

Regional Office of Education Report

June 2022

School Recognition and Approval

May and June are the time of year that the school districts of Lee/Ogle/Whiteside Counties reach out to ROE 47 to talk about getting recognition and approval by the state board of education. School districts seeking recognition/approval by the Illinois State Board of Education must submit certain documents to the Office of the Regional Superintendent on a regular basis. These documents include the school calendar, which must provide for a minimum of 176 days of school per year; assurances that certain objectives, assessment procedures and/or the improvement of instruction are in place; annual applications for recognition and approval by ISBE; and applications for approval of local district in-service training programs and institutes.

As a part of the State Board of Education “Quality Assurance” process, our Regional Office schedules approximately 24 Technical Assistance Visits during the school year to assure compliance with state statutes.

Non-public schools seeking recognition from the State Board of Education must also submit certain documents to the Regional Office for approval and forwarding to Springfield. Non-public schools applying for recognition are evaluated by ISBE visitation on a regular basis. ROE 47 staff are involved in non-public recognition as well as public school recognition.

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.

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

May Participants – 93

Monday, May 2

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3

Librarians & School Library Media Specialist Networking Session @ 2:30 p.m.

Transitional ELA: Starting the Journey (session 2) @ 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4

ALL Teacher Networking @ 3:30 p.m.

Monday, May 9

Transitional Math: Starting the Journey (session 1) @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10

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

Teacher Evaluator Recertification @ SVCC

Ed Pathways Cohort 1 & 2 @ 3:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 12

Evaluator Retraining: Student Growth @ 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 16

Transitional Math: Starting the Journey (session 2) @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17

Manage Your Time or Time Will Manage You @ 9:00 a.m.

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

Monday, May 23

Transitional Math: Starting the Journey (session 3) @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24

Transitional ELA: Starting the Journey (session 4) @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 31

Transitional ELA: Starting the Journey (session 5) @ 3:30 p.m.

Nexus

Many across the State have recognized the work that we have done with our Nexus program. This year, we were selected to present at the Illinois Action For Children Plan Partner Act Conference on June 7th and 8th. As of May 31st, there were over 220 participants registered to attend our session! Anyone who impacts the lives of children is encouraged to attend the Conference. It is a free virtual Conference! Attendees can attend all or portions of the Conference. Link to register here.

<https://events.bizzabo.com/2022EquityfromtheStart/page/2082501/registration>

Parents as Teachers First Years

As we move into June, we are looking towards the rapidly approaching year-end. This always means that we are closely examining all of our documentation and data, looking for problem areas to correct before year-end reports are due. Families have been completing program satisfaction surveys and home visitors are completing year-end outcome reports on each family for our funders. The year-end data we are collecting will guide program improvements that we will put into place in the upcoming year. We are also starting to think about our Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement process which will kick into high gear in June.

We will also be exiting about a dozen families who will be transitioning to preschool in the fall. We will have openings for new families starting in July!

In other Early Childhood news...

IRIS

We now have all the public school districts in our service area and some of the private school districts signed on to IRIS! We have just a few to finish setting up a few and they will be good to go. Our next goal is to start connecting the child care centers to IRIS so they can make referrals in the system for the families they serve as well. Below is a visual representation of the referrals made in the first quarter of 2022:

Early Childhood Expansion Project

In mid-May, we submitted our regional Early Childhood Community-Based Planning for Expansion Grant to the funder, Illinois Action for Children. They were very impressed with the level of community engagement and the number of schools and organizations who see a need for expanding early childhood services in our service area. This report can be found on our website here: <https://www.roe47.org/page/early-childhood-community-planning>. The next steps included in the plan will give our Birth to Five Regional Council a place to start working.



Education Outreach Program

The Education Outreach Program provides academic and employment training services to our students. Since July 1st, fifteen students have earned their IL High School Equivalency Certificates (GED).

We want to congratulate our May graduates, Brayden and Aidan!

Brayden will be participating in job shadowing to learn more about his career interests. He is currently employed in the retail industry.

Aidan is employed in the food industry and will be seeking employment in the field of manufacturing once he turns 18.

Several students are participating in job shadowing and paid work experience to learn and begin careers in their chosen field. Worksites include Kunes Auto Group, Rock Falls Library, Ehmen Industries, and Folsom's Bakery.

Students are also provided with the opportunity to enroll in paid training to earn certification in a chosen field. The WACC and SVCC offered an Automotive Technician Program this summer that began on May 31st. One EOP student received financial assistance to enroll in this program. He will be participating in paid work experience with a local automotive service company upon completion of the course.

