

DuPage County Regional Office of Education

2012-13
Annual Report

Supporting Excellence In Education

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent
DuPage County Schools



Superintendent's Letter

Dear Friends of Education,



It is once again my privilege, as Regional Superintendent of Schools for DuPage County, to present to stakeholders the Annual Report of the Regional Office of Education. Education is the currency of the information age. It is not simply a road to opportunity and success – but a prerequisite.

The most important work we engage in at the office is service. We serve the education community by providing quality professional development services in Reading, Math, and Science. We focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Support, New Teacher and Principal Mentoring and Evaluation, Career, College, and Academic Readiness, CORE Standards & Assessments and Leadership. Additionally, we ensure our schools meet not only the highest safety standards, but also certification and accreditation standards. Most importantly, we measure our effectiveness.

We are extremely proud of and effective in serving our most vulnerable students and families through our Early Childhood Education (0-3) Program, Truancy Prevention and Truant Alternative Programs (ALOP), Regional Safe School Programs, GED Testing Support, Anti-Bullying Initiative, Service Learning/Civic Responsibility Initiatives and our Building Bridges of Understanding Initiative to name a few.

We serve as advocates and liaisons to legislators, homeschooling families, homeless children and families and often assist in resolving residency issues, mediating parent-school disputes and coordinating social services on behalf of our children.

We serve not just schools and families but we serve people in the community by addressing their questions and concerns, facilitating public hearings and forums, developing and implementing business/education partnerships, and coordinating shared services.

We are a full service organization, removing obstacles and barriers so our schools can do their job of educating children for their future - and we make a difference.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene J. Ruscitti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent of Schools
DuPage County

2012-13 Highlights

- Dr. Ruscitti and the ROE received the 2012 Excellence in Education Award from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) of Aurora, the largest Latino civil rights and advocacy group in the United States
- NICEL (Northern Illinois Consortium of Educational Leaders) was launched by the ROE in collaboration with CEC, ECRA, VARC, Teachscape and superintendents who want to **Own the Direction** of the profession - NICEL will provide *Better, Different* professional development to help districts develop tools and resources to integrate and implement school leader standards
- The ROE developed an Assessment Advisory Committee of DuPage County educational leaders to collaborate and coordinate the change to the Common Core State Standards and the shift to PARCC assessments
- 80 DuPage schools were awarded Honor Roll status by the Illinois State Board of Education
- 33 new DuPage County teachers gained National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status bringing the total to 507 NBCTs in the county
- The Singapore Ministry of Education visited DuPage to learn more about the DuPage programs that assist students who are at risk for academic failure
- ROE Equity & Excellence consultants received the NAACP Audley Award of Leadership Excellence
- Dr. Ruscitti was one of the Illinois leaders invited to *Dinner with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor*
- The ROE was a featured presenter at the 2013 Children's Safety Expo
- The first African American and Latino Parent Summit in the county was hosted by the ROE and the College of DuPage
- A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) newsletter was launched
- A bullying training session for bus instructors was conducted
- The DuPage County Spelling Bee, a High School Math Test Development Project Awareness Session and a STEM Open House for middle school students were hosted

July

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

April

May

June

Quality Professional Services

Certification

We are a local office, easily accessed by our constituents. We provide service and answers. We research certification problems for applicants. We cut through bureaucratic red tape and have direct access to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in Springfield. Almost 50,000 people accessed ROE certification services in 2012-13.

Additionally, the certification department was kept very busy in 2012-13 preparing for the change from a certification to a licensure system on July 1, 2013. The Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) is an attempt to streamline and clarify the credentialing system in Illinois. The experts in the DuPage ROE Certification Department spent a great amount of time this year working with area educators to explain the new system and provide the needed information to local professionals. A revamped certification web page will also serve as a valuable resource. It can be found at <http://www.dupage.k12.il.us/educators/services/certification.shtml>.

