

Regional Office of Education Report

April 2023

Legislative Session Nearing the Halfway Point

Friday March 24th was the 3rd reading deadline for bills that originated in the House of Representatives. While the Senate has one more week to consider bills that began in their chamber, we are quickly reaching the halfway point of session. Looming deadlines in both chambers mean that not all issues can be resolved in the originating chamber. IARSS, IPA, IASA, and other school management organizations are working tirelessly to address any outstanding concerns with pending legislation and amend bills as they are able. Illinois is ranked #1 in the nation for the most education related bills introduced during this legislative session at over 200. However, because of the advocacy efforts of the IARSS, IASA, IPA, and their members, several significant unfunded mandates that would have been harmful to school districts stalled in the Illinois General Assembly. We are and will continue to push for local control instead of governmental regulation when it comes to education in our three counties. Below are bills that have passed in their originating chamber as of this writing.

HB 1204 (Tarver) - Allows students to be absent from school to attend the ceremonial induction into office of the child's parent or legal guardian, anyone in the child's household, the child's grandparents, siblings, or a close friend of the child as a newly elected government official.

HB 1561 (Lilly) - Permits a school to maintain an on-site trauma kit at each school of the district for bleeding emergencies. Also requires, at least once every 2 years, school district employees to complete training on the methods to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding and, if applicable, how to use a school's trauma kit.

HB 1633 (West) - Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, adds a unit of instruction studying the events of the Native American experience and Native American history within the Midwest and this State. Native American genocide shall also be added to the Holocaust and Genocide curriculum and requires ISBE to develop associated curriculum by 2025.

HB 2104 (Delgado) - Includes evidence-based water safety instructional materials and resources during permissive safety education in grades prekindergarten through grade 6.

HB 2156 (Keicher) - As amended, requires the Safe2Help hotline to be included on student ID cards, planners, and handbooks in grades 6-12.

HB 2392 (Scherer) - Exempts a teacher from evaluation in their last cycle if they have notified the district of their intent to retire.

HB 2396 (Canty) - Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, requires each school board must establish a developmentally appropriate and play-based kindergarten with full-day attendance. Allows extensions for districts with specific conditions. Creates a full-day kindergarten task force to plan and implement full-day kindergarten statewide.

HB 2469 (Ortiz) - Prohibits schools from disallowing a student to wear or accessorize their graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural or ethnic identity, or any protected characteristic or category in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

HB 2773 (Flowers) - Requires school districts to teach students how to read using phonics.

HB 3428 (Blair-Sherlock) - Requires school districts and schools to maintain a supply of opioid antagonist.

HB 3442 (Crespo) - Allows a district to employ a substitute teacher in a vacant position for 90 calendar days, or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater if the district files a request with the ROE for an extension and continues to seek candidates.

HB 3814 (Harper) - Allows a student to be absent from school to attend a scheduled FFA or 4-H competition or exhibition.

SB 2236 (Cappel) - Makes short-term substitute teacher licenses permanent (removes the 2023 sunset). Removes the limitation for short-term substitutes to teach no more than 15 consecutive days per teacher.

Professional Learning & Educational Services

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services
Induction & Mentoring
Community Partnership Grant
Education Pathway Endorsement
Manufacturing & Agriculture Endorsement Programs
Elevating Special Educators
School Improvement & Strategic Planning
School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking)
Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A
Early Childhood Professional Learning
Family Education & Engagement

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: School Improvement



Jen Banks Marigold Award

Jen Banks was a beloved teacher and school improvement coach who passed away as the result of a tragic automobile accident in December 2015. Her love for learning and the students that she worked with was an inspiration to many. Jen's positive, supportive, and energetic attitude nurtured those around her and helped them to grow. In celebration of Jen's life and dedication to learning, ROE 47 has created an award in her honor. As Jen worked with many elementary and middle schools in the Sauk Valley area, [this award is](#)

[open to PK-8 Whiteside County teachers, para-educators & administrators.](#)

