

## **Regional Office of Education Report**

**June 2023**

### **Area Superintendents Meeting 5-4-23**

We hosted our spring Superintendents meeting at Sauk Valley Community College on 5-4-23. The meeting was very well attended and we updated our districts on several of our programs and services. We also had attorney Sara Boucek present on Faith's law and any other legal updates that will be important as we head into next school year. State Superintendent of the year, Dr. PJ Caposey, presented a keynote on reigniting your passion as an educational leader. 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.

### **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.

### **Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools**

The Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools is the state professional organization for our offices. The IARSS supports the role of Regional Superintendents of Schools and Assistant Regional Superintendents and of Regional Offices of Education in Illinois, personally and professionally, in their efforts to promote quality education for the school children and citizens of Illinois, to provide educational leadership, to impact public policy, and to deliver educational services effectively for the benefit of Illinois school districts, other educational entities and educational system clients of all ages. Chris Tennyson was recently elected to serve as Vice President of our organization starting July 1st of 2023. It is a big honor and Chris looks forward to advocating for our schools and communities during his time in office.

## 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. Congratulations to our 2023 Marigold winner Rana Smith. Rana is an 8th grade ELA teacher at Rock Falls Middle School. Rana received a certificate, nomination letter, book, marigolds, and a \$100 Amazon Gift Card for her classroom library. Watch Rana's Teacher Talk interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=711ZfMLM1CY>

### **Professional Learning**

- 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.

## **Year in Review**

### **Workshop Sessions July 2022 - April 2023**

- 1,500+ Teacher Participants
- Over 77 sessions
- Over 300 in-district sessions, coaching, work with SIP teams, etc.

### **Pathways**

- 11 districts are engaged in building pathway endorsement programs for education to help address the teacher shortage
- 5 districts are engaged in manufacturing pathway endorsement work through our STAMP grant in partnership with the Illinois Manufacturing Association
- 20 education pathway endorsements were acknowledged in April 2023

### **Student Events July 2022- April 2023**

- Pathway Playground - 2,000+ Students
- Education Symposium - 90 Students
- Joseph Green - 15 middle schools

### **IRIS**

- Community referrals - 1634 .
- Families - 1020
- Community Partners - 92

### **Funding**

- 6 grants
- 7 contracted services with state educational organizations

## Major Events

- Special Education Summit
- Early Childhood Summit
- Social Emotional Learning Summit
- Technology Summit
- Transitional English Summit - statewide
- College & Career Readiness Summit

## Quarterly & Monthly Supports

- Interventionist, School Improvement, Special Education Teacher Leaders, Instructional Coaches, Family Educators, Librarians, Counselors, new teachers

## Early Childhood & Family Services

- 30+ Family & Community events
- Over 9,000 families engaged at community events
- Early childhood marketing has reached over 10,000 residents in three counties
- Early childhood strategic plan developed for ROE 47
- STARS and Birth-5 collaboration to complete a regional needs assessment for early childhood
- ROE 47 is now approved to provide Gateways credit

## Shouts Outs - Our partnership work!

- Newman High School & Montmorency School District - School Improvement (year long)
- AFC School District - Year 2 of implementation: Math curricular resource adoption
- Rock Falls Elementary District - Co-Teaching, Developing Special Education Leadership, Targeted Improvement for Special Education
- Education Pathway Endorsement partners (Fulton, Morrison, Prophetstown, Rock Falls High, Sterling, Dixon, C4C, Amboy, AFC, WACC, Byron, Ohio)
- Manufacturing Endorsement Partners (AFC, Sterling, Amboy, RFHS, Fulton)
- Paw Paw School District - feature district at RSAC; year 3 of 5 year improvement plan; a year of SEL
- Amboy School District - year 4 school improvement plan & year 2 of district strategic planning; LRI-A
- Rochelle Elementary District - Year 1 special education improvement
- Sauk Valley Deanery - Math curricular resource adoption

