

## **Regional Office of Education Report**

**May 2023**

### **EVERYTHING THAT IS RIGHT WITH EDUCATION**

I find it hard to believe it is May and the end of another school year is upon us. As the Regional Superintendent, I get asked quite a bit about all of the issues facing education. The teacher shortage, unfunded mandates from Springfield, not enough mental health support for students and educators, not enough people running for school boards, I could go on and on. While I enjoy talking with people and problem solving these issues, the best part of my job is I get to see everything that is right with education on a daily basis.

Over the past two years, it has been a challenge to be an educator and stay in education. In spite of those challenges and frustrations, this year I have witnessed first-hand the amazing work educators have done to not only transition students back to in-person learning, but then assist students to cope with some of the learning loss that happened during remote learning. A testament to all the hard work, was seeing the State recognize two Ogle County educators, Kim Radostits and Dr. PJ Caposey, as teacher of the year and superintendent of the year! Everyone involved in helping students this year from our bus drivers, cafeteria staff, custodial staff, nurses, teachers, and administrators has given everything they had to make this transition back to in-person learning successful. I want to personally thank all of the educators for their hard work this year and hope that if you personally know someone who works in a school, you take the time to personally tell them how much you appreciate them.

### **ROE #47 Moving to New Location**

We are excited to announce Effective July 1, 2023, the Regional Office of Education #47 currently located at 1001 West 23rd St. Sterling, IL will be moving to a larger location. The office will be moving to 2214 E. 4th St. Suite B, Sterling, IL which is located right next to Goodwill in Sterling. This move will allow the Regional Office to have all of its programs including; Professional Development, Parents as Teachers, Education Outreach Program, Nexus, homeless, truancy, etc under one roof.

We will start moving our office the week of June 12th. We may have to close for a few days while we complete the move and get set up at our new location. Please follow our social media for updates on the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and our first open house! We would like to thank Newman Central Catholic High School and the Rockford Diocese for allowing us to rent their facility for the past 28-plus years.

## Professional Learning & Educational Services

<b>Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning &amp; Educational Services</b>
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. Sixteen educators, administrators & paraeducators will be honored beginning May 1st. ***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 80 teachers and administrators who will participate in the cohort.
- **Summer learning registrations have launched. We have over 40 opportunities this summer for educators to continue their learning. [CLICK HERE](#) for a full list of professional learning opportunities.**

<b>Office of Professional Learning &amp; Ed Services: College &amp; Career Readiness</b>
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#### **Pathway Endorsement Work**

- Education
  - 11 district are engaged in building pathway endorsement programs for education to help address the teacher shortage
  - Our annual Education Symposium was held April 21, 2023 at Sauk Valley College. 20 high school students received their education pathway endorsement.
  - Pathway Navigators are Heather Waninger, Chanda McDonnell, and Stacey DInges
  - Another round of funding applications has opened.
- 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
  - Agriculture Pathway Informational Meeting - for Administrators and Guidance Counselors is on Friday, May 12th @ SVCC, Room 2K02, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Hosts : John Heiser, District 1 FCAE Coordinator & Stacey Dinges, ROE 47, Ag Pathway
  - Pathway Navigator is Stacey Dinges
- Health Science
  - Pathway Navigator is Chanda McDonnell

<b>Office of Professional Learning &amp; Ed Services: Community Partnership</b>
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**Family & Community Education & Engagement Work**

- Parent Focus Groups were conducted. Qualitative data indicated the following:
  - Parents expressed the joys of living in a small community, but addressed the many barriers of living in a small town.
  - Parents are looking for parent education and advice from their child’s school and or their doctor.
  - Libraries are a great at offering programming, but programming is unavailable to families with two working parents.
  - A desire to have a newsletter about community events, programs, and resources available via email.
  - Majority of parents expressed interest in open house style programming with games, activities, and socialization.
  - *“As you continue programming, please don’t get discouraged by low attendance. The families who attend greatly appreciate it. More will eventually show up. Give it time.” - Forrestville Valley School District parent*
- Trauma Responsive Schools Assessment underway in the following schools: AFC elementary, AFC jr/sr high school, Paw Paw, Amboy Junior High School, C4C, Fulton elementary, middle and high school
- Mindful Trails in Partnership with U of I Extension are at the printers
  - Traveling trails launching this spring
  - Permanent trails, target date of spring 2024. Partnering with WACC
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) StoryWalk Sets are also being developed
- Our SEL Coach will be trained in Teen Mental Health First Aid
- ROE PL/Ed Services team members are available and provide family engagement activities at two or more community events per month.