Marigolds exist in our schools - encouraging, supporting and nurturing teachers. They are leaders in their community, classrooms, and families. They have a love of learning and sharing that learning with others. Help us to honor Jen and these exemplary leaders in your school communities. ***Each nominee will be recognized on social media and will receive a certificate, a marigold, and a special book. Our overall winner will also receive a \$100 Amazon gift card to continue to build their classroom library.***

In District Work

- Supporting several districts implementing 5 year SIP
- SIP planning year with several districts
- Strategic Plan Development
- Curricular Resource Adoption
- Curriculum Evaluation & Development
- 6 - 12 Reading Strategies
- Standards Based Grading and Reporting

Other Professional Learning

- Networking Sessions
 - Counselor/Social Worker, Librarian, Teacher Tools, PFSS
- Quarterly Meetings
 - Interventionists, Instructional Coaches, CSIP
- Summits
- Science of Reading Cohort through LETRS is preparing to launch for 2023-24. We have over 70 teachers and administrators who have indicated interest in the 2 year cohort.
- Summer Learning opportunities will be released the first part of April for registration.

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: College & Career Readiness
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Pathway Endorsement Work

- **Legislation - HB3296**
 - Districts are expected to address the requirements of HB3296 by July 1, 2025 in two ways:
 - For districts enrolling students in any of grades 6–12: Adopt and commence implementation of career exploration and career development activities for each of grades 6-12 in accordance with a framework that substantially aligns to the Illinois PaCE Framework.
 - For districts enrolling students in any of grades 9–12: Either (i) independently, (ii) through an area career center, or (iii) through an inter-district cooperative, apply to ISBE to offer CCPE in at least one endorsement area beginning with the high school graduating class of 2027. The district must apply to ISBE to offer one additional endorsement by 2029 and a third by 2031, if a district has more than 350 students enrolled (the State median enrollment for high school-serving

districts). By July 1, 2025, districts must either apply to ISBE for the number of endorsement areas specified in the law or the school board must adopt a timeline for implementation meeting the expectations of the law.

- Education
 - 11 district are engaged in building pathway endorsement programs for education to help address the teacher shortage
 - Annual Education Symposium will be held Friday, April 21st at Sauk Valley College.
 - Pathway Navigators are Heather Waninger, Chanda McDonnell, and Stacey Dinges
- Manufacturing
 - Focus groups are underway with business & industry
 - There is a new IMA Manufacturing grant available for endorsement earners
 - Pathway Navigator is Heather Waninger
- AG
 - Working with FCAE and FFA to dovetail state proficiency degrees with endorsement work. Also meeting to problem solve work based learning challenges for students under the age of 18.
 - Pathway Navigator is Stacey Dinges
- Health Science
 - Pathway Navigator is Chanda McDonnell

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Community Partnership

Family & Community Education & Engagement Work

- The CP team is finalizing a year two strategic plan for trauma and social emotional learning support
- Poverty Simulation and Brain Architecture training is available through our trained professionals
- Family engagement kits are in development
- Mindfulness Trails (in partnership with U of I Extension) are near completion. Special events will be held to launch the trails in the spring
- SEL Parent/child engagement activity cards are being printed
- BlockFest has arrived! We will launch in June 2023
- Schools are moving forward with the TRS-IA assessment. Two are in the process of using the data to create 3-5 year action plans.
- **Joseph Green** was back with ROE 47 in early March to work with middle school students with a message of belonging and self awareness.

Monday, March 6: Challand, Sterling

Tuesday, March 7: East Coloma School, Rock Falls & Family and Community Night @ SVCC

