



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

Office of the Chief Privacy Officer

April 14, 2016

Ms. Lisa Graves
The Center for Media and Democracy's
PR Watch
122 W. Washington Avenue
Suite 555
Madison, WI 53703
lisa@prwatch.org

RE: FOIA Request No. 16-00659-F, 16-00660-F and 16-00661-F

Dear Ms. Graves:

This letter is a final response to your letters dated January 13, 2016 requesting information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Your request has been assigned to the following office within the Department to search for responsive records: Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII). You requested the following information:

659-F

-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.

660-F

-All communications regarding the suitability or eligibility for financial support of “prospective schools” under any federal Charter School Program or related grant that either closed or never opened from SY 2006-2007 through SY 2013-2014, as that term is 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-moreabout-the-charter-schools-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.

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-All communications regarding specific “prospective schools” that closed or never opened that were funded from SY 2006-2007 through SY 2013-2014 through the Charter School Program, whether through State Educational Agencies (SEAs) (84.282A); CSP non-SEA grants (84.282B); CSP non-SEA dissemination grants (84.282C); CSP grants to Charter Management Organizations (CMOs) under the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools grants (84.282M); Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program (84.354A); State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants (84.282D); National Leadership Activities Grants (84.282N); Charter School Exemplary Collaboration Awards (84.282P); or Non-CSP Federal Funding Sources, such as but not limited to Title 1A, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, the federal Race to the Top Grant competition, or the Investing in Innovation Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

-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.

Staff in OII informed the FOIA Services Center that after a search of their files, they were unable to locate any documents that were responsive to your requests.

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You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 35 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal should be accompanied by a copy of your initial letter of request and this denial letter, and should contain any evidence or argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeal Address

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Management
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ-2W311
ATTN: FOIA Appeals
Washington, DC 20202-4500

Or, you may complete the online FOIA appeal form located at:
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Requester Services Center (FRSC) at 202-401-8365 or EDFOIAManager@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Christie D. Swafford
Government Information Specialist, OM/OCPO

Enclosures