

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

3340 S. Harlem Ave. Riverside, IL 60546

708-447-5007

708-447-3252 fax

www.district96.org



June 29, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Richard Doty
rickldoty@gmail.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request Response

Dear Mr. Doty:

On June 14, 2026, Riverside School District 96 received your request for records, stating in part as follows:

Records Requested

I request all public records in the possession, custody, or control of Riverside School District 96 relating to the following categories:

Request 1 — Contracts and Agreements: All contracts, agreements, memoranda of understanding, letters of engagement, or any other formal or informal arrangements between Riverside School District 96 and WorldStrides, or any affiliated entity, for any period from January 1, 2023, to the present.

Request 2 — External Communications: All written communications, including emails, letters, text messages, and any other recorded communications, between any Riverside School District 96 employee, administrator, board member, or agent and any representative, employee, or agent of WorldStrides or any affiliated entity, from January 1, 2023, to the present.

Request 3 — Internal Communications: All internal written communications, including emails, memoranda, meeting notes, and any other recorded communications, between or among Riverside School District 96 employees, administrators, or board members, referencing WorldStrides, the Washington D.C. student trip, or any student travel program organized or facilitated by WorldStrides, from January 1, 2023, to the present.

Request 4 — Facility Use and Event Authorization: All records relating to the scheduling, authorization, approval, or use of Hauser Junior High School facilities — including but not limited to the auditorium — for any WorldStrides presentation, event, or activity involving students. This request specifically includes but is not limited to records relating to an event during which seventh-grade students were brought from their Cougar Connections homeroom period to the Hauser Junior High auditorium to view a WorldStrides promotional video during the 2025-2026 school year, and all records relating to that event from May 1, 2026, through the date this request is fulfilled. This includes any facility use requests, approval forms, scheduling records, authorization communications, and any related internal or external correspondence.

Request 5 — Employee Benefits and Compensation: All records reflecting any compensation, benefits, incentives, complimentary travel, reward points, credits, or any

other item of personal value received by any Riverside School District 96 employee in connection with their participation in, facilitation of, or leadership of any WorldStrides program, from January 1, 2023, to the present.

Request 6 — Board and Administrative Records: All board meeting minutes, administrative memoranda, policy discussions, or any other records referencing WorldStrides, third-party vendor access to students, or District Board Policies 5:120 or 8:25 as they relate to commercial or vendor activities, from January 1, 2023, to the present.

This response is provided in accordance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1, et seq. ("FOIA"). See the enclosed records.

As explained more fully below, certain information has been redacted and certain documents have not been produced pursuant to the following FOIA exemptions:

- Pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(a), the following information is exempt from inspection and copying: "Information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law."
- Pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(b), the following information is exempt from inspection and copying: "Private information," defined in FOIA Section 2(c-5) to mean "unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal email addresses" and including "home address and personal license plates, except as otherwise provided by law or when compiled without possibility of attribution to any person."
- Pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(l), the following information is exempt from inspection and copying: "Minutes of meetings of public bodies closed to the public as provided in the Open Meetings Act until the public body makes the minutes available to the public under Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act."
- Pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(m), the following information is exempt from inspection and copying: "Communications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation, and materials prepared or compiled by or for a public body in anticipation of a criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding upon the request of an attorney advising the public body, and materials prepared or compiled with respect to internal audits of public bodies."
- Pursuant to FOIA Section 7.5(r), the following information is exempt from inspection and copying: "Information prohibited from being disclosed by the Illinois School Student Records Act."

Response To Request #1:

There are no records responsive to your request.

Response To Request #2:

See attached responsive documents. The following information has been redacted from the documents in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(b) and 7.5(r): Student identifying information. Such information is prohibited from disclosure as "information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law" pursuant to Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA (school student records under the *Illinois School Student Records Act* (105 ILCS 10/1, et seq.) and/or education records under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (20 U.S.C. §1232g) and their implementing regulations (23 Ill. Admin. Code §375.10, et seq. and 34 CFR §99.1, et seq.); "personal information" the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and disclosure that has not been consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA (students' names and sex); and "information prohibited from being disclosed by the Illinois School Student Records Act" pursuant to Section 7.5(r) of FOIA (student records/information).

Response To Request #3:

See attached responsive documents. The following information has been redacted from the documents in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(b) and 7.5(r): Student identifying information. Such information is prohibited from disclosure as "information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law" pursuant to Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA (school student records under the *Illinois School Student Records Act* (105 ILCS 10/1, et seq.) and/or education records under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (20 U.S.C. §1232g) and their implementing regulations (23 Ill. Admin. Code §375.10, et seq. and 34 CFR §99.1, et seq.); "personal information" the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and disclosure that has not been consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA (students' names and sex); and "information prohibited from being disclosed by the Illinois School Student Records Act" pursuant to Section 7.5(r) of FOIA (student records/information).

The following information has been redacted from the documents in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(b): Social Security numbers, personal email addresses, and home addresses. Such information is "private information" within the meaning of FOIA Section 2, and is exempt from copying and inspection pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(b).

The following information has been redacted from the documents or has not been produced in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(m): Privileged communications. Such information is "Communications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation" exempt from copying and inspection pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(m).

In addition, the District has not produced Board closed session minutes because "Minutes of meetings of public bodies closed to the public as provided in the Open Meetings Act" are exempt under FOIA Section 7(1)(l).

Response To Request #4:

There are no records responsive to your request.

Response To Request #5:

See attached responsive documents. The following information has been redacted from the documents in accordance with FOIA Section 7(1)(b): Social Security numbers, personal email addresses, and home addresses. Such information is "private information" within the meaning of FOIA Section 2, and is exempt from copying and inspection pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(b).

Response To Request #6:

See attached responsive documents.

The person responsible for this decision is the District's Freedom of Information Act Officer. You have the right to request a review of this decision by the Office of the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted as follows:

Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
Phone: (877) 299-3642; Fax: (217) 782-1396
E-mail: public.access@ilag.gov

You also have the right to judicial review of this decision under Section 11 of FOIA.

If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,


RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

By:

Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye, Superintendent
and Freedom of Information Act Officer