Wednesday, March 8: Montmorency School, Rock Falls & Erie Middle School, Erie

Thursday, March 9: Chana & St. Mary's/St. Anne's, at St. Mary's in Sterling

Friday, March 10: SEL SUMMIT @ SVCC all day

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Early Childhood

Early Childhood 0-5 Work

- A Strategic Plan has been developed with the following goals
 - Promote and connect families to ECEC programs and services.
 - Increase collaboration amongst providers to ensure seamless delivery system, appropriate placement and access to services, and reduction of redundancies in services.
 - Grow ECEC workforce in Region 47 to address identified barriers to enrollment due to lack of qualified workforce.
 - Increase the number of available 0-3 & 3 - 5 slots
 - Improved school readiness and success.
 - Increase the programs and services provided to children and families by the ROE
- The team is working to apply to offer Gateways credit for Early Childhood
- Available to help with grant writing, setting up new classrooms, monitoring, and in any other area needed.
- Representative are serving on the Birth to Five Illinois Action Council
- Family focus groups and community play dates scheduled for spring (*see below*)
- Community baby showers with a parent education component will be offered starting this summer
- Onesies and coordinated intake information will be provided to area hospitals to send home with new parents
- Coordinated intake and early childhood buckslips (marketing materials) have been created and printed
- Our Family Education and Engagement Specialist, Grace, led Tot Time at the Polo Library where children and caregivers created cow headbands, read “Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type,” and played with friends.

Hey Parents!

Are you a parent with a child under the age of 6

Please join us for an opportunity to strengthen the early childhood system in Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside county. Make your voice heard to ensure your family has access to the programs and support you need to give your child a strong start.

Participants will have a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift cards.

March 20
1:00 PM
Zoom

March 27
6:00 PM
Zoom



We want to hear about your family's experience in early childhood programs while providing a safe and fun experience for your child(ren).

COMMUNITY PLAY DATE & PARENT FOCUS GROUP

April 10 from 4-5:30 PM



MY PLAY VILLAGE
1347 N. Galena Ave, Dixon, Illinois

**SIGN UP AT [BIT.LY/ROE47PLAYDATE](https://bit.ly/ROE47PLAYDATE)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**

Sponsored by:



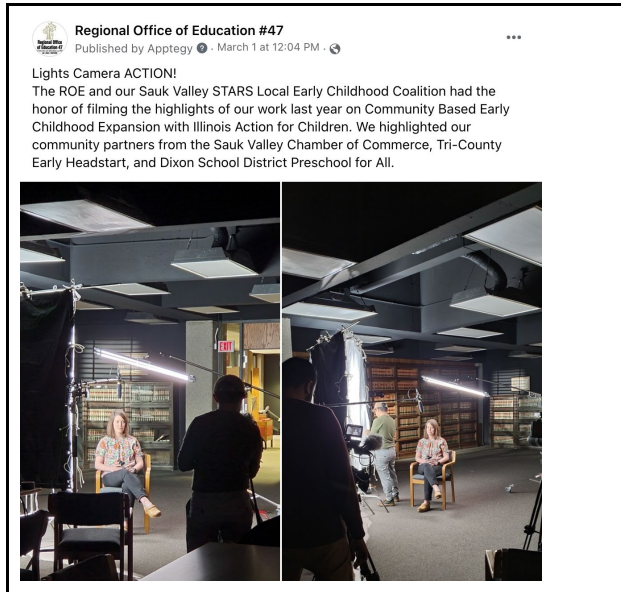
Socks are required for all attendees. Grip socks are required for children. Socks are available for \$2.

Coordinated Intake

- The total number of community referrals is 1588 .
- Total number of families 993.
- The total number of Community Partners is 91 .

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media

The department's social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47



Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube!

Regional Office of Education #47
Published by Stacey Dinges · March 2 at 1:30 PM · 🌐

Coordinated Intake Specialist Aimee Howard is connecting with families in Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties in her new role at the Regional Office of Education. Aimee is the point person for early childhood services as well as other needs for our families to continue to be successful in their daily lives. For more information about IRIS and Coordinated Intake, contact Aimee at ahoward@roe47.org.

To listen to the entire recording, click <https://youtu.be/bDkMN9u8iAI>.



