

## **Regional Office of Education Report**

**February 2022**

### **Educator Shortage Survey**

The Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools have recently published the results of our statewide educator shortage survey for 2021. Below are the findings from our three counties:

- 23 responses (96 percent districts responded)
- 87 percent say they have a teacher shortage problem
- 83 percent say they have a substitute teacher shortage problem
- 52 percent say COVID-19 increased teacher turnover
- 18 percent of posted teacher positions went unfilled or filled with a less than qualified hire.
- 70 percent say logistical concerns caused an increase in educators employed because of the pandemic.
- 87 percent say budget shortfalls caused an increase in educators employed because of the pandemic.
- 74 percent say the teacher shortage problem is getting worse.
- 78 percent say they are concerned about future teacher shortages.
- 17 classes were canceled and 6 converted online because of shortages.
- 35 percent reported an administrator shortage problem, but 53 percent say they are concerned about future administrator shortages.
- 83 percent say the substitute teacher shortage is getting worse.
- 76 percent are concerned about future substitute shortages.

The extensive report identifies many concerns across the state. Our organization came out with the following suggestions to start to address the issues:

- Increased funding throughout the teacher pipeline: enticing more young people to go into the field and better supporting those who start but can be tempted to leave.
- Streamlining restrictive requirements to get into teaching and substitute teaching.
- Expanding programs that recruit and support minorities and those who teach in high-need subject areas.
- Helping schools find more candidates to meet short-term educator shortage needs.

### **Career Pathways Work**

Sauk Valley Community College and ROE 47 have been awarded a grant to fund educational pathways for local high school students totaling \$1,494,000 over a four year period, in an effort to support area students who are interested in careers in the education field. Funds, awarded by the Illinois State Board of Education, supports pathway development work in the following 11 districts: Ashton-Franklin Center High School, Amboy High School, Dixon High School, Fulton High School, Morrison High School, Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico High School, Sterling High School, Rock Falls High School, Forreston High School, Center for Change Alternative High School, and the Whiteside Area Career Center.

The education pathway has been initiated by the State of Illinois and gives students a path to follow starting in high school that will allow them to earn an education endorsement on their diploma. To receive the endorsement, students must engage in career exploration, participate in team based challenges, complete education focused coursework (including 6 hours of Dual Credit courses in education), and complete a minimum of 60 hours of hands-on experience working directly with students. This opportunity provides students with early learning regarding the field of education which will give them a “leg-up” when they enter postsecondary. Several area postsecondary institutions are building incentives into their education programs that will benefit students who enroll with a pathway endorsement.

The Regional Office employs three pathway navigators, a program coordinator, and a data specialist to assist each district with the customized construction and implementation of pathway program components. Additional program activities include:

- Mentor teacher training
- Pathway marketing in the community
- Partnership with Golden Apple Scholarship opportunities
- Aligned coursework support to meet dual credit and learning plan requirements
- Professional learning opportunities for teachers
- Collaboration with Western Illinois, Northern Illinois, and Eastern Illinois University
- College visits for pathway students
- “Pathway Playground” career exploration expo for middle school students (fall 2022)
- Education symposium for pathway students (student recognition, mock interviews, college visits, etc.) (April 2022)
- College & Career Readiness Summit for Educators (2/21/2022)
- Xello career exploration platform for partner middle schools
- Subscriptions to Educators Rising resources and memberships
- Career exploration videos and other resources for instructional purposes

In school year 2020-21, four pathway endorsements were awarded. In 2021-22, it is anticipated that six or more endorsements will be awarded from partnering districts.

**To learn more, please visit our pathways website at <https://www.roe47.org/page/career-pathways> or our FaceBook Page ROE47**

**Look for our four new billboards this month to promote  
community awareness & support!**

**HEATHER JOHNSON**  
Sterling HS Teacher/Librarian  
HOMEGROWN EDUCATOR

**GABRIELLE GARZA**  
SVCC/UW Platteville  
EDUCATION MAJOR

**BREANNA MORGAN**  
Rock Falls HS Student  
FUTURE EDUCATOR

**Pathways**  
EXPLORE & ACHIEVE

making the  
**COMMUNITY**  
our classroom

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**BRANDON WOODWARD**  
Dixon HS Teacher  
HOMEGROWN EDUCATOR

**JOE HECKERT**  
SVCC Student  
EDUCATION MAJOR

**HOLLI MILLER**  
Dixon HS Student  
FUTURE EDUCATOR

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### Professional Development

The Office of Professional Learning continues to migrate as much training and support as possible to a digital distance format. School improvement meetings, teacher coaching, career pathway endorsement work, and transitional math & ELA work also continue on a virtual basis. We have provided opportunities for teachers to network, collaborate, and connect through Zoom. Sessions have been well received by educators, who appreciate the support and opportunity to come together.