In 2012-13 the DuPage Regional Office of Education Certification Department -

Processed:

- 11,199 certificate renewals
- 900 teacher aide approvals
- 745 substitute teaching certificates
- 414 endorsements

Responded to:

- 19,397 phone calls
- 8,485 emails
- 4,872 over-the-counter walk-ins

Reviewed and approved:

- 1,392 statements of assurance for renewal of certificates

Fingerprinted:

- 1,858 applicants for employment

Celebrated:

- 33 new DuPage County National Board Certified Teachers

"Thank you so much for helping our staff answer so many recertification questions. We all appreciate your quick response and answers. I know there are many changes regarding recertification and we appreciate all the help you have given us."

-DuPage District Union President

"I just wanted to say thank you for taking the time and effort needed to help me. I want to let you know what an awesome job you did and how much I appreciate it."

-Satisfied Certification Customer

Health & Life Safety

School Construction

Part 180 of the 23 IL Administrative Code requires ROE staff to review all Building Permit documentation to verify the documentation has been signed and sealed by the architect and also has required District signatures. Building Permits are then issued based on the proper documentation being submitted for review.

During the 2012-13 school year, the following permits were issued:

- 6 building addition permits
- 126 major and miscellaneous renovation permits

Health/Life Safety Protocols

As specified in Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/2-3-12, each public school building in DuPage County must be inspected to verify the Efficiency and Adequacy of each facility. ROE staff verify that districts are maintaining their buildings in compliance with State standards and ensure buildings are safe for both student population and staff.

During the 2012-13 school year:

- 317 buildings were inspected
- 569 violations were found and corrected

Health/Life Safety Surveys

All Health/Life Safety 10-Year Survey applications and amendments are reviewed and approved by the Regional Superintendent. All 42 DuPage districts are current and up-to-date.

Compliance Review

Illinois Administrative Code (23 IL Admin. Code 180.10 et seq.) requires the Regional Superintendent to determine the degree to which schools comply with operational requirements.

- Each of our 42 school districts and Special Education Cooperatives are visited on a rotating schedule every four to five years to verify they are operating in compliance with School Code and Illinois Administrative Rules requirements
- Certificated personnel and paraprofessional files, certificated staff assignments, school board responsibilities, policies and procedures, budget records, curriculum and other mandates are reviewed for compliance

During the 2012-13 school year, nine school districts were reviewed which included:

- 5 elementary/middle school districts
- 3 high school districts
- 1 unit school district

School Bus Driver Safety Classes

- Delivered training for 2,447 drivers to renew certification
- Delivered training for 1,055 drivers to obtain certification
- Identified and incorporated additional safety measures not included in state curriculum

Professional Development & Technical Assistance

The DuPage Regional Office of Education provides high quality, data-driven, research-based professional development programs and services to educators, parents, school board members, students, schools, districts and higher education institutions to enable all students to learn and succeed in school and in life.

During the 2012-13 school year we provided:

- 16 fee-based courses to 1,024 participants
- 63 free workshops to 1,926 participants

There were 4,260 people that attended an event, class or meeting at the CPL in 2012-13.

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators - TIDE

TIDE provides refocused and revitalized quality university coursework at a reasonable cost for DuPage educators.

During the 2012-13 school year, the Regional Office of Education's TIDE program:

- Continued to focus on expanding teacher capacity by offering courses leading to additional teaching endorsements
- With support from Regional Office of Education staff, increased scope of communication and publication efforts
- Continued to be financially self-sustaining while presenting 116 courses, serving 825 teachers from July 2012 through June 2013
- Increased program supervision and attention to academic rigor in course offerings
- Partnered with five DuPage school districts to offer on-site endorsement-linked courses to their staffs
- Added partnerships with Lewis University (ESL) and University of Saint Francis (reading endorsement) to broaden offerings to DuPage teachers and improve course affordability
- Offered non-credit courses in areas of interest to DuPage teachers for professional development
- Responded to district and teacher needs and offered ESL and bilingual endorsement courses at below-market tuition rates beginning in the fall of 2012
- Reached agreement with Aurora University to shift payroll responsibility for soon-to-retire instructors to avoid TRS penalties



Leadership Services

The DuPage Regional Office of Education Leadership Department links schools and districts to profound, significant professional learning activities which help all leaders do their work more effectively. For the DuPage ROE this is a moral imperative. Our services include site-based and regionally offered content, on-line administrators' academies, SharePoint and webcasts.

