



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOIA Service Center

January 21, 2021

Martha Fulford  
National Student Legal Defense Network  
1015 15th Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington , DC 20005

RE: FOIA Request No. 18-01721-F

Dear Martha Fulford:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated April 27, 2018 and received in this office on April 30, 2018. Your request was forwarded to the Office of the Secretary and Office of Post-Secondary Education for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following: All documents constituting or reflecting communications, regardless of the subject matter, between the Department and its employees or representatives, on the one hand, and of ACICS (including its representatives, counsel, and employees).

Available for download via Public Access Link (PAL) are 945 pages of documents responsive to your request. The documents provided are: All documents from the custodians Herman Bounds (and all staff in the OPE Accreditation Group) constituting or reflecting communications, regardless of the subject matter, between the Department and its employees or representatives, on the one hand, and of ACICS (including its representatives, counsel, and employees).

PAL can be accessed by using this link: <https://foiexpress.pal.ed.gov/>

In addition, an interim response dated August 8, 2018 was emailed to you and the ACICS Order of the Secretary Docket No. 16-44-0 (four pages) from the Office of the Secretary.

However, certain information has been withheld according to FOIA exemptions (b)(6), specified below:

- Records or portions of records relating to personal information is exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552 (b)(6) of the FOIA. Disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover the costs pertaining to your request. The Department has concluded that you fall within the category of an all other use requester. However, the Department has provided you with this information at no charge. The Department's release of this information at no cost does not constitute the grant of a fee waiver and does not infer or imply that you will be granted a fee waiver for future requests made under FOIA to the Department. Because we were able to locate and process these documents at minimal costs, they are provided to you at no cost.

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison

is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation. They can be contacted by:

Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Executive Secretariat U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132 Washington, DC 20202-4500	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	<a href="mailto:robert.wehausen@ed.gov">robert.wehausen@ed.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>
Phone	202-205-0733	301-837-1996; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	301-837-0348

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at [www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf).

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)  
Fax: 202-401-0920  
Mail: Appeals Office  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106A  
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Sincerely,

*Shahanga Lee*

FOIA Analyst  
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Enclosure