



MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
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September 26, 2025

VIA EMAIL: opra+request-80433-adec572d@requests.opramachine.com

Anonymous

Re: OPRA Request dated September 8, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Custodian of Records for 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 and received via email on Monday, September 8, 2025.

OPRA allows custodians to seek extensions of time within which to respond, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5. Specifically, the OPRA states that, in the event a records custodian needs additional time to fulfill the request, the custodian shall be entitled to a reasonable extension of time and shall notify the requester of the time extension. In regard to your request, this office requested such an extension until Monday, September 29, 2025. Accordingly, the Board's response to your request is set forth below

More specifically, your request seeks access to:

"Please send a record of all school ethics complaints filed by Sarah Aziz between September 2021 and September 2025. Please include the current status of these complaints and the total amount of taxpayer money spent on these complaints."

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.), cert. Denied, 190 N.J. 394 (2007); Bent v. Stafford Police Dep't, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 40 (App. Div. 2005). Under OPRA, one

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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, 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). The Board is not required to perform research on behalf of the requestor, only to produce specific records identified by the requestor. Likewise, the Board is not required to create new documents in order to respond to an OPRA request. See Sussex Commons Assocs., LLC v. Rutgers, 210 N.J. 531, 544 (2012).

Your request is overly broad in that it does not identify with reasonable clarity the specific government records sought and seeks information. Therefore, your request is being denied.

This correspondence and the above 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

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