Administrators' Academy

State law requires all active Illinois public school administrators to complete one academy activity every year. During the 2012-13 School Year:

- 39 administrators' academies were held
- ROE Leadership Development Director Dr. Gail Fahey was appointed to the Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC) by State Superintendent Dr. Chris Koch
- Dr. Ruscitti was asked to serve as an advisor to PEAC

Administrator Mentoring Programs

Research shows that administrators new to their positions benefit from mentoring and stay in their positions longer if they have a mentor. The DuPage administrator mentor programs were designed to provide new administrators with collaboration opportunities, connection to resources, and the guidance of a "critical friend" who has already been successful in a school leadership role.

2012-13 New Principal Mentoring

- 15 first-year principals were mentored
- 6 second-year principals continued to be mentored

2012-13 New Superintendent Mentoring

- 5 new superintendents were mentored

International Expertise

Charlotte Danielson is an internationally-recognized expert in the area of teacher effectiveness, specializing in the design of teacher evaluation systems that, while ensuring teacher quality, also promote professional learning.

This March, the ROE brought Ms. Danielson to DuPage to speak about teacher evaluation and the link to Common Core and professional development. One-hundred thirty one local educators took advantage of this opportunity to learn from one of today's greatest experts in this area.



Service to the Community

Community Resource

The Regional Superintendent is the natural link to the education community in support of quality community initiatives as reflected in the following partnerships:

- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – Working to support public education efforts focused on mental illness
- College of DuPage (COD) – Dual credit and bridging the gap between high school and community college
- Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Connecting business to education
- DuPage Health Department – Partner in obesity initiative
- Forest Preserve – STEM education including curriculum development
- DuPage Family Violence Council – Addressing school and home social behaviors that adversely affect learning in the classroom

The Regional Board of School Trustees

The Regional Board of School Trustees is an elected board comprised of seven members. This elected board hears petitions for annexations, detachments and changes in school district boundaries. The Regional Superintendent acts as Ex-Officio Secretary to the Board. The Regional Office maintains all records of petitions filed in the region. The main responsibilities of the Regional Board of School Trustees are:

- Hearing and disposal of petitions for change of school district boundaries
- Hearing and disposal of petitions by school districts to withdraw from Joint Agreements/ Cooperatives
- Appointment of appraisers and approval of final settlements in the division of assets when new districts are formed

Regional Board of School Trustees meetings are regularly held the first Monday of each quarter; special meetings are scheduled when needed.

Back-to-School Fair

In collaboration with Catholic Charities, Humanitarian Service Project, DuPage County Community Services, and the North Central IL Labor Council, the ROE distributed over 3,000 backpacks loaded with school supplies to low income children in DuPage County. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of donors throughout DuPage.

This important service helps level the playing field for these children and provides the materials each child needs to start the new school year prepared to learn.



Spelling Bee

Twenty-six students representing 17 districts and three private schools competed in the DuPage County Spelling Bee on February 20, 2013. ComEd and the DuPage Regional Office of Education sponsored the 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee program for DuPage students.

ComEd sent the champion speller on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Additional prize sponsors included Samuel Louis Sugarman, Merriam-Webster, Encyclopedia Britannica and Scripps National Spelling Bee.



"This is an exciting and important opportunity for DuPage students to showcase their academic skills in a county competition," stated Dr. Ruscitti. "It is great to see the abilities of the students. Their hard work and preparation is a credit to them and their schools."

Democracy Schools

There are eleven Democracy Schools in Illinois. Six of those schools are located in DuPage County. The Democracy School designation is bestowed upon schools that meet the highest civic and service standards as defined by leading national civic and service organizations. These schools consciously promote civic engagement by all students, have an intentional focus on fostering participatory citizenship and place an emphasis on helping students understand how the fundamental ideals and principles of our democratic society relate to important current problems, opportunities and controversies.

The following DuPage County schools have been recognized as Democracy Schools:

- Community High School, West Chicago
- Glenbard North High School, Carol Stream
- Lake Park High School, Roselle
- Glenbard South High School, Glen Ellyn
- Wheaton North High School, Wheaton
- Metea Valley High School, Aurora

"I am very pleased with the level of support offered by the ROE. I only need to ask and I get immediate, expert assistance and information. My job would be much harder if I did not have the ROE to support my work."

