

## Regional Office of Education Report

May 2022

### Area Superintendents Meeting 4-28-22

We hosted our spring Superintendents meeting at Sauk Valley Community College on 4-28-22. The meeting was very well attended and we updated our districts on several of our programs and services. We also had the legal team from IASA in Springfield come up and go over all of the new education bills that have passed both the house and senate and will impact changes on next school year. The CEO of Golden Apple Scholars also presented on their new accelerators program to help get more teachers certified in Illinois. We also provided networking time for the superintendent's to talk about any summer programming along with plans for beginning a new school year in the fall.

### Professional Development

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning
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

The Office of Professional Learning is busy preparing summer learning opportunities for educators, support staff, and administrators in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties. Each program has also engaged in strategic planning for FY23. The department anticipates adding at least 5 positions to the department to accommodate new programs and to address area needs.

Two major in person events were successful during the month of April at Sauk Valley College: the annual Social Emotional Learning Summit “Soaring Balloons and Heavy Shackles” with 52 teacher participants and the annual Early Childhood Summit with 34 teacher participants.

The First Annual **Educator Symposium** will be held at Sauk Valley College on April 29th from 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. Dr. Carmen Ayala (ISBE State Superintendent of Schools) will serve as keynote and will interact with students and educators throughout the day. Key activities include:

- Mock interviews
- Keynote Address
- Photo Booths
- Junior and Senior students will participate in mock interviews with local administrators.
- Team Based Challenge Showcase: Pathways students will be given a trifold poster board to display their team based challenge work, process and results.
- A celebration of seniors from each school that have earned the education pathway endorsement this school year.

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.

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

## **April Participants – 249**

### Monday, April 4

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 5

Early Childhood Expansion Community Based Planning @ 9:00 a.m.

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

### Friday, April 8

Social Emotional Learning Summit @ SVCC

### Tuesday, April 12

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

### Wednesday, April 13

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ 1:00 p.m.

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

### Thursday, April 14

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

### Tuesday, April 19

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

#### Thursday, April 21

Administrator Networking Session @ 9:00 a.m.

Curriculum Directors & Instructional Coaches Networking Session @ 11:00 a.m.

#### Monday, April 25

Early Childhood Summit @ SVCC

#### Tuesday, April 26

Transitional ELA: Starting the Journey (session 1) @ 3:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, April 27

Deanery School Improvement Networking Session @ Newman

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

#### Thursday, April 28

Superintendents Meeting @ SVCC

## **Nexus**

Our team is getting ready to finish our first school year! We continue to receive referrals from our school districts and work with our families. We are helping families and students get ready for graduation from high school, promotion from 8th grade, new job opportunities, new housing, and new goals. We will be transitioning families out of our program who have reached their goals and feel as though they are stable enough to exit our program. We will continue to work with families throughout the summer that may need additional support when schools are out. We are gathering survey data from our families and our districts to see what we can do to improve our program next year. We will have the complete data for our program during our August County Report.

## **Parents as Teachers First Years**

In the Spring, home visitors who have families with children 30 months or older, work with families to begin thinking about their preschool options. Families develop a preschool transition plan – discussing different preschool programs, scheduling an appointment for a developmental screening at a preschool screening event, and learning how to prepare children for starting school in the fall.

For the general public, Parents as Teachers First Years offers free Birth to Three developmental screenings upon request.

### ***What is a developmental screening?***

Developmental screenings are used to tell if a child is learning skills when they should. It's a quick check of a child's progress, not a formal evaluation.

### ***Why is it important?***

- Screenings help families understand their child's development.
- Screenings show important milestones and identify possible concerns as early as possible. Research tells us that the sooner a developmental concern is identified the better. Early identification leads to early support and services that can improve a child's development and help them be their best.
- It's recommended! Developmental screening is so important that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all children be screened at least once a year.

### ***What if my child seems fine?***

Screenings are a great way to make sure that your child is developing on track for their age. You can learn about your child's strengths and ways to support their healthy development.

### ***What if I am concerned about my child?***

A screening is a good first step. It can help determine if your child needs extra help or further evaluation. Our staff specialize in helping families who have concerns about their child's development. They can answer your questions and connect you to local resources.

### ***How do I schedule a Developmental Screening?***

Call the Regional Office of Education at 815-625-1495 and ask for Lois. She will help you schedule a screening appointment.

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

### ***IRIS***

Our new Coordinated Intake worker began working part-time on April 1st. She will support IRIS work – recruitment and enrollment of programs, managing data, training requests, etc. Below is the most recent quarterly report released April 25th.

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#### **ALL REFERRALS**

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








**349 TOTAL REFERRALS**  
**55% ENROLLED IN SERVICES**

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#### **MONTHLY REFERRAL TRENDS**

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QUARTERLY SNAPSHOT		Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Jan-Mar 2022
	FAMILIES REFERRED		33	111	108
	SENT		0	1	3
	ACCEPTED		20	26	21
	COMPLETED		36% (12)	80% (131)	83% (126)
	Enrolled in services		9	81	90
	Client declined services		2	12	4
	Could not contact		0	6	5
	Other		1	32	27
	REJECTED		3% (1)	4% (6)	1% (2)
TOTAL includes Pending			33	164	152
Status as of 5th of the month following the quarter.					

### **Early Childhood Expansion Project**

The Early Childhood Expansion work is wrapping up. We will finish our final expansion plan in early May for submission to Illinois Action for Children. Following this submission, the grant project work will end and then we will transition into Birth to Five Illinois work.