## **What We Learned About Students in 2022-23** *(Research, Focus Groups & Data Collection)*

- A 2013 Gallup poll of 500,000 students in grades five through 12 found that nearly eight in 10 elementary students were “engaged” with school, that is, attentive, inquisitive, and generally optimistic. By high school, the number dropped to four in 10.
- A 2015 follow-up study found that less than a third of 11th-graders felt engaged.
- In a 2020 nationwide survey of 21,678 U.S. high school students, researchers from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and the Yale Child Study Center found that nearly 75% of the students’ self-reported feelings related to school were negative.
- When Gallup asked teens in 2004 to select the top three words that describe how they

feel in school from a list of 14 adjectives, “bored” was chosen most often, by half the students. “Tired” was second, at 42 percent.

2022 IL Youth Survey Data	Whiteside	Lee	Ogle
Any common substance (including alcohol, cigarettes, inhalants or marijuana)	32% (8th)	30% (10) 56% (12)	27% (8) 32% (10) 51% (12)
Any common substances plus vaping (including alcohol, tobacco products, cigarettes, ecigarettes or other vaping products, inhalants, or marijuana)	36% (8th)	35% (10) 56% (12)	29% (8) 34% (10) 53% (12)
Alcohol	27% (8th)	26% (10) 54% (12)	24% (8) 31% (10) 51% (12)
Bullying	53% (8th)	18% (10) 27% (12)	45% (8) 38% (10) 25% (12)
Feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities	44% (8th)	43% (10) 43% (12)	40% (8) 49% (10) 31% (12)
Seriously contemplated suicide	Not surveyed	16% (10) 20% (12)	23% (10) 7% (12)

“When I get here, I constantly think about what I am going to have to deal with?  
[There is] no time to mentally process. Home and school stressors impact learning.”

- **ROE 47 Middle School Student**

“We provide students free and reduced breakfast and lunch because we know that their physical state impacts their capacity to learn.  
Why have we not done the same with providing the necessary resources for their emotional well-being, since we know that emotional state impacts capacity to learn?”

- **Dr. Todd Bowman, guest speaker**

## **What We Learned About Teachers in 2022-23** *(Research, Focus Groups & Data Collection)*

### Identified Teacher Needs

- Adult supports and services
- A positive and healthy school culture
- The opportunity to exercise their voice in a productive way and to feel heard
- A vision and purpose to move forward
- Leadership with accountability & empathy

“Raising staff morale is way more important than most people think. I have always wanted my workplace to be happy and inviting, it has not always been that way. I have come to understand that most of the time you have to make your own sunshine.”

- **ROE 47 Educator**

## **What We Learned About Parents in 2022-23** *(Research, Focus Groups & Data Collection)*

- When asked "Circle the two top choices where you (parents/caregivers) go to receive parenting information,"
  - 100% of parents chose online as their number one source for parenting info.
  - 90% of parents and caregivers seek information from friends and family members.
  - Educator professionals were chosen 10% of the time
  - Medical professionals were not chosen during the 50 parents/caregivers who were interviewed.
- In a recent survey of county residents by the Tri-County Opportunities Council,
- 64.29% of respondents indicated that they would like additional support in helping their child(ren) to cope with stress, depression, or emotional issues.
- 32% of respondents indicated that they or a family member needed assistance in dealing with stress, depression and anxiety.

### **Early Childhood Parent Focus Groups Results:**

- 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**

**Identified Community Needs in 2022-23  
(Community Partnership Advisory Group)**

**Local Problem Statements from Advisory Groups**

- Lack of acceptance, access & supports for mental health supports
- Lack of workforce
- Lack of prevention-focused systems of care
- Lack of treatment or service options

**Service Gaps**

- Middle School

**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!

**Coming this Summer!**

This event is part of the 38th Annual Child Fair sponsored by SVCC.