-Quote from the annual ROE survey

Statewide System Of Support (SSOS)

SSOS is a Title I grant-funded program that provides services to 11 districts and 15 schools in DuPage County. The focus of the program is to assist districts and schools in developing a comprehensive improvement plan that has a direct impact on student achievement.

"It is such a pleasure for our staff to work with consultants that have backbone and expertise in creating and implementing evaluation tools and processes. I believe that the training will benefit not only our administrators, but our staff and ultimately our students too! This is such an important process and I appreciate you leading us in this endeavor."

-North DuPage Special Education Cooperative

- In 2012-13, 410 days of direct service were provided in 11 school districts which resulted in an overall student achievement gain for all students from 1-5%

"We truly appreciated your insights and advice with Rising Star. As I said at the end of the meeting, 'The heavens opened and the light shined.'"

-Community High School District 99

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

The DuPage Regional Office of Education established a partnership with the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) to support DuPage districts in implementation of SEL standards and to develop a regional model to impact a national movement.

During 2012-13, the partnership received a grant from the NoVo Foundation and was able to continue to provide coaching and professional development support from CASEL to six districts - West Chicago District 33, Downers Grove District 58, Lisle District 202, Medinah District 11, Hinsdale District 86 and DuPage School District 45 - and add three new districts - Keeneyville 20, Queen Bee 16 and Wheaton-Warrenville CUSD 200. The partnering districts include 61 schools serving over 36,200 students.

"I just wanted to thank you for the excellent anti-bullying presentation you made to the Lake County After-School Coalition. Your explanation of the path the DuPage County ROE and schools followed en route to developing your county-wide anti-bullying resources was exactly what we needed.

Your presentation clearly demonstrated the value your ROE adds to education and the general well-being of DuPage County citizens."

-Lake County ROE Assistant Regional Superintendent

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

"I once again congratulate and applaud the DuPage ROE for being progressive in its vision for our students and for focusing on STEM initiatives to promote STEM competencies for our students.

The event was well-organized and attended, the venue was ideal and the demos were engaging and of high quality.

I appreciated the opportunity for my 8th grade daughter and I to spend quality time together learning. What could be better?"

-District 204 Parent

- Over 180 teachers and administrators representing more than 40 school districts attended STEM Workshops during the 2012-13 school year – topics this year included technology, hosting a STEM event, and the Next Generation Science Standards
- On December 14, 2012, 65 middle school girls, their parents and teachers attended the 3rd annual STEM Career Exploration Event at Argonne National Laboratory
- In partnership with the Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) and Northern Illinois University, the 2nd annual President's Day STEM Open House welcomed over 100 middle school students and their parents for a hands-on STEM experience
- STEM mini-grants totaling almost \$15,000 were awarded to local school districts to assist their efforts in promoting STEM awareness
- STEM keynote presentations were provided for school districts and local STEM events
- The STEM Community Advisory Team continued its work of guiding STEM awareness efforts by the DuPage ROE – this year's greatest contribution was the publication of a quarterly online STEM newsletter
- The STEM team also presented at the state conference for Illinois Science Teachers Association

Northern Illinois Consortium of Educational Leaders (NICEL)

On May 7, the DuPage ROE, in collaboration with CEC, ECRA, VARC, Teachscape and superintendents who want to Own the Direction of the profession launched the Northern Illinois Consortium of Educational Leaders (NICEL). The educational experts of NICEL will help districts develop tools and resources to integrate and implement school leader standards.

NICEL will provide consistency in quality and is a great example of public-private partnerships and the streamlining of services across the northern Illinois region.



Learning Technology Center

The DuPage Learning Technology Center (LTC) provides support and guidance to the ROE operations and professional development opportunities while also implementing the ISBE K-12 technology initiatives. The mission of the LTC is to provide technological resources to improve academic achievement and to provide all learners with technology-rich learning opportunities. The ROE/LTC supports all DuPage County school districts to develop and implement their technology plans.

Technology Coordinators

The ROE/LTC conducts monthly meetings of technology coordinators for all DuPage County school districts and other learning agencies. Based on input from coordinators, the format of these meetings is designed to focus on providing a shared learning environment as an opportunity for the coordinators to network regarding various issues of current and future interest to them.