McKinney Vento Homeless Education

Our McKinney Vento Homeless Education program has been involved with numerous housing issues and payments for temporary housing such as motels. With the increase in gas prices, we have been assisting many more families with support in that area. Summer programming opportunities are continuing to be an area we are supporting. Helping to create a stable environment during the summer months is vital for the students we are trying to help. We have assisted students with graduation expenses such as cap and gowns and appropriate clothing items. Summer and Fall training arrangements are well underway.

Truant Alternative Program

We are completing another challenging school year - yet one that has held many opportunities. Our team has worked with approximately 700 students during the 2021-2022 school year. Of the state's three Tier strategy, we provide the most intensive services for resolving chronic truancy and chronic absenteeism. 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. In addition to having our referral process begin to go directly through IRIS from all school districts, we are also revamping our eligibility requirements for our program. A finalized decision will be made prior to the start of the new school year, but the vision is to help districts have a more effective and simple process when making Truancy referrals, assisting families who are more in need of services, and

serving the 'at-risk' population of students with the goal of being more successful in attendance and, therefore, more successful academically. We look forward to implementing new strategies for the upcoming year and working with our districts and their students!

Student Highlight: One of our case workers has been working with a family with four children during very difficult circumstances they are currently facing. There have been strong concerns for the children's well-being without lack of daily school visibility and support over the next few months. Multiple staff and agencies have been involved throughout the school year. In processing ways to help the children have a place to go during the summer months that would be healthy, safe, and active, we brainstormed activities that were available in the area. The caseworker reached out to the family's local activity center about possible scholarships or financial aid options. Not only was the director able to get funding for these four children, the director also secured funding for several family memberships through a private donor in the community. The donor was so moved by the need for children to have a place to go over the summer, they also are paying for three additional family passes of the caseworker's choosing. One of the mothers was so grateful to have been selected to receive the membership that she was in tears. We are always so amazed and thankful for the generosity of the community when it comes to our families with great needs!

Regional Center for Change

We are wrapping up one heck of a year at C4C!!! We have broken a few records and the future is bright for our school! Of the 24 school districts we serve we had 14 students graduate 8th grade this year from C4C! We also had 10 students graduate high school! Our enrollment peaked at 76 students (the most ever) and when you combine C4C, Flex, Summer School, and Apex seats offered to districts - **189 students accessed Apex courses!!!!** Wow, that is amazing!!!! C4C student of the year winner as nominated by Seth Sanderson.

I would like to nominate this student for student of the year because he is a perfect example of what the realistic version of changing means at this school. When we think about our mission statement and our vision. Center for Change. We do not ask you to completely change who you are. We understand that you have trauma, pain, and situations that most kids never have to go through. However, we are asking you to change the bad habits, the outlook towards school/graduation, your mindset etc. We really just want nothing more than for you to give everything you've got into completing this goal of graduating school for YOURSELF. Prove to yourself that no matter how bad your situation might be, how far behind you are, how poor of study habits you might have, you are going to finish school and start pursuing your passions for YOU. Although I have many students who I could argue for this award. Eli Borden is the first that comes to mind. Eli came to me a year and a half behind due to him not going to school for a whole year. On the first day, I had a very serious and honest conversation with him. I told Eli that in order to be caught up, you need to complete 11 assignments a day every single school day that we have. As you all know, this is more than double the required amount most students have at this school. Not knowing the kind of person Eli was, I was hesitant to tell him this. I didn't expect a student I had just met who hadn't been in school for over a year to take this news well. On the other hand, I didn't want to sugar coat or beat around the bush. After I told Eli this, he simply nodded his head, said it sounded good, and got straight to work. Eli surprised me that day, and really set the tone for the rest of his time here.

As of today, Eli has completed 22 APEX classes. He is completely caught up to grade level and is looking to graduate early next year. Not one time has Eli shown me specifically disrespect and I think that is due to him being able to trust me. (at least i think lol.) He knows that no matter what happens, even if he has a bad day, I'm not going to lose faith in him. Everyone has bad days here and there. It's a part of life. Most times you don't know what goes on outside of school so we can't always expect our students to be on their A game every day. However, I will tell you that Eli has done something special here that I for sure would have gave up on at his age. He took the challenge I gave him head on without hesitation even though every sort of adversity was thrown at him. And for that, I couldn't be any more proud. Thank you Eli. Thank you for coming in and getting your stuff done even on the days where you didn't want to get up. And finally, thank you for showing everyone around you that you don't have to change who you are in order to succeed here. Giving it 100% is all i can ask.

C4C HS Graduates on May 26, 2022



C4C 8th Grade Graduates May 26, 2022