Family Educators in the department maintain close contact with their at-risk preschool families in Rock Falls & Amboy. Family Educators have identified and communicated community resources during this uncertain time. They are also working to develop family engagement opportunities for families and young children using platforms such as Facebook and zoom.

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

## **January Participants – 216**

### Monday, January 10

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, January 11

Leading Data Based Conversation to Benefit ALL Students @ 9:00 a.m.

Ed Pathways Cohort 1 @ 3:15 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 12

Transitional ELA Community of Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Literacy Essentials for Administrators @ 9 a.m.

Special Educators Community Cohort @ 3:30 p.m.

### Thursday, January 13

Understanding Ourselves to Help Guide Our Students @ 3:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, January 18

Ed Pathways Cohort 2 @ 3:15 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 19

Transitional Math Community of Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Literacy Essentials for Administrators @ 9 a.m.

### Thursday, January 20

Administrator Networking Session @ 9:00 a.m.

### Friday, January 21

Quarterly Spec. Ed Training (Prioritization of Learning & Addressing Learning Gaps) @ 9:00 a.m.

Quarterly Spec. Ed Training (Writing Goals) @ 12:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, January 25

Librarians & School Library Media Specialist Networking Session @ 3:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 26

Literacy Essentials for Administrators @ 9 a.m.

Preschool Family Support Specialist Networking & Collaboration @ 10:00 a.m.

### Thursday, January 27

Career Pathway Leadership Networking @ 9:00 a.m.

### Friday, January 28

Priority Learning Standards @ SVCC

Monday, January 31

Health Life Safety Compliance (Admin. Acad) @ 8:30 a.m.

### ***Regional Center for Change***

We have wrapped up another great month at C4C and we finished our first semester on January 7th. A lot of our students at C4C have amazing art skills and here is one of our students shown below Caleb M. after he painted this for our new weight room at C4C. Not only are students at C4C achieving academic excellence they are also given the opportunity to flourish in other ways.



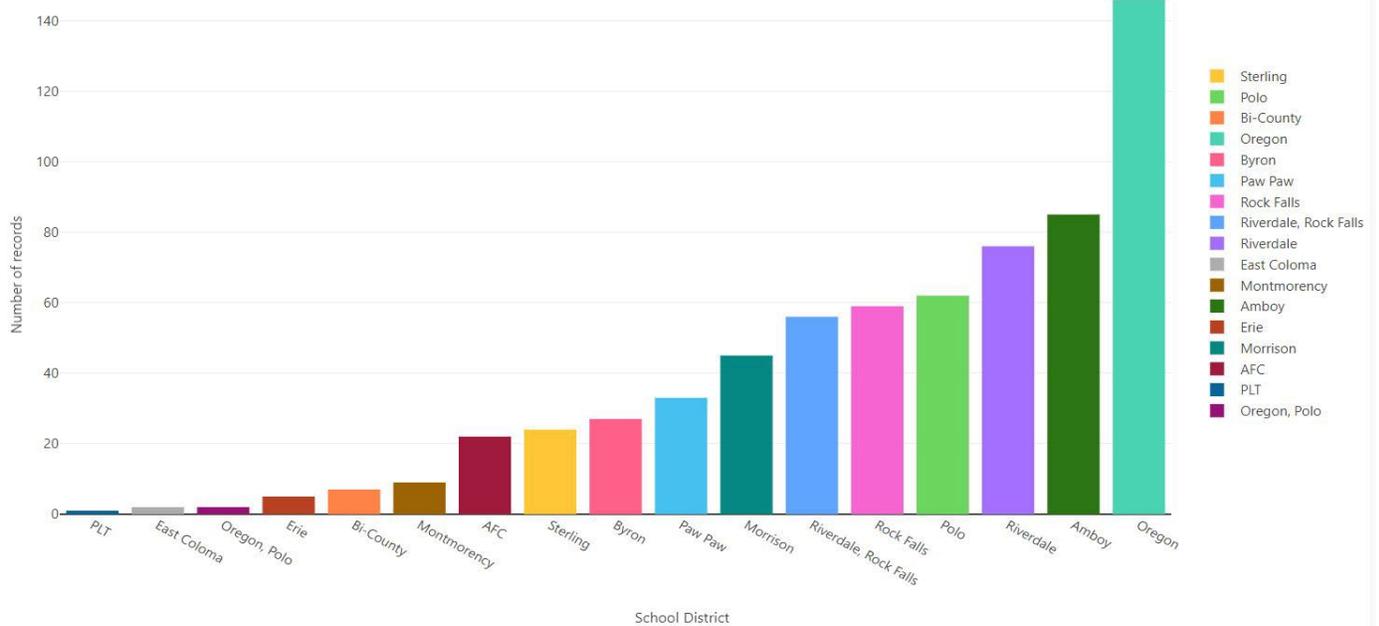
Way to go C4C! Now more than ever we see the importance of our shared mission - dedicated to student achievement in school and life; inspiring hope for a future, self confidence now and resilience forever!