Technology Facilitators Group

On the recommendation of technology coordinators, the DuPage ROE/LTC now also coordinates regular sessions for DuPage technology facilitators/coaches/integration specialists. These sessions focus on learning with technology by sharing strategies and tools with district staff who support learning technologies in the classroom on a daily basis. Each of these sessions is hosted by a DuPage school district whose staff leads the session and shares strategies, tools and implementations relative to their district experiences. The first session was hosted by Downers Grove District 58 on March 13 with 39 participants representing over 20 DuPage school districts. The April 25 session in Wood Dale District 7 and the May 22 session in Queen Bee District 16 hosted 37 and 30 participants respectively.

Online Learning

On March 6, the DuPage Regional Office of Education hosted a webinar with Brandon Williams of the ISBE presenting an update on the Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) project. This online session was recorded and made available for viewing by those who could not participate live. On April 16 through 26, the DuPage ROE presented the second offering of the administrator academy entitled "Implementing Online Learning - An Online Course." Participants learned the context of online learning in today's schools, including modalities of learning, trends, definitions and research context. The DuPage ROE/LTC continues to explore avenues to provide additional online academies and other professional learning opportunities.

Common Core Preparation

One of the roles of the ROE/LTC is to support districts in their technology preparations for the common core assessments. During the months of November and December 2012 all school districts across Illinois were asked to submit relevant technology data into the PARCC Technology Readiness Tool designed to help districts assess their technology readiness for these assessments. During the month of April, districts were again asked to participate in the Illinois Speed Test for the purpose of assessing Internet bandwidth availability to every school in the state.

"Continue the efforts in all areas to communicate the latest information on all initiatives. Your involvement on state-level committees has been invaluable to all of us."

-Quote from the annual ROE survey

Technology Plans

The DuPage ROE/LTC assisted four school districts with the development of their new technology plans during the 2012-13 school year. This process typically includes dissemination of information on the revised process, several plan writing support sessions, a shared review session of plans, and individual support as needed.

SMART Boards

The LTC coordinates the SMART Major Account Program for DuPage County school districts. This program, now in its fifth year, provides reduced pricing on interactive whiteboards and other products from SMART Technologies. Twenty four educational agencies across the county are participating in this program for the 2013-14 school year. Additionally, the following two SMART User Group opportunities were offered through the ROE/LTC Group at which educators from DuPage County schools came together to share their experiences with SMART tools in the classroom and learn from each other:

- On November 13 the ROE/LTC and Villa Park District 45 hosted 51 SMART users
- On April 16 the ROE/LTC and Elmhurst District 205 hosted 62 SMART users

Teachscape

On November 13, 2012 the DuPage Regional Office of Education, in collaboration with Teachscape, hosted a showcase event. This session began with representatives from Wood Dale District 7, Lake Park District 108, and Queen Bee District 16 sharing their districts' experiences with the various tools in the suite. Representatives of Teachscape then shared information regarding product updates and led a Q & A session. The ROE continues to make available for checkout a small number of Teachscape

Reflect capture stations for those districts interested in implementing this "next generation of professional development" tool.



Other Professional Development

Throughout the year a total of 17 technology-related professional development sessions were offered, serving over 400 participants. Additionally the ROE/LTC maintains shared folders for the DuPage Technology Coordinators and for the DuPage Technology Facilitators to allow for their ongoing professional sharing and learning.

Serving Our Most Vulnerable

Bullying Prevention

Now in its second year, the Bullying Prevention Professional Learning Community (PLC) met periodically to discuss best practices and to share resources and strategies. On two occasions, guest experts discussed social media, technology and cyber-bullying with the group. At its final gathering of the year, Dr. Dorothy Espelage, a University of Illinois bullying researcher, presented her latest research and recommendations for curbing bullying behavior. Dr. Espelage confirmed the critical role that social emotional learning (SEL) implementation plays in establishing a supportive, engaging school climate and reducing negative behaviors such as bullying.