Aimee Howard

In the News

Pathways symposium for aspiring educators will be April 21 at Sauk Valley Community College

This is the second year the symposium has been held

By Shaw Local News Network
March 19, 2023 at 5:00 am CDT
🗨️ Expand







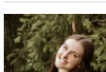
Kimberly Radostis, the 2022 Illinois State Teacher of the Year from Oregon, speaks before a ceremony recognizing graduates of a special program at SVCC's first Educator Symposium held last year. (Alex T. Paschal/paschal@shawmedia.com/credit)

DIXON – Lindsey Jensen, the 2018 Illinois teacher of the year, will be the keynote speaker for the Educator Symposium that will be 8:30 a.m. April 21 at Sauk Valley Community College.

This is the second year SVCC has hosted this symposium.

Jensen serves as executive director of Educators Rising Illinois and as the early career development director for the Illinois Education Association.

Recent Articles

-  Sauk Valley counties at low COVID-19 spread
-  Stabbing at Rochelle Township School leaves two 17-year-olds injured
-  Five Dixon Public Schools start new roles in 2023-24
-  Dixon celebrates St. Patrick's Day
-  Emma Stroup is Sterling student of the month for March

LOCAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- TUE 21** Special Native Feeder Cattle & Bred Cow Auction Sat... | Walnut, IL
- MON 20** City Council Meeting | Dixon, IL

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events

Check out ALL of our spring opportunities [HERE](#)

March Participants – 138

Wednesday, March 1

Teacher Tools Networking @ 3:30 pm

Friday, March 3

Regional Transitional English Networking @ SVCC

Monday, March 6

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7

Librarians Networking Session @ 2:30 pm

Wednesday, March 8

Continuous School Improvement @ SVCC

Special Educators Community Cohort @ 3:30 pm

Friday, March 10

Social Emotional Learning Summit @ 8:30 am

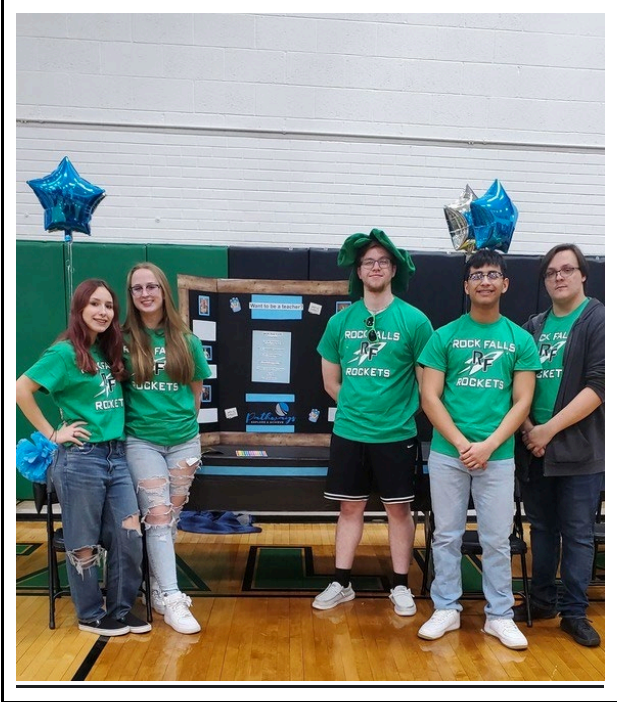
Tuesday, March 14

Middle & High School Ed Pathways Cohort @ 3:15 p.m.

Friday, March 17

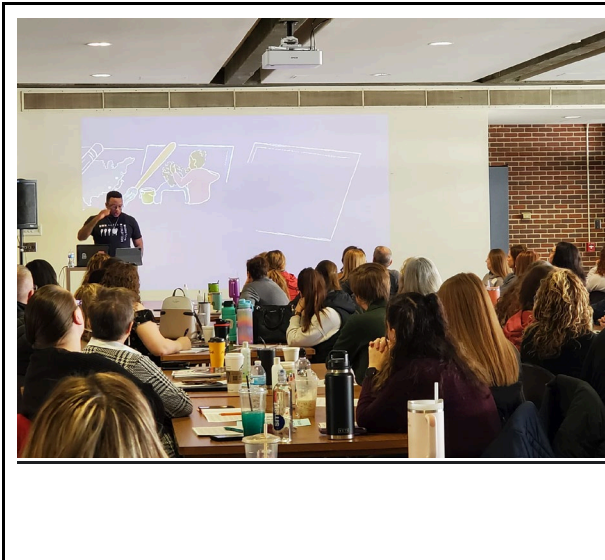
Induction and Mentoring for Administrators @ Byron High School

