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Dr. Nicholas Bernice
Superintendent of Schools

Eric Thomasevich
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

April 16, 2026

Re: Open Public Records Act/Common Law Request

Dear Mr. Michael:

The River Edge School District ("District") records custodian received your Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") and common law request ("Request") on April 6, 2026.

Your OPRA request seeks the following records:

Copies of ALL invoices for all fire extinguisher, kitchen fire suppression and fire alarm services from 2020 to present.

Please be advised that your Request is overly broad, as it fails to identify with reasonable clarity any particular records sought. OPRA operates to make identifiable government records "readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. New Jersey courts have consistently held that OPRA does not countenance open-ended searches of an agency's files. MAG Entm't, LLC v. Div. of ABC, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 549 (App. Div. 2005); New Jersey Builders Ass'n v. New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166 (App. Div.), cert. denied, 190 N.J. 394 (2007). Consequently, a proper request under OPRA "must identify with reasonable clarity those documents that are desired, and a party cannot satisfy this requirement by simply requesting all of an agency's documents." See e.g., Spectraserv, Inc. v. Middlesex Cty. Utilities Auth., 416 N.J. Super. 565, 576 (App. Div. 2010); Bent v. Twp. of Stafford Police Dep't, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 37 (App. Div. 2005). OPRA requests may not be a broad generic description of documents that require the custodian to search the agency's files and "analyze, compile, and collate" the requested information. Id.; see also Lagerkvist v. Office of Governor of State, 443 N.J. Super. 230, 237 (App. Div. 2015) (holding that OPRA does not convert a custodian into a researcher, which would have been the effect of the request). Here, your Request is clearly deficient as it constitutes a blanket request for all invoices for fire extinguisher/kitchen fire suppression/fire alarm services over a six-year period, and your request purports to require the District's records custodian to conduct research in order to determine which materials may potentially be responsive, which exceeds the legal obligations of a records custodian under OPRA. See Parreott v. Asbury Park School District, GRC Complaint Nos. 2016-20 & 2016-39 (Sept. 2017) (holding that the portion of the request seeking "all relevant documents" was invalid because it sought a class of various records and would have required the records custodian to conduct research in order to locate responsive records); see also Burke v. Ocean Cty., 2013 WL 6169154 (App. Div. 2013) (holding that an OPRA request is not the equivalent of lawsuit discovery). Accordingly, your Request is invalid as it fails to comport with OPRA's specificity requirements.

To the extent that you are purportedly seeking these invoices pursuant to the common law right of access, your Request is similarly deficient for the reasons stated above. Your Request is now deemed answered and closed.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Thomasevich", written in a cursive style.

Eric Thomasevich
Business Administrator/Board Secretary