<b>Office of Professional Learning &amp; Ed Services: Early Childhood</b>
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**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
- ROE 47 is now able to provide Gateways training and credit for childcare and early childhood providers.
- Representative are serving on the Birth to Five Illinois Action Council
- Family focus groups and community play dates were held in March
- Community baby showers with a parent education component will be offered in July in Dixon. If you are interested in donating to the shower, please contact Grace Heimerdinger-Baake.
- Onesies and coordinated intake information will be provided to area hospitals to send home with new parents
- Coordinated intake and early childhood buckslips have been redesigned (marketing materials) have been created and printed
- The Birth-5 Action Council Needs Assessment and recommendations is being finalized for publication
- Diana Merdian will be presenting with Start Early at the Zero to Three National Conference in Minneapolis this September 2023

### **Coordinated Intake**

- The total number of community referrals is 1634 .
- Total number of families 1020.
- The total number of Community Partners is 92 .

<b>Office of Professional Learning &amp; Ed Services: Social Media</b>
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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!

## In the News

### Belief in every student's potential is key to good teaching

2018 teacher of the year delivers keynote address to second Pathways Education Symposium at SVCC

By Troy E. Taylor

April 23, 2023 at 5:00 am CDT

Expand



Recent Articles

## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events

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

### April Participants - 125

#### Monday, April 3

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 4

Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners @ SVCC

Librarians Networking Session @ 2:30 pm

#### Tuesday, April 11

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

Wednesday, April 12

Interventionists Teaching & Learning Networking Session @ SVCC

Preschool Family Support Specialist Networking & Collaboration @ 1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 19

Deanery School Improvement Networking @ Newman High School

Teacher Tools Networking @ 3:30 pm

Wednesday, April 26

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ 1:00 pm

Thursday, April 27

Administrator Networking Session @ SVCC

Friday, April 28

Regional Transitional Math Networking @ SVCC

## April in Photos





## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

### Nexus:

The NEXUS Program is the recipient of a \$7,000 grant from the Rochelle Community Foundation. Funds will be used to expand and support IRIS partnerships in the Rochelle community (picture below).

We continue to work with families with over 5,000 family contacts and almost 200 referrals into the Nexus program.

We are posting another full-time position for a Nexus family support specialist due to the expansion of the program and the overall need in our 3 county area.



## Parents as Teachers First Years

As we enter the final quarter of this fiscal year, we are already thinking about next year! We have started to work on implementing program improvements for next year and are excited to explore what new opportunities may come from “living” in a new space. The parent

educators are getting excited about their new offices and the collaboration opportunities that may come from being housed with the rest of the ROE staff.

*Here's a copy of an article we recently submitted to the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce:*

Local home visiting programs are a critical resource for new and expectant parents, providing one-on-one support at no cost to eligible families. Home visiting programs provide private family coaching and resources, promote infant and child

health, foster educational development and school readiness, and help prevent child abuse and neglect. Research tells us that the most rapid period of brain development occurs within the first three years of life, laying the foundation for all future learning, behavior and health.

Three years ago, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development initiated a project in partnership with The Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition and their home visiting partners, Parents as Teachers First Years, Healthy Families, and Early Head Start, to implement a Coordinated Intake system using IRIS (Integrated Referral and Intake System) across Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties. This system helps to improve access to resources for families, and most importantly, helps to improve equitable access to high-

## Sauk Valley STARS

Lee, Ogle, & Whiteside Counties Illinois

LAUNCH DATE August 5, 2021

CHAMPION Regional Office of Education #47



IRIS

### ALL REFERRALS

**924 FAMILIES**

Unduplicated number of families who were the subject of at least one referral in IRIS.



**1,626 TOTAL REFERRALS**

**59% ENROLLED IN SERVICES**

quality early childhood programs that enables children, with the support of their families and communities, to grow up safe, healthy, happy, and ready to succeed.

Coordinated Intake provides a centralized hub where participating community agencies can use the IRIS system to make referrals to other programs and services that can benefit their clients and their families. The Regional Office of Education #47 serves as the intake hub for families who need assistance connecting with home visiting or other early childhood programs, and for schools to connect with the ROE’s Student and Family Care programs, including Nexus and Truancy.

