



January 13, 2016

FOIA Service Center, OM/OCPO
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 2E349
Washington, DC 20202-4510
(also via email to EDFOIAManager@ed.gov)

Dear U.S. Department of Education FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, I am requesting copies of the following records:

--All data regarding Charter School Program planning and startup funding since SY 2006-2007 through SY 2013-2014 that facilitated the creation of charter schools that subsequently closed as well as that funded "prospective schools," as defined by the Office of Innovation and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education in its press release dated December 23, 2015. (See <http://innovation.ed.gov/2015/12/23/a-commitment-to-transparency-learning-more-about-the-charter-schools-program/>)

As with the CSP awardees database of open charter schools the Department announced on December 23, CMD requests that the agency provide a complete list of the schools that closed or that have not or never opened from SY 2006-2007 through SY 2013-2014, along with the amounts provided and related grant program.

The scope of this request includes but is not limited to emails, attachments, both sent and received, all notes, minutes, scheduling records, text messages, other correspondence (internal and external), and all other records.

The search for records may be limited to those sent and received between January 1, 2005 (the application period preceding SY 2006-2007) and the date of your final response. Please exclude any press clips.

Please note that this request includes all emails sent and received on official email accounts, as well as any other email accounts that have been used for official business.

This request is made in my capacity as a researcher/writer for the Center for Media and Democracy, a non-profit investigative and reporting group that has received major awards for its investigative journalism. I am a representative of the news media, as defined by 5 U.S.C., sec. 552. As such, I request (pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552(4)(a)(iii)) that any applicable fees associated with this request be waived, as disclosure of this requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not in any commercial interest.

Please contact me, however, of the cost of this request if it exceeds \$100.

I request that the processing of this request be expedited. Additionally, in order to expedite delivery of these requested documents and in order to reduce possible fees incurred, I am requesting that these documents be delivered to me in electronic form, either digitally via email (in PDF format), or on a data disk via the U.S. Postal Service.

Please email copies of responsive documents to: lisa@prwatch.org

Or, please mail copies of responsive documents to: Center for Media and Democracy, 122 W. Washington Avenue, Suite 555, Madison, Wisconsin, 53703.

I ask that you respond to this request to notify me of its receipt and to provide me with an estimate of the processing time for this request.

Should you elect to withhold, redact, or deny the release of any record responsive to this request, I ask that you provide me with an explanation for each and every withholding or redaction, along with pertinent legal citation and how such non-disclosure comports with the administration's public policy favoring transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Graves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Graves, Executive Director, Center for Media and Democracy