Parents as Teachers

During 2012-13, the ROE provided in-home parenting support focused on children's school readiness:

- Served 70 at risk families
- 97% were low income
- 34% were teen parents
- 26% were homeless
- 87% were Hispanic

Truancy Services

In 2012-13:

- 294 students were referred for truancy services by school districts in DuPage county
- With an emphasis on early intervention and support by the ROE, 100% of the students referred received some form of early intervention services
 - o 100% of students received monitoring
 - o 11% received court-related services
 - o 2% received health-related services
 - o 43% received personal counseling
 - o 32% received referral to outside services
- 198 students that were not on the truancy caseload received intervention services which included preventative counseling, truancy groups, and school meetings in order to lower truancy referrals

By the numbers:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Total for Year</u>
Court-related services	1171
Health-related services	9
Home visits	20
Mentoring	1
Personal counseling	126
Referral to outside services	94
Monitoring	4419
Parent contact	872

Student school attendance rate before court - 50.38%

Student school attendance rate after court - 90.04%

"The guidance and expertise of the ROE personnel, the location and the cost made it an easy choice to implement ROE services."

-Quote from the annual ROE survey

General Education Development (GED)

Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate

- 1,316 GED tests were administered
- 970 transcripts/certificates were issued
- 459 total official transcript/duplicate certificate requests were processed

Alternative Learning Opportunity Program (ALOP)

- 109 students were referred from 13 schools in 9 districts
- 80 students at risk of dropping out of high school participated in the ALOP program
- 71 students successfully received GED credentials
- Staff members developed and will continue to monitor 33 transition plans that included enrollment at COD, vocational training, employment and military service
- ALOP hosted an intensive career readiness program over the summer for 10 at-risk students

Regional Safe Schools – Partners for Success

Partners for Success (PfS) is an alternative school setting offered by the ROE in lieu of expulsion for middle school and high school students. In 2012-13, 79 students were served at Partners for Success. Specific information about those students and their outcomes is provided below:

- 33 middle school students
- 46 high school students
- 33 of 33 middle school students advanced in grade level
- 32 students returned to their home school full time
- 5 students were identified with special needs and services obtained
- 4 students transferred to ALOP to earn a GED
- 1 student was placed in in-patient care
- 1 student incarcerated
- 3 students returned to home school in poor standing
- 5 students moved out of the district
- 5 students graduated from high school
- 23 students will continue at PfS in the fall
- 60% of students tested in reading maintained or improved reading levels
- 68% of students tested in mathematics maintained or improved math concepts
- 100% of students participated in social work service - individual, group or both

Homelessness - McKinney-Vento Programming

The Regional Office of Education employs a Homeless Student Advocate, funded through federal McKinney-Vento grant dollars, to assist homeless families, schools and community service providers to understand homeless education law and work together to help these families in need.

The State of Illinois began tracking the number of homeless students in the 2005-06 school year. At that time there were 269 homeless students identified and served in the county. In the 2012-13 school year, there were 1,287 homeless students identified by DuPage County schools. That is an increase of 370% in eight years.

"I am grateful for all your help. I appreciate all that you did to resolve my issue. You are an angel in my eyes."

-Homeless Parent

Equity & Excellence – Closing The Achievement Gap

The Equity and Excellence Department (EED) was established in 2009 by Dr. Ruscitti in response to the moral imperative to improve the academic outcomes of DuPage County's growing diverse student population. The goal is to ensure that all students, no matter their race, ethnic, economic or language background, receive a quality education and to close the student academic achievement gaps, as indicated by the ISAT and PSAE.

Voices

The DuPage ROE launched a year-long book promotion which kept the academic achievement gap dialogue going after publishing the book *Voices: African American and Hispanic Student's Perceptions Regarding the Academic Achievement Gap*. The book promotion featured presentations from Equity and Excellence staff Dr. Lourdes Ferrer, Stephen H. Garlington, MSW, LCSW, Dr. Gail Fahey and the Regional School Superintendent, Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti. The events included presenting to capacity crowds during the October 19, 2012 IASA conference in Springfield, IL and the November 18, 2012 Triple I conference in Chicago, IL.

"I want to thank you for hosting such a wonderful session for parents last weekend. People were transformed. Every time I hear you speak, I feel like I have the power to make a bigger difference in the world. Your words change lives every day."

