24 Fees: [Fees.docx.pdf](#)

**Request 3:**

3. All relevant Financial statements / documentation showing the tracking of the money that was collected, spent and saved.

**Response 3:** The District has conducted a search and the results are as follows:

Attached are:

Annual Income from the Music Boosters for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24

Annual Income from MJHS Activity Fees for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24

Annual Income from MIS Activity Fees for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24

General Ledger Expense report for Music Supplies and Musical for MJHS for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24

General Ledger Expense report for Music Supplies for MIS for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24

FYI: On a month to month basis, all relevant financial statements are posted to the board of education board book financial statements. All revenue collected and expenses incurred are included in the board packs on a monthly basis for approval by the board. Board packs can be accessed here: <https://www.mokena159.org/page/board-agenda-and-minutes>

**Request 4:**

4. The exact formula used to determine the fees for band, orchestra, choir, school musical, jazz band, summer band and percussion participants for the following time windows:

School Year 2021/2022

School Year 2022/2023

School Year 2023/2024

**Response 4:** The District has conducted a search and the results are as follows:

There is not a pure mathematical formula used to determine the fee for band, orchestra, choir, school musical, jazz band, summer band and percussion.

Band and orchestra have always been on the same fee structure as sports because they rehearse daily and have both performances and contests.

Choir has been both a \$50 and \$25 fee. Choir was changed from an extracurricular that met daily to one that met only twice a week. This justified the change from \$50 to \$25 aligning them with other clubs.

Percussion ensemble and other music extracurriculars also should be on the \$25 fee structure because of the same reasons as choir. It should be noted that Jazz band was accidentally included in the \$50 structure in 2023-24 and it has been adjusted to \$25 moving forward.

Summer band had historically been a function of the Music Boosters. The parents of the music boosters set the fees at their meetings, collected the fee and then gave the money to the district to pay the instructor to ensure that proper taxes and accounting would take place.

**Request 5:**

5. Email communication to/from Dr. Cohen containing "75", "percussion", "150", from January 1 through May 26, 2024.

**Response 5:**

Pursuant to Sections 2 and 3.6 and of the FOIA, this portion of your request is being treated as a "voluminous request." It is voluminous as it requires the compilation of more than 500 pages of public records. Because your request is voluminous in nature, you must respond within 10 business days and specify whether you would like to amend the request to remove it from being voluminous in nature. Please note that an initial search of Dr. Cohen's emails, produced over 3,000 pages containing one or more of the search terms. Unless you reduce the scope of your request, it is very likely this portion of your request will be declined as unduly burdensome in terms of the time it would take to review what we expect to be several thousand responsive records.

**Request 6:**

6. Are staff members compensated using these funds?

**Response 6:**

Staff members are compensated according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and the Mokena Teachers Association Schedule B. The Schedule B is listed below:

**SCHEDULE B**  
**Mokena School District 159, Schedule B**  
**Extra-Curricular Salary**  
**Gross Compensation**

Schedule B 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24	# of Stipends	0-3 Years	4-7 Years	8 + Years
<b>CLUB ACTIVITIES</b>				
Tier 1 (25-35 hrs)		\$500	\$525	\$550
Tier 2 (36 -45 hrs)		\$700	\$735	\$770
Tier 3 (46-55 hrs)		\$900	\$945	\$990
Tier 4 (56 – 65 hrs)		\$1,100	\$1,155	\$1,210
<b>MUSIC</b>				
Symphonic Band	1	\$7,625	\$8,033	\$8,434
Concert Band	1	\$6,075	\$6,405	\$6,725
Cadet Band	1	\$5,650	\$5,933	\$6,230
Beginning Band	1	\$5,650	\$5,933	\$6,230
Meteor Choir	1	\$3,500	\$3,675	\$3,859
Accompanist	1	\$1,750	\$1,838	\$1,929

There is also a Memorandum of Understanding for the positions of Junior High Musical Director and media Broadcasting Sponsors.

**2. Music Category will now include:**

Music	# of Stipends	0-3 years	4-7 Years	8 + Years
Musical Director	1	\$2,500	\$2,625	\$2,756

**3. Club Activities will now include:**

Club Activities	# of Stipends	0-3 years	4-7 Years	8 + Years
Media/Broadcasting Club	2	\$3,000	\$3,150	\$3,308

This information is available on the district website: <https://www.mokena159.org/>

The specific page is here: [Website-Signed copy with MOUs.pdf](#)

A copy is attached to this response.

**Request 7:**

7. Are these funds used to compensate anyone?

**Response 7:**

Student Activity Fees are deposited into the general fund. The general fund is used to pay certified staff members.

The District considers this request complete.

Should you believe that this response is an unlawful denial of your request, you may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor ("PAC") pursuant to Section 9.5 of the FOIA. You can file your Request for Review with the PAC at the Office of the Attorney General, 500 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Springfield, IL 62706 for by calling 1-877-299-FOIA. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the Circuit Court pursuant to Section 11 of the FOIA.

Sincerely,

Dr. Teri L. Shaw