

## Regional Office of Education Report

September 2023

### Regional Office of Education Health Life Safety

We have begun our health life safety inspections last week. We will be inspecting all 24 school districts and 73 buildings in total. The state requires that each of the 4000 public school buildings and school related buildings in the state is inspected annually to assure compliance with the minimum standards necessary to ensure the health and safety of public school students in Illinois, according to Building Specifications for Health and Safety in Public Schools. By law, school districts must maintain public schools to the minimum standard. Annual inspection results from each building are available at the Regional Office of Education. A summary report is filed annually with the Illinois State Board of Education as required by law.

Every 10 years all public school buildings must be resurveyed by an architect licensed by the State of Illinois. All work necessary to bring the building into compliance with minimum standards is noted. Upon completion of outlined work, compliance is verified by the district and architect in a report filed with the Regional Office of Education.

The Regional Office of Education is also responsible, through the Regional Superintendent of Schools, for statutory compliance with established standards in the construction and remodeling of public school buildings. The Regional Superintendent assures school board approval by resolution of construction plans, review of construction plans for code compliance, issuance of the building permit, and upon review, issuance of school occupancy permits. Further, the Regional Superintendent assures code compliance for temporary/mobile classroom units throughout the region.

### Professional Learning & Educational Services

<b>Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning &amp; Educational Services</b>
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Induction & Mentoring
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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**

**Professional Learning**

- Science of Reading Cohort through LETRS is preparing to launch for 2023-24. We have 84 teachers and administrators who will participate in the cohort.
- Summer learning and institute support has wrapped up. Professional Learning staff are accepting registrations for fall learning.

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Community Outreach**

- Our first community baby shower was held on Saturday, July 8th in Dixon
- Over 1100 backpacks with school supplies were distributed to families in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties on Wednesday, July 26th and Tuesday, August 8 as part of our new School Supply Closet.
- Our Back to School Bash was held Saturday, August 5th. The event featured free backpacks and school supplies for students, a photo booth, back to school books, a Kindle giveaway, and access to representatives from our community and social service agencies. In total, 122 children and parents attended the event.

- ROE 47 Family Engagement staff participated in the Paw Paw Back to School event on Saturday, August 19th. The team facilitated family-child interactions through several BlockFest stations, giant connect 4, and a family photo booth. Information on ROE 47 programming and services was also provided to families and caregivers.
- Our Family Engagement staff has interacted with thousands of families this summer at community events and festivals. Children have really enjoyed playing giant Connect 4, coloring, blowing bubbles, and engaging in block play.

## 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!

## Upcoming Events

**SERIES SESSIONS:**

- **SESSION 1:**  
Understanding & Leveraging the Power of Blockfest  
August 31, 2023  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **SESSION 2:**  
Discovering & Developing Your Style of Leadership  
November 30, 2023  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **SESSION 3:**  
Designing & Building a Strong Team Culture  
February 29, 2024  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **SESSION 4:**  
Defining & Recapturing Healthy Classrooms  
June 18, 2024  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SERIES

Gain valuable insights on topics essential to the health and success of your individual schools and districts



Administrators will receive:

- Tailored coaching that is focused on helping build practical leadership strategies to support teachers, students, and families
- Partnerships to encourage your journey
- Immediate implementation steps for transforming your district

**24 PD Hours; Administrator Academy Credit available**  
**Cost: Free for Ed Pathway Partner District Administrators;**  
**\$500 co-op members; \$1000 non co-op members**  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 14**

To register for this series, please visit [roe47.org](http://roe47.org) and click on the [Workshops](#) link at the top of the page.

*Academy leader Tom Toney is the founder of KUEST Student Leadership, a non-profit organization focused on developing systems, resources and training for empowering students and educators. Over the last thirty years, Tom has authored more than twenty student leadership and character development books, manuals and resources. As a certified DISC Personality Consultant, Tom coaches businesses and teams through his online CAB University system.*

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

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

**August Participants - 169**

Wednesday, August 2

New Teacher Networking @ SVCC

Thursday, August 3

Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Training @ SVCC

Monday, August 7

Attendance Support Program Training @ SVCC

Tuesday, August 8

Short-Term Substitute Teacher Training @ 9:00 am

Mentor Teacher Training for Pathways @ Amboy High School

Wednesday, August 9

LETRS Kickoff Session @ SVCC

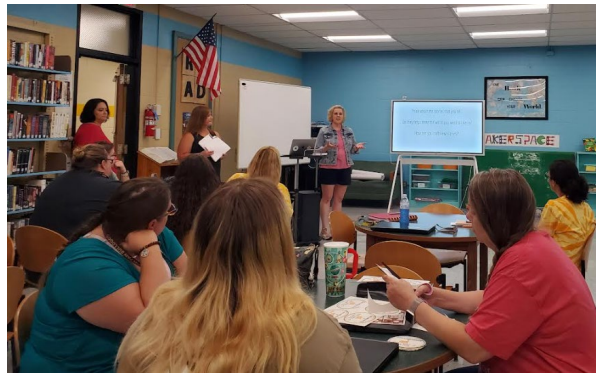
Tuesday, August 29

LETRS Check-In Session @ 3:30 pm

Thursday, August 31

Transformational Leadership Academy Series @ SVCC

**August in Photos**



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!  
AUGUST 19, 2023



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

Our Nexus team has been working with our participating school districts to prepare the new and returning staff for the next school year to support our families. We have been presenting in front of some teachers and staff at some of our districts to educate our teachers on the support we are offering. Even though we haven't hit Labor Day just yet, we are already planning on the support and the logistics of supporting our families over the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday seasons. It may seem early, but it takes a lot of planning and preparation to support families in this way over three counties, but we are blessed to be a part of their time. We always seek food and holiday gift donations to bless our families who work so hard with us throughout the school year.

## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Student Attendance Support

Our Attendance Team is now fully assembled. We are meeting with individual school districts and did a three-county training in August. We have also met with one of our three counties Assistant State's Attorney's Office to talk about the court process and how we can work more effectively. We hope to get meetings scheduled with the remaining two counties within the next month. Our Attendance Support Program is gathering research on evidence-based practices to help our students reach attendance goals in a non-punitive and trauma-informed approach. We ask our communities to unite to support students' attendance needs and struggles. Chronic absenteeism is not just a school issue or an ROE issue. It is a more significant systemic issue that requires all hands to support our children in understanding the importance of attending school and how it can impact their learning. We know students miss school for various reasons, and it will take our community to support it.

### Parents as Teachers First Years

It's only the end of August and we are already almost fully enrolled! What a change from a from the COVID years when we had a hard time finding families who wanted to participate. The marketing and recruitment efforts of the last several years have paid off with more community agencies aware of our program and making referrals to us.

We have settled into our new space and are planning an open house in September for our families to show them our offices and our newly organized lending library. If you have not seen our space yet, feel free to stop in for a tour. We want it to feel welcoming and friendly and tried to set up a space that families would feel comfortable visiting.

#### *In Other Early Childhood News...*

Early in 2023, the Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition/ROE team finished up our Community-Based Planning for Expansion project with Illinois Action for Children and as a final wrap-up, some of the planning committee met with a video team from Illinois Action for Children to record our thoughts on the process. Check out the following short videos summarizing the project.

- Overview of the Community-Based Planning Project: <https://youtu.be/JvHMEEU3IRk>
- Sauk Valley STARS: <https://youtu.be/YiQqjHysokE>

The Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition/ROE team also spent the last year working with the Illinois Birth to Five Region 47 Action Council to develop a needs assessment for our three county service area. The Early Childhood Regional Needs assessment has been released and is available for dissemination.

If you would like to set up a meeting to discuss the Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment or need digital resources for social media or a newsletter, we encourage you to reach out to Abby Hoskins, the Regional Manager for Region 47. Her email address is [ahoskins@birthtofiveil.com](mailto:ahoskins@birthtofiveil.com). We are interested in connecting with as many community members

as possible to gather feedback on the report and would love to have your input. Abby will also be willing to present the information learned through the needs assessment to a larger group such as the county board.

The full report and a 2-page infographic can be found here:

Website (to full report and infographic): <https://www.birthtofiveil.com/region47/#report>

PDF Links:

Report:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61ba6b3017614378f01ce468/t/64baca7761744d40e7488f01/1689963141353/Region\\_47\\_Needs\\_Assessment.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61ba6b3017614378f01ce468/t/64baca7761744d40e7488f01/1689963141353/Region_47_Needs_Assessment.pdf)

Infographic:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61ba6b3017614378f01ce468/t/64c3ecfb43f01c62f8045ea7/1690561787380/47+Infographic.pdf>

## **Education Outreach Program**

August has come in as fast as it has gone! Just as many school districts are feeling the urgency, we at the Education Outreach Program have had many requests to get classes started up for our students as well!

With classes in full swing, we are introducing our students to our Whiteside County Teacher, [Jill Marciniac](#). Jill comes to us after retiring from Dixon High School as a Special Education Teacher who helped many students, both in school and through her outreach and tutoring. With her knowledge also comes a love for making connections with youth and young adults and we know she will thrive in this program! Jill is available and holds class every Tuesday and Wednesday from 8am to 4pm.

These young adults are busy studying for GED testing, working with the Business Employment Skills Team (BEST, Inc.) developing resumes and attending Sauk certification programs all with the help of our program. We look forward to our 7 new intakes following through with the process and guiding them to their success story.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

The beginning of the school year brings its own unique opportunities. Identification is key. Grant funding allows for much support to help our students have the tools to allow for the best possible educational success. All district staff play a key role in making that happen. Therefore, having the entire district staff aware and informed is a vital key for the success of this program and the students we are serving.



## Regional Center for Change



### August/September At a Glance

- Theme for the Month of August/September "We are Family"
- September is Suicide Prevention Month
- Let it Begin! Door Decorating Contest "We are Family" Doors judged on Thursday, September 28th
- Friday, September 29th Assembly at 8:30 am
- Enrollment as of 9/01/23
  - Total Options = 42
  - Total RSSP = 14
  - TOTAL = 56

### Moving Hearts - Weekly award given to a special staff member

*Mom!!!! One word and I bet most of you think of the same person, Angie! My Moving Heart for this week is Angie, the mom of the school! She loves fiercely and will do anything for our students! Attending events outside of school, messaging with students when they are struggling, crocheting things for young mothers and staff. She does it all! Angie's story is personal and she will do anything for her school kids and her own children! Way to go Angie you are a moving heart!*