**BRING OR WEAR SOCKS**

# BUILDING IS FUN!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## Let's Bee a Village

For new parents in our community

**Community Baby Shower Wish List**

Board Books	Sleep Sacks (0-6 months)
Outfits (3 -12 months)	Baby Thermometers
Infant & Toddler Socks	Diaper Bags
Baby Carrier (Wrap or Sting)	66 Quart Clear Storage Tote

Contact Grace Heimerdinger-Baake at [gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org](mailto:gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org) for more information and for all questions.

**SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
 BROUGHT TO YOU BY IESE  
 Illinois Elevating Special Educators Network

PLEASE VISIT [ROE47.ORG](http://ROE47.ORG) TO REGISTER

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE AT SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Contact Kelly Marcum at [kmarcum@iesenetwork.org](mailto:kmarcum@iesenetwork.org) or Shauna Dinges at [sdinges@iesenetwork.org](mailto:sdinges@iesenetwork.org) with questions

**WEDNESDAY**  
 JUNE 7, 2023  
 9:00-11:30

**FBA/BIP Overview**  
 Presented by Sae Han Park

Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans are an essential part of the IEP when students' behavior impedes their learning or the learning of others. In this professional development, participants will learn about the components of the FBA and BIP and better understand needed information to write an effective student plan. Data collection methods, documentation checklists, and evidence-based interventions will also be discussed.

**WEDNESDAY**  
 JUNE 21, 2023  
 9-11:30  
 PART 1

**Introduction to Co-Teaching**

Co-teaching pairs teachers who share responsibilities in planning, instruction, assessment, and student management. When delivered effectively, the service delivery option can increase student achievement. Participants will learn about the various co-teaching approaches, lesson delivery, and ways to make the partnership work for teachers and students. Participants will also identify roadblocks and explore possible solutions to implementing co-teaching in their classrooms.

**WEDNESDAY**  
 JUNE 21, 2023  
 12:00-2:00  
 PART 2

**Building Your Co-Teaching Relationships**

As a follow-up to Intro to Co-Teaching, participants can join individually or with their co-teacher as participants will learn how to build their co-teaching relationship through activities that will identify individual strengths, weaknesses, and how to work and teach together to benefit all students.

**TUESDAY**  
 JULY 11, 2023  
 9:00-11:30

**Improving Reading and Writing for All Students**

Participants will discuss the current status of foundational reading instruction. The book, *Shifting the Balance*, will be highlighted as a model on how to shift your instructional practices in reading, incorporating strategies for improving reading fluency for all students. Participants will explore informational text instruction and how to increase vocabulary acquisition and retention. Participants will dive into how to teach the essential components of writing instruction to all students. Participants will leave with a variety of instructional strategies and teaching practices that will be valuable across content areas.

**TUESDAY**  
 JULY 25, 2023  
 9:00-11:30

**Math for All**

Participants will learn more about the Math For All framework that focuses on developing a student-centered approach to learning math. Participants will leave with an improved understanding on how to support all students in the math classroom, including those with disabilities, by deepening their understanding of how to assess students' strengths and needs while reducing the barriers. Although the focus is on mathematics, participants will leave with a variety of instructional strategies and teaching practices that will be valuable across content areas.

**ROE 47 Summer Learning 2023**

# How2Inform Media Literacy

Passage of HB 0234 requires public school educators at the High School level to offer at least one unit of media literacy training; however, it is a training relevant for all K-12 students. This training provides educator tools and resources to aid in determining truths from fiction, critically analyzing media, and taking action when they encounter dangerous misinformative material.

**FREE!**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH**  
**8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.**  
**SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**REGISTER AT [ROE47.ORG](http://ROE47.ORG)**  
**FREE BOOK FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!**



## UPCOMING FAMILY FUN EVENTS

**June 03** **Child Fair**  
Free family activities will be at Sauk Valley Community College from 9 AM -12 PM. Activities include BLOCK Fest, Petting Zoo, bounce house, and more.