The ROE is also piloting a project with the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships & Research, the RIS program developers, to explore how the IRIS Coordinated Intake system could be utilized in the business sector to support local employee access to community resources or as a way for a business to receive referrals for potential new hires. We are looking for a small to medium sized business (under 100 employees) who is interested in learning more about this opportunity. Please contact Aimee Howard at [ahoward@roe47.org](mailto:ahoward@roe47.org) or Diana Merdian at [dmerdian@roe47.org](mailto:dmerdian@roe47.org) to express interest in this project.

NUMBER OF PARTNERS	DESCRIPTION OF SECTORS
1	Aging Care Services supporting the needs of senior citizens
7	Behavioral Health Mental health and substance use treatment services
5	Concrete Supports Support with basic needs such as housing, food, and financial supports
4	Developmental Disabilities Services and supports for community members with disabilities
9	Early Childhood Education Educational services and programs for young children
46	Education K-12, post-secondary, and adult educational programs and services
8	Family Support Parenting education, crisis, legal, and other supports for parents and families
4	Maternal and Child Health Services that support reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health
1	Other Health Services Other health prevention and treatment services
5	Resource Navigation Programs designed to connect families to other resources

## Education Outreach Program

The Education Outreach Program met an important milestone this past month. We celebrated our 500th graduate! The program began in 2003 and was originally funded to serve 15 students. At the time, it was said we would be lucky to find 5 students to enroll. Well, here we are at 500 graduates!

Over the past 20 years, we have been fortunate to meet and work with amazing students. Their energy, enthusiasm, and perseverance is remarkable and while some have frustrated us at times - we have truthfully loved every minute. It is a tremendous gift to see these students grow and achieve their goals. Beth Hubbard and Cathy Jacoby want to thank the students, former staff, and BEST, Inc. in helping to achieve this goal.

Our graduate for the month of April (and our 500th) is Alexandra from Whiteside County. Congratulations Alex! We have had 13 graduates so far this year. A graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 28th where we will be celebrating this year's graduates and recognizing their accomplishments.

## **Regional Center for Change**

**End of Year Dates:**

**May 3rd: Half Day and April Assembly at 8:45 am VIRTUAL via Google meets**

**May 12th: Tentative Field Trip Day to the Zoo**

**May 23rd: Last day for finals and grades Due**

**May 23rd: Field Day 11:00 - 1:45 pm**

**May 24th: Field Day makeup/rain day**

**May 25th: Graduation at 9:00 am and end of 4th quarter half day**

**Child Abuse Awareness Month is April. Students decorated doors to show support, completed research on abuse factors, and had discussions that occurred during SEL on breaking the cycle of abuse.**

**Teachers had informal observations with the administration and worked on incorporating new direct instruction strategies for the coming school year. Also piloting an amazing self-assessment program called close gap. Great feedback so far!**

**C4C heading to the Niabi Zoo with financial support from JJC. First field trip in years outside of going to Selmi's. All set for May 12th. 🙄**

**Dress Code change for SY24. See the graph below. Eliminating polo requirement, modified dress code. Results from Google Form below including student input. We will go with the modified dress code next year. Thank you for your input!!**

**Two nominees for the IPA Leadership Breakfast. We had 5 nominees and our two winners were announced this morning - Leilani Davis and Mikaleigh Hand!**

## **Truant Alternative Program**

As we head into the last month of the school year, the Truant Alternative Program has worked with over 520 students this year. Our collaborations with schools and families have resulted in individual service plans created specifically for each student. Our team reviews the goals on a monthly basis and we evaluate what further steps are needed to reach these goals by the end of the school year - through building relationships, mentoring, community referrals, and accommodations. Connection with school has a tremendous impact on a student's success and every effort is made to ensure that our students feel included and valued. Our students do not always make things easy, but every challenge is an opportunity. It's been a tremendous pleasure to work with amazing school districts, school staff, and especially the students and families we have met along the way.

This month, I'd like to celebrate one of our staff, [Nicole Oberg](#). *Nicole is the recipient of the 2023 Crete Dillon Bowman Award for Community Leadership that was presented at the YWCA Women of Achievement Luncheon in April. This award is given to women who have exhibited outstanding volunteerism or leadership that has strengthened the community. Nicole has been with the Truant Alternative Program for three years and has been recognized for her effort and dedication in the position as well as other activities she is involved with. Congratulations Nicole!*

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

We have been blessed with continued support from our local school districts. Summer programming is being looked into to help maintain social and emotional connections for our families and students. Our grant is able to support such endeavors. Preparing for the fall is underway in regards to supplies and other items that our families and students will need for the best possible success with their educational needs.