

FOIA Request — Superintendent Travel, Meals, and Conference Expenses

Filed with ISBE — Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent of Education

Request

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting all records from January 1, 2022 to present showing travel, meals, conference registrations, or any other expenses paid for or reimbursed by any outside vendor, organization, or third party on behalf of Dr. Tony Sanders in his capacity as State Superintendent.

Why This Matters

The Illinois State Board of Education sets the standards that determine which assessment vendors are approved and mandated statewide. Pearson, Renaissance Learning, McGraw-Hill, and other vendors have significant financial interest in the decisions made by ISBE. When those vendors pay for travel, meals, or conference attendance for the State Superintendent, the public has a right to know.

This is not an accusation. It is a question. The answer belongs to the public.

Submitted to: Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent

Email: Tsanders@isbe.net

Date Filed: March 19, 2026

Scope: January 1, 2022 to present — all vendor-paid or vendor-reimbursed expenses

Questions Every Illinois Parent and Educator Should Be Asking.

- Has any testing vendor ever paid for travel, lodging, or meals for the State Superintendent?
- Have any vendors sponsored conferences where ISBE leadership attended or presented?
- Who decides which vendors are approved for statewide use — and what relationship do they have with those vendors?

These records are public. If ISBE refuses or delays, that response will be published too.

The testing industry spends millions influencing the people who mandate the tests. The public deserves to know if that influence reached the top of Illinois education.

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Mike Pope — 22 years in Illinois public education, teacher and building principal