### **What is Birth to Five Illinois?**

From their website:

#### **MISSION**

To create a statewide regional infrastructure that will amplify input from communities in the development of policies and funding priorities. We mobilize communities to build and sustain equitable access to inclusive, high-quality early childhood services for all children and families in the state of Illinois.

#### **VISION**

Reimagining a more equitable Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system that ensures family and community voice is centered and prioritized at every level of decision-making in Illinois.

#### **VALUES/GOALS**

**Family Voice:** Through this transformation centered on authentic family and community engagement, we will address the inequitable distribution of resources and services and rebuild our State's Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) systems.

**Racial Equity:** In an effort to move our Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) systems to one where race is no longer a predictor of a child's success, we will address barriers that have limited access to high-quality services for minoritized children in every corner of our State.

**Collective Impact:** Birth to Five Illinois will build a system that harnesses knowledge directly from families and mobilizes decision-makers to ensure new and/or expanded services are created to meet community needs and directly influence policy/funding at the local, regional, and state level.

Ensuring all children and families have access to the services they need will require a wide range of stakeholders — parents and families, school district officials, child care providers, Head Start leaders, early learning advocates, county and municipal officials, and the business community — working together in every community in Illinois to determine what families need to thrive, and then creating new and enhanced services in response.

Based on input and efforts of the Birth to Five Councils, policies and programs will be co-created by families, providers, and local communities who will have ongoing leadership roles in the implementation and monitoring of progress.

The Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition has signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with INCCRRA who is directing the work to transform the ECEC systems throughout the state. The STARS Coalition will operate as the Regional Action Council for Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties (ROE 47 Service area). The ROE will continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the coalition and continue with the rest of our strategic plan that falls outside of the state-designated priority of increasing ECEC enrollment. The goals for the work of the Regional Action Council are as follows:

- To support local residents in coming together to address early childhood needs within their own communities
- To make sure the State's policies and funding priorities match the needs of each region, prioritizing voices of families, providers, and communities
- To provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood services for all children

### **How can YOU be involved?**

Each council is looking for a diverse group of stakeholders who are interested in early childhood to serve on the councils. Specifically, our region needs representation from the business community and local government officials. Members are asked to serve a 2 year term, with 1-2 meetings per month. If you are interested in applying, please visit: [birthtofiveil.com/action](http://birthtofiveil.com/action).

## **Education Outreach Program**

The Education Outreach Program is happy to report that we have had thirteen students graduate with their HSE certificate so far this year. These graduates along with SVCC Adult Education graduates will be honored at a Student Recognition Night on May 19, 2022, at 6:00 in the Jerry Mathis Theatre. We are looking forward to celebrating with them!

Many of our students have also been busy participating in job shadowing and work experience jobs through BEST, Inc. to explore a variety of careers. Their interests include culinary arts, retail, office management, plumbing, manufacturing, automotive and healthcare.

Job Shadows provide students the opportunity to shadow an employer for three hours. They are able to observe and ask questions to learn more about a career.

Work Experience jobs are coordinated with employers and allow students to learn employability skills and gain experience. The length of each work experience varies but generally ranges from 400-700 hours. Students are allowed to work up to 29 hours a week. All wages are paid by BEST, Inc. as well as worker's compensation insurance and FICA.

These opportunities are a tremendous benefit to our students as they navigate a career path.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Education**

Our McKinney Vento Homeless Education program continues to strive to assist our school districts with meeting the needs of their identified students. This comes in many forms. Transportation assistance is a key factor that costs districts a great deal of financial resources. We are looking at assisting with summer programming options for educationally and socially stimulating our identified students. District wide training continues to be stressed for all staff.

## **Truant Alternative Program**

Our program is completing another challenging school year - yet one that has held many opportunities. Among our five 'at-risk' team caseworkers, we have worked with over 700 students in Lee/Ogle/Whiteside. Of the state's three Tier strategy, we provide the most intensive services for resolving chronic truancy and chronic absenteeism. In addition, we assist with social and emotional learning skills and linkage for our families to community resources as we continually assess their needs throughout the school year and do so on a regular and consistent monthly basis. Our team will be discussing changes for the upcoming year to see how we can better serve our students, our families, and our districts. We are in the beginning stage to move our referral system into IRIS with the goal to have it up and running for the 2022-2023 school year. This will allow community based tracking visibility for Truancy services, a direct location for

all referrals to be processed, and provide information for districts as to when our program will be full.

Student Highlight: A 17 year old student that had been active with TAP, on and off since the 4th grade, was recently sitting in his high school office. His family had moved multiple times over the years, his step-dad had been incarcerated for many years, and he had very little contact with his biological father. The student has an IEP and struggled through his academics but always showed the capability to complete his work. He was often suspended for fighting and often refused to go to school. During remote learning, he struggled at home to understand his work without extra assistance in person. He failed multiple classes that year. His baby sister had a severe medical condition that kept him from attending school during Covid. Almost weekly, the caseworker would go to his home and, along with three other brothers/cousins living there, would have each one line up at the door and open their chromebooks to make sure progress was being made. This student desperately wanted to go back to school and with support and encouragement from TAP, we were able to help the family make that decision during the second semester of 2021. Now...this student was in the high school office. When questioned why he was in the office, he stated he was sick and waiting to go home. When asked how things were going with school, he stated he was one credit from graduating. He was working with his coach to finish his application to NIU. He hasn't decided on a major, but I know he will find that path.