**June 10** **Summer Block Party**  
Kick off summer with a free, family-friendly, event in the city of Dixon from 9 AM -12 PM.

**June 30** **Family Fun Night**  
Families are invited to the Old Lee County Court House from 5-7 PM for interactive activities, such as "Touch A Truck" and more.

**July 08** **Community Baby Shower**  
New and expectant parents are invited to the community baby shower at 10 AM or 1 PM at the Dixon Park District - The Facility.  
*Sign up by calling or texting (815) 575-9008*

**August 05** **Back to School Bash**  
Preschool - 3rd grade students and families are invited to Dixon Wooden Wonderland & Splash Pad from 9-11 am to celebrate the return to school.



SCAN ME  
To learn more about family friendly events happening in the area, scan the QR code to subscribe to the family newsletter.

## TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SERIES

### SERIES SESSIONS:

- **SESSION 1:** Understanding & Leveraging the Power of Backstory  
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.

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 spring opportunities [HERE](#)

## May Participants - 76

Tuesday, May 2

Developing Leadership in Special Education @ SVCC  
Librarians Networking Session @ 2:30 pm

Wednesday, May 3

Continuous School Improvement @ SVCC

Thursday, May 4

Superintendents Meeting @ SVCC

Monday, May 8

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9

Teacher Evaluator Recertification Training (Admin Acad) @ SVCC

Wednesday, May 10

Principal Evaluator Initial & Recertification Training (Admin Acad) @ 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 11

Student Growth Evaluator Recertification Training (Admin Acad) @ 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 15

Area II Professional Development Networking @ SVCC

Wednesday, May 17

Manage Your Time or Time Will Manage You Training (Admin Acad) @ 9:00 a.m.

May in Photos







**FAMILY NEWSLETTER**  
FOR LEE, OGLE & WHITESIDE COUNTIES

**Building Stronger Families**  
In Lee, Ogle & Whiteside Counties

**5 Tips for Summer Learning**

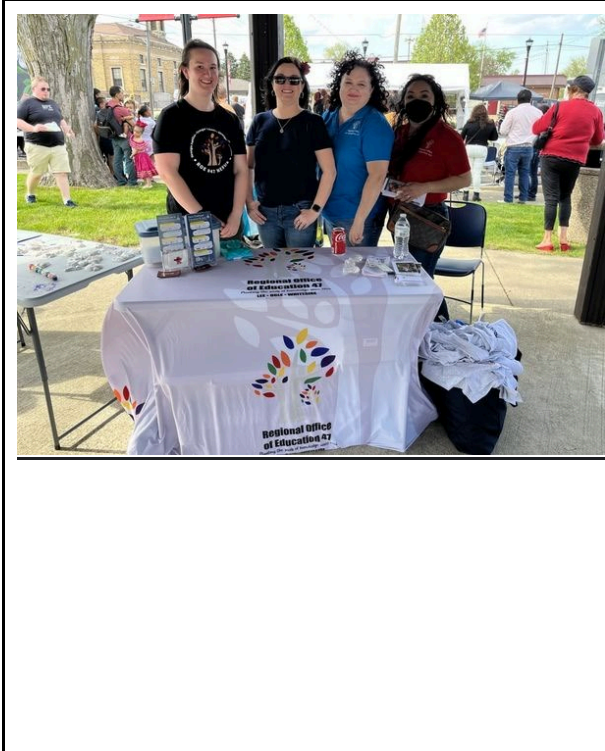
1. Read Every Day
2. Use Math Every Day
3. Go Outside & Play
4. Write Every Week
5. Show Kindness

**Stop the Summer Slide!**

The "summer slide" is the tendency for students to lose some of the knowledge and skills that had gained during the school year. The good news is summer learning loss is preventable. Simply ask your child to practice reading, writing, and math throughout the summer.

**1. Read! Read! Read!** Check out your

**SCAN ME**



## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS



Welcome to our second school year of the ROE #47 Nexus program. This year we expanded into additional school districts and surpassed our total numbers from FY 22 before the first semester ended.

