

Regional Office of Education Report

September 2022

Health Life & Safety

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. We have already started working with our 24 school districts on scheduling inspections for the 71 buildings we go through. We like to complete those inspections in the fall to ensure that the buildings are safe. We are required to take a licensed fire inspector with us and we work together to ensure our facilities are safe for our students and educators. The results of our annual inspections are available at our office and we file a summary report annually with the Illinois State Board of Education.

Professional Learning & Educational Services

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services
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 & Educational Services continues to grow in order to meet the needs of educators, students, families, and communities. Staff for the 2022-23 school year include:

Anji Garza, Director of Professional Learning and Educational Services
Krista Peterson, Assistant Director of Professional Learning
Diana Merdian, Family and Community Services Coordinator
Jayme Hale, Workshops Coordinator
Stacey Dinges, Digital Teaching and Learning Specialist/Career Pathway Navigator
Gail Wright, Induction and Mentoring/CCR Data
Heather Waninger, Career Pathway Navigator
Chanda McDonnell, Career Pathway Navigator
Janis Jones, Education Pathway Grant Coordinator
Jessica Faivre, NEXUS Family Support Specialist
Michelle Elmendorf, NEXUS Family Support Specialist
Michelle Potthoff, Family Education and Engagement Specialist
Katie Goden, SEL Coach
Mackenzie Garza, Amboy Preschool for All Family Educator
Ashley Teel, Preschool Capacity Builder
Shauna Dinges, Area 1 ESE Program Specialist*
Kelly Marcum, Area 1 ESE Regional Specialist

**not employed by our office, but part of our team*

Mission: The Lee/Ogle/Whiteside Regional Office of Education Professional Learning and Educational Services Team is dedicated to supporting the growth and achievement of **all** students and educators in partnership with families and community stakeholders through on-going, differentiated, and job-embedded professional learning.

Vision: *Partnering for success!*

Goals and Objectives 2021-2022:

1. Provide and support high quality, continuous school improvement planning using data and research-based best practices in curriculum, assessment and instruction.
2. Identify and promote systems, high leverage practices and resources which provide access and support student growth for all students - including those diverse student populations.
3. Partner with families, community stakeholders and educators to support college and career readiness opportunities.
4. Promote a culture of awareness, acceptance, diversity, equity, inclusion, and empathy through support of social emotional learning, reflective practice, and trauma informed systems development in ROE 47 schools and districts.
5. Train, coach and provide networking to grow instructional leadership.
6. Recruit and retain high quality teachers through mentoring & induction, pathway development and implementation, wildly innovative recruitment and alternative pathways to licensure strategies, post secondary partnership, as well as coaching and networking opportunities.

- Engage and support families through education, mentoring, resource brokering, and other wrap around services to comprehensively address needs in a coordinated fashion.

Upcoming Events - September 2022

9/7/2022	Teacher Tools Networking (How Do I Embed SEL into Academics and the School Day)	Online (Zoom)
9/12/2022 - 5/8/2023	New Teacher Cadre	Online (Zoom)
9/14/2022	Communities of Practice (Special Educators Cohort)	Online (Zoom)
9/21/2022	Transitional English: Getting Started	Online (Zoom)
9/23/2022	Take your Classroom to New Heights with Drones	SVCC (In-person)
9/30/2022	Special Education Summit	SVCC (In-person)

1st Annual Special Education Summit to be Held September 30, 2022 at SVCC

Join Illinois Elevating Special Educators Network for an inaugural summit specifically designed to meet the needs of special educators in northern Illinois as we launch the 2022-23 school year. The Summit promises to provide special education professionals opportunities to come together to learn, share, grow, and connect. Summit activities will include a keynote from leading scholar Paula Kluth, author of *Don't We Already Do Inclusion?*. Special educators will also choose sessions specific to their needs, gaining insight into the latest research-based strategies and tips they can apply to supporting students with disabilities in the classroom. Summit activities include a keynote from leading scholar Paula Kluth, author of *"Don't We Already Do Inclusion?"*, breakout sessions, engagement with regional community partners, and networking opportunities for educators & administrators. Other special education topics for the day include: Universal Design for Learning, Technology to Promote Accessibility, IEP Best Practices, Special Education Leadership, Student Engagement, Managing Difficult Behaviors, Trauma, and more!

1st Annual Pathway Playground for Middle School Students to be Held October 14 at SVCC

The Regional Office of Education #47 and Sauk Valley Community College invite area businesses to participate in the first annual Pathway Playground event to be held at Sauk Valley Community College on **Friday, October 14, 2022, from 8:00- 3:00 p.m.** The Pathway Playground is an exciting new regional event for Lee, Ogle & Whiteside county 8th grade students to promote career exploration and engagement with community organizations and businesses. This is a hands-on exploration event, where students engage in small activities to build their interests in various career fields. Our goal is to provide students with this opportunity to explore what careers our area has to offer and guidance in their future endeavors.