-Downers Grove High School

Parent Summit

Co-sponsored with the College of DuPage (COD) its first African American and Latino Parent Summit. Equity and Excellence staff members Dr. Ferrer presented to capacity crowds of Spanish speaking parents and Stephen Garlington, MSW, LCSW, addressed the English-speaking parents. The September 29, 2012 event was also attended by many school officials and the media. The Aurora Beacon News and Naperville Sun-Times published extensive news articles discussing the academic achievement gap and highlighting the comments offered by the ROE staff presenters.

Administrators' Academies

Updated the ISBE Administrators' Academies for scheduled presentations during 2013-14 school year.

- o Cultural Competence to Engineer a Single School Culture (#949)
- o A Framework for Understanding Poverty (#1100)
- o Successful Approaches to Serving a Diverse Academic Community (#1200)

Diversity Workshops

Provided numerous project-based Diversity Workshops to various school districts to improve staff development in the area of Cultural Competence.

Cultural Competence

Continued exploring collaboration with external agencies and stakeholders to expand the role of the ROE's Equity and Excellence Department to effectively address Cultural Competence requirements to close the academic achievement gap.

Singapore Ministry of Education Visits DuPage

On April 29, 2013, members of the Singapore Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social and Family Development visited the DuPage County Regional Office of Education. The delegation requested the visit to learn more about the DuPage programs that assist students who are at-risk for academic failure.

The DuPage ROE, under the leadership of Dr. Ruscitti, has developed a partnership with the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). This partnership, along with other ROE initiatives which include bullying prevention, school improvement planning, safe school program, alternative learning opportunities program and the truancy program were featured in the meeting.

“DuPage is a leader in programming to assist at-risk students. We are very proud of the work we have done in this area and were honored to share with and learn from the Singapore delegation,” said Dr. Ruscitti.



2013 Survey

Every year the DuPage Regional Office of Education invites the staff from school districts to complete a survey. Each survey participant had the opportunity to respond to each question on a 1 to 10 scale with 10 being the highest possible response. The survey was developed as a tool to measure the effectiveness of the DuPage Regional Office of Education in three key areas:

- Relationships
- Responsiveness
- Results

Below you will find a summary of the survey in relation to the three key areas.

- 416 surveys were completed by public school and district staff throughout DuPage County

Relationships – How satisfied were you with the services of the ROE?

- o 92% of the responses fell within the satisfied (7) to extremely satisfied (10) range

Responsiveness – Overall how satisfied are you with the responsiveness the ROE has provided?

- o 95% of the respondents fell within the satisfied (7) to extremely satisfied (10) range

Results – Overall how satisfied are you with the results you have experienced with the ROE?

- o 97% of the respondents fell within the satisfied (7) to extremely satisfied (10) range

Fiscal Responsibility – Teacher Institute Fund

This fund concerns itself with teacher certification and development workshops.

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE (AUDITED) JULY 1, 2012	\$1,151,898.00
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Revenue

Certification	\$330,961.02
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Interest	\$1,345.20
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Total Revenue	\$332,306.22
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Expenditures

Purchased Services	\$72,689.60
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Supplies and Materials	\$2,209.24
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Capital Outlay	\$0
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Total Expenditures	\$74,898.84
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ENDING FUND BALANCE (UN-AUDITED) - JUNE 30, 2013	\$1,409,305.38
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“You are doing an exemplary job that other ROEs should follow.”

“Excellent services are provided.”

“The communication is OUTSTANDING!!! Thank you.”

The DuPage ROE is already the best in the state and does not need to improve any services.”

“The cost of implementing services is always reasonable. You can count of the quality of personnel to be high.”

-Quotes from the annual ROE survey

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti

Regional Superintendent of Schools

630.407.5770

Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools/

ALOP/Partners for Success/Truancy

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Executive Assistant to the Regional Superintendent &

Director of Administrative Services

Dr. Olga Rammer

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Leadership Development

Dr. Gail Fahey

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Dr. Gayle Wahlin

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Compliance & Health/Life Safety

To leave a message for Bill Black, Jim Patterson,
Fred Munding or Tom Romano,
contact Gail White

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Director of Instructional Technology

Ray Rehberg

630.495.6080

Center for Professional Learning (CPL)

Dr. Gail Fahey

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