



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake St.
River Forest, IL 60305
District90.org
708-771-8282 phone
708-771-8291 fax

June 16, 2026

Ryan Wohl
rwohl@fdd.org

VIA E-MAIL

RE: FOIA Request Received June 2, 2026

Dear Ryan Wohl,

Pursuant to an extension under Section 3 of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), this responds to your FOIA request received June 2, 2026, seeking "the following records related to Qatar Foundation International (QFI) and its affiliated programs":

Any grant contracts, monetary awards, award notifications, agreements, MOUs, applications, acceptance letters, and related correspondence (including emails and letters) between River Forest Public Schools District 90 (including any employees, teachers, or administrators — in particular Lindsay Johnson, an Art teacher at Roosevelt Middle School) and QFI or its program partners, concerning the following:

1. Copies of the QFI Teacher Leadership Program (TLP), run with the University of Texas at Austin Center for Middle Eastern Studies — Ms. Johnson's acceptance, participation agreements, stipends, and any award notifications (2020 participant cohort).
2. Copies of the TLP cultural-immersion trip to Doha, Qatar, including any trip booked through GEEQ (Global Exploration for Educators Organization) or G Adventures — any funding, stipends, scholarships, travel awards, itineraries, or reimbursements provided to district staff.
3. Copies of any QFI summer institute, seminar, or curriculum award (including the QFI Choices Program or other Middle East curriculum grants) involving district staff.
4. Copies of any other QFI program, grant, gift, or partnership involving the District or its staff, including with the UT Austin Center for Middle Eastern Studies / Hemispheres outreach program.

Please include any records reflecting monetary value, in-kind benefits, reimbursements, or travel funding tied to these programs.

Response

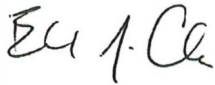
In response to your request, the District is providing the attached records, subject to the redaction of a signature as private information pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(b). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b). The District also is withholding a workshop reading list and workshop syllabi as course materials pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(j)(iv). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(j)(iv). The Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor (PAC) has found that similar materials are exempt from production under FOIA. Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Req. Rev. Ltr. 78019, issued Jan. 5, 2024.

The District has not provided any stipend, reimbursement, or other funds to Ms. Johnson or QFI related to the Teacher Leadership Program. The only relevant funds received by the District are for reimbursement of the cost of substitute teacher coverage.

Conclusion

I am the person responsible for the partial denial of your request. You may ask the PAC to review this decision concerning your records request, by submitting a Request for Review to the PAC by electronic mail or U.S. Mail within 60 days after this response. A Request for Review by the PAC should be directed to: Public Access Bureau, Office of the Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62701, public.access@ilag.gov, 1-877-299-FOIA. You also have the right to review by a court of law pursuant to FOIA Section 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EJ. Condon".

Edward J. Condon, PhD
Superintendent and FOIA Officer



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June 9, 2026

VIA E-MAIL TO:

rwohl@fdd.org

Dear Ryan Wohl:

On June 2, 2026, the School District received your request for records, as follows:

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I request copies of the following records related to Qatar Foundation International (QFI) and its affiliated programs:

Any grant contracts, monetary awards, award notifications, agreements, MOUs, applications, acceptance letters, and related correspondence (including emails and letters) between River Forest Public Schools District 90 (including any employees, teachers, or administrators – in particular Lindsay Johnson, an Art teacher at Roosevelt Middle School) and QFI or its program partners, concerning the following:

- 1. Copies of the QFI Teacher Leadership Program (TLP), run with the University of Texas at Austin Center for Middle Eastern Studies – Ms. Johnson's acceptance, participation agreements, stipends, and any award notifications (2020 participant cohort).*
- 2. Copies of the TLP cultural-immersion trip to Doha, Qatar, including any trip booked through GEEO (Global Exploration for Educators Organization) or G Adventures – any funding, stipends, scholarships, travel awards, itineraries, or reimbursements provided to district staff.*
- 3. Copies of any QFI summer institute, seminar, or curriculum award (including the QFI Choices Program or other Middle East curriculum grants) involving district staff.*
- 4. Copies of any other QFI program, grant, gift, or partnership involving the District or its staff, including with the UT Austin Center for Middle Eastern Studies / Hemispheres outreach program.*

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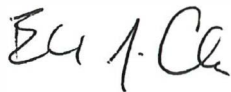
While the School District attempts to process all such requests as expeditiously as possible, we anticipate a delay in processing your request for the reason or reasons checked below:

- ☐ The requested records are stored in whole or in part at locations other than the office having charge of the 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 requested records.
- ☐ 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 or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions.
- ☐ The request for records cannot be complied with by the District within the time limits set forth in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act without unduly burdening or interfering with the operations of the District.
- ☐ There is a need for consultation, which will 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.

This extends the response deadline by five (5) business days, to June 16, 2026. If you have any questions regarding the content of this correspondence, please contact the School District's Administrative Office for assistance.

Sincerely,

RIVER FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 90



By: _____

Edward J. Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools and
Freedom of Information Act Officer

From: Ryan Wohl rwohl@fdd.org
Subject: FOIA Request – Qatar Foundation International programs (Lindsay Johnson)
Date: June 2, 2026 at 8:44 AM
To: GutierrezT@district90.org, CondonE@district90.org
Cc: Simone Weichselbaum sweichselbaum@fdd.org



Good morning,

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I request copies of the following records related to Qatar Foundation International (QFI) and its affiliated programs: Any grant contracts, monetary awards, award notifications, agreements, MOUs, applications, acceptance letters, and related correspondence (including emails and letters) between River Forest Public Schools District 90 (including any employees, teachers, or administrators — in particular Lindsay Johnson, an Art teacher at Roosevelt Middle School) and QFI or its program partners, concerning the following:

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4. Copies of any other QFI program, grant, gift, or partnership involving the District or its staff, including with the UT Austin Center for Middle Eastern Studies / Hemispheres outreach program.

Please include any records reflecting monetary value, in-kind benefits, reimbursements, or travel funding tied to these programs.

I prefer electronic copies via email.

Thank you for your assistance.

Ryan Wohl
Research Associate
Foundation for Defense of Democracies
rwohl@fdd.org
cell (202) 704-0296