March in Photos



Thank you

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF BELONGING



Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

Nexus:

This March, we had a lot of presentations: ICEARY and Joseph Green (Middle School Presentations, Family and Community Presentations, and Educator Presentations). We continue to get referrals from our partnering schools. We are just shy of 200 families that have been referred to Nexus just this year. Many of our families are struggling with housing needs and needs for mental health services. We are actively planning for next school year to ensure we have enough staff and are working as efficiently as possible. On April 29th, we will attend the ISBE Those who Excel award celebration.





ICEARY (Illinois Coalition for Educating At Risk Youth)-
Bloomington

Joseph Green Presentations



Parents as Teachers First Years

March brought the submission of our Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement narrative. The narrative answered 81 questions about how we structure our program and meet the quality components outlined by Parents as Teachers National Center. We are now waiting to hear results from ISBE's monitoring visit in February.

We continue to be almost fully enrolled for the program year, and are already thinking about the children who will transition to Pre-K programs as of July 1st, so recruitment activities are again ramping up.

We have also been busy sorting, distributing materials, and preparing to pack for the move in June! We have 4 large classrooms at Wallace School in Sterling that the home visitors have been using as offices for years and, of course, we have filled the space available! This is the perfect opportunity to eliminate things from our book and toy lending libraries that are

missing pieces or are broken, and to downsize all the stashed materials that home visitors have saved “just in case”!

Education Outreach Program

We have been very busy enrolling new students this past month. Seven new students have enrolled and started in our adult education classes at Wallace this March. We are happy to see a full classroom again!

In addition to studying for their GED exams, students have been busy writing resumes and participating in job shadows arranged by the BEST Youth Job Developer.

Our graduate for the month of March is Leslie from Whiteside County. Congratulations Leslie!

Regional Center for Change

We have wrapped up another great month at C4C and we are into the 4th quarter!!! Not only are students at C4C achieving academic excellence they are also given the opportunity to flourish in other ways. A special shout out to Kent P. our March student of the month from Mr. Sandersons class. Now more than ever we see the importance of our shared mission - dedicated to student achievement in school and life; inspiring hope for a future, self confidence now and resilience forever! SPIRIT WEEK

Spirit Week is March 20th - 24th!

We like celebrating the week before spring break with dress-up/down days and some fun!

Monday - Hat Day

Tuesday - Band Shirt Day

Wednesday - Crazy Sock Day

Thursday - Color Day

Friday - PJ Day - March 24th is a half day for students

But we don't just have fun at C4C. Totals below are the number of classes completed by quarter at C4C. QTR 1 85; QTR 2 191; QTR 3 180 QTR 4 36 ; and a grand total of 492 completed classes for either middle or high school credit! Wow, way to go C4C students!

Truant Alternative Program

Our busiest time of the year is upon us. We currently have 500 students that we are actively working with or attempting to provide services to. February and March are when we receive the most truancy referrals as students are meeting the schools attendance policy and have exceeded their allowed 'call off' limit. We anticipate having approximately 550 total referrals for this school year. In addition to monitoring daily attendance, connecting with families, and providing linkage to community referrals, our team is always seeking out networking opportunities. Two of our team members participated in a McKinney Vento Homeless Simulation in the month of February which provided an excellent opportunity for school staff to experience living a "month" in the shoes of our families in transition. Our at-risk team will also be attending ICEARY in March and we are looking forward to this conference's variety of learning experiences. We welcomed our newest team member, Emily Heitman, and she has started off the second semester like a champion!

McKinney Vento Homeless Program

The last quarter of school brings with it additional challenges of thinking of summer activities and needs that our McKinney Vento students will be facing without having the structure of the school day. Referrals and information for summer options are a high priority for our families. Community resources are key to our success with our families.