### **Nexus**

The Nexus Program to date, has been working with 91 families within the 3 County area. The staff are working tirelessly with School District staff to support these families. Since September, our team has had over 700 contacts with/for families to help them through many different needs. Needs include housing, employment, substance abuse, domestic violence, COVID support, Medicaid/Food Stamp applications, etc. Our program staff has worked with families to meet 223 goals. Some of these goals were a

basic having positive adult interaction and someone to talk to, while other goals were securing stable housing for the first time in over four years. While these goals are a wide range of needs and time for staff, the weight and impact in the family's and student's lives are still the same. Our program is working to chip away at the chronic stress within the home, support community programs, limit barriers to access, and allow students to come to school ready to learn.

“I would highly recommend NEXUS to all school districts in our regions. It has been especially helpful for our district, as we have been utilizing our staff to their maximum capacity already. Without NEXUS, these individualized services and supports to our families in need would either not have happened, or happened in a very sporadic and unorganized manner. Their case management and communication with our staff has been impeccable.” Shannon Cremeens Dean of Student Oregon



\*Chart shows parent contacts per school district

### Parents as Teachers First Years/ Early Childhood News

We are continuing to enroll families every month but can always take referrals. Please call Lois at the ROE if you know of a family expecting a child or with a baby birth through age three.

***In other Early Childhood news...***

We have begun our second year of IRIS with continued funding through the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. Community partners are continuing to join the network and use the system to share referrals between agencies and programs.

Our Early Childhood Community-Based Planning for Expansion project has reached the halfway point. We have provided workshops on the following topics:

- Data and Asset Mapping in the Sauk Valley Region
- Including Family and Community Voices in Early Childhood Planning
- Early Childhood Program Models and Blending and Braiding Funding
- Building a Local Early Childhood Workforce

Upcoming plans for workshop topics include:

- Assessing Local Facilities
- Evaluating Family and Community Voices (Identified Needs/Barriers to Participation)

We currently have a survey that we are distributing to families with children Prenatal - Age 5.. Access the survey using the QR code on your phone or using the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T35ZLHR>



Responses are due by 2/28/22.

All responses will remain anonymous.

When you complete the survey you can enter to

win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card.

Please share the following flyer with families:

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**ROE #47**  
**Early Childhood Planning for Expansion Committee**

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<h1>Parent Survey</h1>
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We need your voice to help us plan for expanding early childhood services in our local communities in Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Counties!

Please take a few minutes to answer a few quick questions about your child's Prenatal-age 5 programs and what issues we need to address to help make early childhood programming more accessible for everyone.

Access the survey using the QR code on your phone or using the link below. Responses are due by 2/28/22.

All responses will remain anonymous.

When you complete the survey, you can enter to win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card.



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<p><a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T35ZLHR">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T35ZLHR</a></p>
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## **Education Outreach Program**

The Education Outreach Program provides academic services to individuals aged 17-24 in Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside County to help them to earn their High School Equivalency Certificate (GED). In addition to the academic focus of the program, our students are provided opportunities for employment skills training, job shadowing, and paid work experience jobs to help prepare them for employment upon completion of the program.

January was a busy month! We received 15 new referrals and have already enrolled 7 of these new students into our GED classes.

We want to congratulate our most recent graduates - Romello, Damon, and Bradley!

Romello earned his HSE certificate and is employed as a customer service representative. He is considering a career in the building and construction trades.

Damon earned his HSE certificate and is employed in manufacturing. He is planning to pursue a career in the building and construction trades.

Bradley earned his HSE certificate. He is planning to pursue a career in the automotive repair industry.

We are proud of these students and their accomplishments!

## **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program**

Special attention is being directed toward our District nurses. They are key players in the success of our McKinney-Vento students. With the support of grant funds, we are providing each district nurse with a wide range of lice products and personal hygiene items for assisting our students with educational success. Needs for our students have ranged from supplies to hotel vouchers to living sanitation needs.

## **Truant Alternative Program**

The Truant Alternative Program continues to provide prevention and intervention services to at-risk students, ages 6-17. Our At-Risk Team provides outreach services and connects families to multiple community resources with an on-going evaluation of needs throughout the school year. Although our team can face many obstacles, we often see many successes as well. One success story we have this year demonstrates how advocacy for our youth can make a difference. Two of our caseworkers had been working with a 16 year old student who failed to register in school this year due to being behind in credits and not believing she would be able to

graduate. The student planned to drop out when she turned 17 this past Fall. Knowing that this student had the ability to be academically successful even though her attendance put her at risk of not meeting alternative education eligibility, our team encouraged her to enroll and advocated for a credit recovery program offered through her school. The student went on to successfully pass 10 credits in one semester and she graduated in December 2021.