We are growing rapidly and hiring for FY 24, as we assume we will have the same need, if not more, for our coming school year.

We have experienced some support issues this last year as some community agencies we utilized to support our families are no longer in operation. For example, we used Sauk Valley Toys for Tots last year but were informed in August that the program was discontinued, and we had to find other means to support our families. We were fortunate to find a generous donation from the Green River Riders to help with our Christmas support this year. We continue to work with various churches and community agencies to support our families.

We were honored to be awarded the opportunity to present our work within our Nexus program at the Plan Partner Act Conference- in June 2022 and at the ICEARY (Illinois Coalition Educating At-Risk Youth)-in March 2023.

Our most significant honor was receiving the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) Those Who Excel Team Award for Meritorious Service for our work in the Amboy School District.

We are often wondering if our program truly makes a difference. It can be challenging to articulate the impact of a program or service that doesn't create a tangible item to gauge value and worth. One of the data points that we strive to collect from our families is where they feel they fall on a range of chronic/toxic stress in the home before working with our program and at the end of the school year. In FY 22, 57% of our responding families indicated they felt the chronic and toxic stress levels had significantly decreased after working with our team, with 43% saying it stayed the same level. In FY 23, 95% of our responding families indicated they felt the chronic and toxic stress levels had significantly decreased after working with our team, with 5% saying it stayed the same level. We know we still have room to improve our services and ensure we get appropriate referrals to our program, but we are pleased with the data and feedback we have received these first two years of the program's creation.

**Thank you,  
ROE #47 Nexus Team  
Diana Merdian (Program Coordinator)  
Michelle Elmendorf (Nexus Support Team)  
Jessica Faivre (Nexus Support Team)**

**ROE #47 NEXUS**  
**Program Snapshot**  
July 2022-May 2023  
July 2021-June 2022



**Total Families: FY 23**

- Families: **198**
  - Lee County: **25 Families**
  - Ogle County: **89 Families**
  - Whiteside County: **84 Families**
- Adults: **277**
- Children: **461**
  - Children who are Youth in Care (Foster Care): **7%**
- Grand Parents Raising Grandkids: **14%**

**Chronic Stress Factors in the Home:**

- Families identified as Homeless: **40%**
- Families with at least one student with an IEP: **38%**
- Families with at least one member coping with a mental illness: **50%**
- Families with at least one adult with a disability: **28%**
- Families affected by trauma: **95%**

**Contacts by Nexus Team:**

- Total Contacts with Families/School Personnel: **6025**

**Agencies referred (July-May):**

- Total Referrals: **472**

**Family Goals Met:**

- Family Goals Met: **631**

**Race/Ethnicity of Families:**

- Hispanic/White: **14%**
- Hispanic/American Indian: **1%**
- Hispanic/Multi-Racial: **2%**
- White: **69%**
- Black: **7%**
- American Indian:
- Multi-Racial: **3%**
- Unknown/Didn't Report: **4%**

**Languages Spoken by Families:**

- English: **95%**
- Spanish: **5%**

**Total Families: FY 22**

- Families: **131**
  - Lee County: **21 Families**
  - Ogle County: **41 Families**
  - Whiteside County: **69 Families**
- Adults: **197**
- Children: **279**
  - Children who are Youth in Care (Foster Care): **7%**
- Grand Parents Raising Grandkids: **6%**

**Chronic Stress Factors in the Home:**

- Families identified as Homeless: **44%**
- Families with at least one student with an IEP: **34%**
- Families with at least one member coping with a mental illness: **38%**
- Families with at least one adult with a disability: **18%**
- Families affected by trauma: **77%**