There is no better way to explore a potential career than to witness it first hand. We are gathering local industry leaders to provide an experience that will help students make the connection between school work and the world of work. Area eighth grade students will cycle through 50 or more booths divided into 7 career cluster zones representing area businesses. Students will have twenty minutes in each of the 7 areas to explore what our area has to offer and to see your local business care about the success of our students. The ROE47 pathways team is asking area businesses to showcase their industry with a hands-on activity that will intrigue the minds of eighth grade students and truly show what the vocation is about. **If you know of anyone who is interested in participating in this special event or need additional information, please email Chanda McDonnell or Heather Waninger at ROE 47.**

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

August Participants – 82

Monday, August 1

ALiCE Training @ SVCC

Tuesday, August 2

Career Exploration @ SVCC

Tuesday, August 9

New Teacher Networking @ SVCC

Wednesday, August 31

Reclaiming Healthy Classroom @ SVCC

Short-Term Substitute Teacher Training @ 10:00 a.m.

Nexus

We start the year with many referrals within the first few weeks of school. We have over 30 families (all but 2 are new families to our program) that have been referred to our program just this month. Over 50% of families are experiencing homelessness which requires a lot of support. We have already had over 400 contacts with families in just this short period of time. We have also already reached over 40 goals with our families just this year. While many people are getting ready for harvesting fields, we are already planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas for our families. Unfortunately, Sauk Valley Toys for Tots, which supported our program and families last year, is no longer in service. Our staff is working with other community agencies and services to see if we can get our program and our families support for the Holiday season. The holiday season is often a time when many families struggle. While there are other holiday supports out there, most of them have a deadline to apply for support, and while many families can and do apply, there are still many families that find themselves in need of assistance only after that deadline has passed.

Parents as Teachers First Years

We are continuing to accept referrals for families who are expecting and those with children under age 3. We only have a few spots left! Contact Lois Meisenheimer at 815-625-1495 for more information or to make a referral.

In other Early Childhood news...

We received an Early Childhood marketing grant to help families get back into programs. Be on the lookout for local marketing campaigns and for our staff to be at community events! Booked for September so far, we will be at the Morrison Paint the Town and Rochelle's Fiesta Hispana.

Education Outreach Program

The Education Outreach Program is happy to be enrolling and meeting our new students for this year. To date, we have already enrolled 9 new students and have carried over 60 students for services. It is wonderful to begin the year with a full classroom!

Classes are held at the Wallace Educational Center in Sterling on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We are in the process of hiring a new instructor at the Rock River Center in Oregon.

In addition to the academic focus of the program, our students are provided opportunities for employment skills training, job shadowing, and paid work experience jobs to help prepare them for employment upon completion of the program. Additional services include transportation, financial assistance with GED testing fees, and stipends for completing GED exams.

We want to congratulate Kailey who earned her State of Illinois High School Diploma in August! She is pursuing a career in manufacturing.

Regional Center for Change

The first 3 weeks of school at C4C have been absolutely amazing! A few highlights to start the year...We have already seen students completing classes and Mrs. Brushaber, High School Options teacher, has 5 students who have completed a high school class for credit. Ms. Messina's direct instruction Physical Education and Math courses (Intro to Algebra, Algebra I, and Geometry) are off to a great start! We have added these direct instruction classes to our already rigorous Apex curriculum for SY23. Students continue to show growth at our school each and

every day. We LOVE to focus on social emotional health at C4C. We love it even more when students help students. A great example comes from one of our Options students in Ms. Jones's class. This student went out of her way to help a new student in our program adjust to a change in schedule. She shared from her heart and the growth made both Mr. Morris and Ms. Angie cry. See, what we are doing in our program cuts deeper than just academics. Students offering hope and change is by far the best part of C4C! *"We are the Center for Change not the Center for Staying the Same"*

Truant Alternative Program

The 2022-2023 school year is starting off for our program as busy as ever! We have carried over approximately 264 students and we are already getting new referrals based on this year's attendance. Our biggest change has been to put our referral process into IRIS. This has prompted all school districts to become a Participating Organization under IRIS which will allow not only visibility for the current active students that we work with but also provide visibility for school districts to build knowledge on existing resources they can utilize. We have four staff members servicing our area(s) and will continue to provide prevention and intervention services as well as linkage to resources through the schools and/or community. We have daily contacts with schools, contacts with families as needed, and (minimal)monthly visits with each student. We collaborate with school administration and families to develop a service plan to address the needs of each student to assist with their educational success.

McKinney Vento Homeless Program

The new school year is underway and it is one of the main times to identify students that are now experiencing a transitional living situation. Work is being done to help the registration persons to be aware of signs to identify and address the issues that our students are dealing with. Families are forced to live in unique and non-traditional housing situations. Therefore, it is even more vital to keep the school as a place of stability for our students. .