



Jeff Ekena
Regional Superintendent
jekena@roe53.net

Jon Smith
Assistant Regional Superintendent
jonsmith@roe53.net

Subject: FOIA Response – “W” Michael A. Ayele

Dear W:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received on **December 4, 2025**, in which you requested records related to multiple topics, including:

1. Discussions about Ella Stapleton....
2. Discussions about Northeastern University as a postsecondary academic institution....
3. Discussions about the term “cognitive dissonance”....
4. Discussions about the policy(ies) implemented by your local government agency with regards to the use of AI...
5. Discussions about Melissa Jennings v UNC
6. Discussions about Christine Franklin v. Gwinnett County Public Schools.....
7. Discussions about Dixon v. Alabama State Board of Education....”

Your request is **granted**. After conducting a reasonable search, the **Regional Office of Education #53** has determined that it **does not possess or maintain any records responsive to any of the items in your request**.

Illinois FOIA requires public bodies to provide existing records in their possession, custody, or control (5 ILCS 140). FOIA does **not** require a public body to create new records, conduct research, or obtain records from outside its jurisdiction or possession.



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Rights to Review

You have the right to request review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General within 60 days of this response (5 ILCS 140/9.5). Requests for review may be submitted to:

Public Access Counselor

Office of the Illinois Attorney General
500 S. 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701
publicaccess@ilag.gov
(877) 299-3642

You also have the right to seek judicial review under Section 11 of FOIA.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ekena

FOIA Officer
Regional Office of Education #53
2400 N. Main St. Ste. C
jekena@roe53.net
309-477-2290