



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GLENN M. MALEYKO, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

September 25, 2026

Kevin Mok
mokkevin@msu.edu

Dear Mr. Mok:

This notice is in response to your September 21, 2026, emailed request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.231 et seq, that was received by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) on September 22, 2026.

You have requested the following:

1. *The complete administrator certification file for Brian Roderick Banks, Certificate #AD0000048782, including: the application submitted (reportedly September 1, 2022), all supporting documents (transcripts, credentials), any notation of a Juris Doctor or law degree, the date of issuance (reportedly September 2, 2022), and any correspondence regarding the application.*
2. *Annual financial and academic reports filed by MacDowell Preparatory Academy (2022-2026) and Purpose Charter Academy (2025-2026).*
 - a. *Annual financial reports (operating budgets, expenditure reports, audit reports) filed with MDE by MacDowell Preparatory Academy (2017-2026) and Purpose Charter Academy (2025-2026);*
 - b. *Academic performance data (state assessment results, proficiency rates, enrollment counts, adequate yearly progress reports) for both schools for the same periods;*
 - c. *Any Charter Management Organization (CMO) contracts or management agreements on file.*
3. *Any complaints, investigations, or enforcement actions regarding Brian Banks, MacDowell Preparatory Academy, or Purpose Charter Academy.*

The MDE is granting the request in part and denying it in part.

As to the partial grant, copies of the nonexempt responsive records for your request are provided with this notice. Due to the number of files, the records are being transmitted via a [Google Drive link](#).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PAMELA PUGH – PRESIDENT • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON / TIFFANY D. TILLEY – CO-VICE PRESIDENTS
JUDITH PRITCHETT – SECRETARY • MARSHALL BULLOCK II – TREASURER
MITCHELL ROBINSON – NASBE DELEGATE • TOM MCMILLIN • NIKKI SNYDER

As to the partial denial under section 5(5)(b) of the FOIA, MCL 15.235(5)(b), that, after a search for records, to the best of the MDE's knowledge, information, and belief, the MDE does not possess records responsive to the information requested and is unable to process portions of this request. The department has not yet received the MacDowell audit for FY2026 as is not due until November 1.

Additionally, MDE does not collect separate district documents such as operating budgets and expenditure reports. Each district and public school academy is required by law to make these records available on its website. You can find these in the school's website transparency icon.

Additionally, Purpose Charter Academy just opened for the Fall of 2026, so there are no financial records for this academy.

As to request 2(c), the department is not in possession of the management agreement. You may want to submit your request to the school directly.

Finally, some or all of the academic performance records you are requesting are publicly available in the on the [MI School Data website](#), which is housed at the Center for Educational Performance & Information (CEPI) which collects and reports educator and education entity data. For data/fields you are unable to obtain through these systems, the department recommends that you submit your request to CEPI, which is housed in the Department of Management, Technology and Budget (DTMB). FOIA requests directed to this department can be sent by email or mail to:

Email: DTMB@michigan.gov

Department of Technology, Management and Budget
Attn. FOIA Coordinator
320 S. Walnut Street
P.O. Box 30026
Lansing, MI 48909

Requests must include a name, phone number, and mailing address.

As to the partial denial of the request, under section 10 of the FOIA, MCL 15.240, the MDE is obligated to inform the requester that it may do the following:

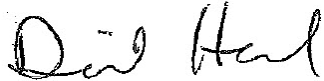
- 1) Appeal this decision in writing to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 608 West Allegan Pillar G-14, Fourth Floor, John A. Hannah Building, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or MDE-SuperintendentAppeals@michigan.gov. The writing must specifically state the word "appeal" and must identify the reason or reasons the requester believes the partial denial should be reversed. The head of the MDE must respond to the appeal within 10 business days after its receipt. Under unusual circumstances, the time for response to the appeal may be extended by 10 business days.

September 25, 2026

2) Commence an action in the Court of Claims within 180 days after the date of the final determination to partially deny the request. If the requester prevails in such an action, the court is to award reasonable attorney fees, if applicable, costs and disbursements, and possible damages.

The MDE's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines can be accessed at,
<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/resources/foia>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Head". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Head
FOIA Coordinator

Enclosures