**Contacts by Nexus Team:**

- Total Contacts with Families/School Personnel: **1335**

**Agencies referred (July-May):**

- Total Referrals: **149**

**Family Goals Met:**

- Family Goals Met: **357**

**Race/Ethnicity of Families:**

- Hispanic/White: **8%**
- Hispanic/American Indian: **1%**
- Hispanic/Multi-Racial: **3%**
- White: **66%**
- Black: **6%**
- American Indian:
- Multi-Racial: **2%**
- Unknown/Didn't Report: **14%**

**Languages Spoken by Families:**

- English: **95%**
- Spanish: **5%**

# Nexus FY 23 Highlights!





## **Parents as Teachers First Years**

As we wrap up the year, we are reflecting on the significant increase in children we serve who are experiencing crisis situations. We have seen a significant increase in referrals for children who are involved with DCFS. Since the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act, families who are involved with Intact Family Services are more likely to be referred to a home visiting program. (Family is DCFS- involved but children remain in the home.) We have definitely seen that to be true in our program! 20% of our children fall into this category this year. These families require additional time, support and paperwork by our home visitors. They also are highly stressful families for our home visitors to work with and we have to be aware of staff becoming overwhelmed or burned out.

In order to combat staff compassion fatigue and burnout, we contract with an Infant Mental Health Specialist who provides reflective support for staff as they work with these high need families. She helps staff think through their own stress reactions and vicarious traumas that arise from their work. She also provides training on child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, substance use and abuse, and mental health issues for us annually. She is also available for case consultation if staff need additional guidance in developing strategies for interventions with families.

We expect that the number of referrals for DCFS-involved families will continue to increase and we want to ensure that our staff remain emotionally healthy so they can support families as they become successful in positively parenting their children.

## **Education Outreach Program**

The Education Outreach Program will be having a very eventful June with much to celebrate!

On June 28th, we will be honoring this year's 14 graduates with a graduation ceremony at the Rock Falls Community Building. We are looking forward to celebrating with our graduates and their families! Our graduate for the month of May is Skyler from Ogle County. Congratulations Skyler!

We have been busy packing up at the Wallace Educational Center for our move to the new building. We have been at Wallace for 20 years and are looking forward to the opportunity to grow at our new location for another 20 years!

This month also brings a change in staff for the Education Outreach Program. Cathy Jacoby, Program Instructor, and Beth Hubbard, Program Coordinator, will both be retiring at the end of June.

Cathy Jacoby has been the Program Instructor for 17 years. She has helped students earn their diploma and achieve their goals. She has the innate ability to discover how each student learns best. She provides instruction in math, language arts, social studies, science, and government and moves between each subject with amazing ease. She is devoted to our students and welcomes them each day with hot chocolate or other beverages, and of course snacks! Cathy will be missed beyond measure.

Beth Hubbard has been the Program Coordinator since the Education Outreach Program began 20 years ago. She has worked tirelessly to help students acknowledge their strengths and provides tools to help them to reach their goals. The ability to travel alongside students as they achieve these goals is an immense privilege that she has been grateful for each and every year. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to get to know these wonderful students and to be able to work with them each day!

We are very pleased to announce that Rhiannon Seible will be joining the Education Outreach Program as the new Program Coordinator beginning on July 1st. Rhiannon has worked with the Truant Alternative Program for the past six years and brings much experience and enthusiasm for helping our students. Congratulations to Rhiannon as she begins the absolute best “job” in the world!

*Regional Center for Change*



***The class of 2023! Nine High School graduates at the end of the year! And a total of sixteen high school graduates for the school year! Both records at C4C!***

***We also had fourteen 8th graders promoted to high school! Another record at C4C!***

***We are so grateful and proud of our C4C Family! Over 100 parents, family, and friends attended our graduation ceremony. Yep, another new record for our C4C family!***

***A picture is worth a thousand words!***



## **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.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

We are completing our annual Needs Assessment with the districts to better understand and prepare for their upcoming needs for this fall. Staff education and awareness always is at the top of our work list. Without that, the services for our families are very limited. Grant funding is key to being able to purchase and support various services and items of need for our families.