



MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
423 Buckelew Avenue
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831
www.monroe.k12.nj.us

DR. CHARI ROBYNNE CHANLEY

Superintendent of Schools

DR. ADAM M. LAYMAN

Acting Superintendent of Schools

LAURA ALLEN, CPA

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Tel: 732-521-1500

Fax: 732-521-2719

September 11, 2025

VIA EMAIL: opra+request-79559-1b59a0e1@requests.opramachine.com

Anonymous

Re: OPRA Request dated August 14, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Monroe Township Board of Education (“Board” and/or “District”), I am writing this letter in response to your request for records pursuant to the Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”) submitted via email on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 6:29 p.m. and received on Friday, August 15, 2025.

More specifically, the Board responds to your request as set forth below:

“Any and all data, reports, information with regards to 2025 MTHS Final Examinations for the following:

-Algebra I, I (A/B)

-Geometry I, Dynamics of Geometry

-Dynamics of Algebra II

-World History

-U.S. History I & II

-LA I, II, III, and IV

-Biology

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-Chemistry

-Physics/Applied Physics

- 1. For each of the above referenced courses, please provide the number of students who took the Final Exam in June 2025.**
- 2. For each of the above referenced courses, please provide the number of students who earned a failing grade on each of the final exams.**
- 3. For each of the above referenced courses, please provide the number of students who failed each course as a result of their score/performance on the Final Exam.**
- 4. Additionally, please provide the number of students who registered for Remedial Summer Classes (in person or virtual) as a result of failing one or more of the above referenced classes.**
- 5. Please provide the number of students who registered for Remedial Summer classes (in person or virtual) in each subject at MTHS.**
- 6. Please provide the number of students who may be required to repeat any of the above referenced classes in the Fall of 2025.**
- 7. Total number of students who lost credit hours as a result of failing the final exam.**
- 8. The number of final exams for the above mentioned courses were exclusively completed using scantrons.**

This request is overly broad in that the request does not identify specific records and seeks information rather than identifiable records. A proper OPRA request must identify with reasonable clarity by specifically describing those documents that are being sought. See Gannett New Jersey Partners L.P. v. County of Middlesex, 379 N.J. Super. 205, 211-12, 877 A.2d 330 (App. Div. 2005); New Jersey Builders Association v. New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166, 178 (App. Div.), certify. Denied, 190 N.J. 394 (2007); Bent v. Stafford Police Dep't, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 40 (App. Div. 2005). Under OPRA, one cannot submit “wholesale requests for general information to be analyzed, collated and compiled by the responding government entity.” MAG Entertainment, LLC v. Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 868 A.2d 1067 (App. Div. 2005). (The Court found a request for “all books, records, [and] documents” related to a specific project to be improper.)

OPRA operates to make identifiable government records “readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination.” N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1; MAG Entertainment, LLC v. Div. of ABC, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 546 (App. Div. 2005). MAG Entertainment,

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LLC held, “[w]hile OPRA provides an alternative means of access to government documents not otherwise exempted from its reach, it is not intended as a research tool litigants may use to force government officials to identify and siphon useful information.” Id. at 547. “Under OPRA, agencies are required to disclose only ‘identifiable’ government records not otherwise exempt.” Id. at 549; *See also Bent v. Stafford Police Dep’t*, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005) (holding that OPRA only allows requests for records as contrasted from information, and to qualify under OPRA a request must reasonably identify a record and not generally data, information or statistics).

Further, your request seeks copies of student records and/or student information, as explained in more detail below. There are long-standing regulations governing the confidentiality of student records and limiting access to those records to a select few. *See N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1*; and -7.1 et seq. These regulations are specifically authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19 and are a corollary to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99.

More specifically, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1 defines “student records” as “information related to an individual student gathered within or outside the school district and maintained within the school district, regardless of the physical form in which it is maintained.” Student records can only be provided to individuals and organizations specifically authorized by regulation to access those records. *See N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1* and -7.5.

In addition, pursuant to guidance issued by the NJDOE, data or information which references a small number of students must not be displayed in order to protect student privacy. More specifically, the number of students for reporting is a minimum of 10 students per suppression rules applied to protect student confidentiality.

Your request is hereby denied as an overbroad request for information, seeking confidential student records information. Notwithstanding, please be advised there are no records responsive to this request.

This correspondence and the foregoing information constitute the Board’s full and complete response to your OPRA request and therefore, your OPRA request is closed.

Sincerely,



Lisa Goldstein
OPRA & Central Registration Secretary