



MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
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September 16, 2025

VIA EMAIL: opra+request-80470-55b4adea@requests.opramachine.com

Anonymous

Re: OPRA Request dated September 8, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Custodian of Records for 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 Monday, September 8, 2025, at 10:47 p.m. and received Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

More specifically, the Board's response to your request is set forth below.

"Please provide total spent on PD costs between 2020-2025. If it can be broken down by year and teacher vs. administrator that would be great."

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.)

SUCCESS IS ALWAYS A TEAM EFFORT!!

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. Notwithstanding, please be advised there are no records responsive to this request.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Goldstein". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lisa Goldstein
OPRA Secretary/Custodian of Records & Central Registration Secretary