



Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

Bogdana Chkoumbova
Chief Education Officer

Freedom of Information Act Office
1 N Dearborn St, 9th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602
Telephone: 773/553-1700

September 29, 2023

Via electronic mail

Joshua M. Jones
Deputy Bureau Chief
Public Access Bureau
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
joshua.jones@ilag.gov

RE: FOIA Requests for Review – 2023 PAC 78019, CPS FOIA Request No. N014006-080423

Dear Deputy Bureau Chief Joshua Jones:

This correspondence is in response to Request for Review – 2023 PAC 78019 in which Megan Brock submitted the following FOIA Request N014006-080423:

Please provide any/all links, presentations, slideshows, curriculum materials, videos, handouts, videos of presentations, and PDF's, associated with any/all of the Gender & Sexuality Education Sessions provided by Lurie Children's (CPS Vendor # 40737) to Chicago Public Schools, from January 1, 2021, to July 14, 2023.

Ms. Brock states in her Request for Review that *“The school district paid for these Gender and Sexuality trainings as shown in the attached Excel sheet that was provided by CPS in another public records request. I would like a review of the denial as I think it's incorrect and providing this information in the interest of the public good.”*

Upon receipt of the request, the CPS FOIA office consulted with the CPS Office of Student Health and Wellness and was advised that course materials provided by Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago are not collected centrally in the regular course of business as Lurie Hospital works with individual CPS teachers and administrators at the school level to provide tailored instructional and support services as an educational vendor. Based on this information, the District denied this request under 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(j)(iv), which exempts from release course materials or research materials used by faculty members.

In order to facilitate this review, the FOIA office collected representative samples of the materials being sought by the requestor from Lurie Hospital. They are being provided to the Public Access Counselor under separate cover for its **CONFIDENTIAL REVIEW**.

As the FOIA office was similarly advised, the requestor states in her associated writing that teachers, counselors and principals in Chicago Public Schools and other school districts directly utilize Lurie's services and materials to support and provide instruction to the students they serve every day. The plain



language of 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(j)(iv) indicates that the legislature clearly intended that materials such as this were to be exempt from release under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

Based on the foregoing, Chicago Public Schools asserts that its response to the FOIA request was proper, however it reserves the right to assert additional exemptions as they may apply.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mason
Managing Freedom of Information Act Officer
Chicago Public Schools

