



DuPage Regional Office of
EDUCATION

Excellence in Education

2014-15 Annual Report

DuPage County
Regional Office
of Education

Supporting Excellence
In Education

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent
DuPage County Schools



Superintendent's Letter



Dear Community,

In DuPage County, we work hard to maintain high standards of excellence in our educational community. Many assist to accomplish this: high quality educators, involved and caring families, responsible students, civic and business leaders, and active community members.

Our role as the lead education entity in DuPage is to assist in identifying and implementing recommendations that promote continued and new best practices in education and partnering with integral stakeholders to produce a career and college ready workforce that will allow all our students to be successful and to drive DuPage's and Illinois' economy for decades to come. Our children are no longer competing with Wisconsin, California or New York. They are competing globally and must be prepared to do so both for their future success as well as that of our state and nation.

There are times when some students need expanded opportunities to develop the skills necessary to be successful at college or in a career. The following are examples of opportunities provided exclusively by the Regional Office of Education to our most at risk and vulnerable students: Parents as Teachers, Alternative Learning Opportunities Program/Workforce Investment Act, and Partners for Success. Please see the *Serving Our Most Vulnerable* section of this report on pages 4-7 to learn more about these and other "Cradle to Career" initiatives which are designed to ensure that all DuPage students can achieve that success.

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



A Year of Giving

The “Year of the Volunteer” initiative was created to recognize and encourage volunteer service throughout the state of Illinois. DuPage Regional Superintendent Dr. Darlene Ruscitti serves on the state-wide committee for the Year of the Volunteer, and recognized it as an ideal fit for DuPage County which has an active volunteer base. Dr. Ruscitti worked with the DuPage County Board and Giving DuPage, in partnership with local leaders and the community at large, to bring the initiative to DuPage County. Additionally, Dr. Ruscitti was able to secure the Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti as not only the Honorary Chair of Serve DuPage but also for the entire state Year of the Volunteer and Civic Engagement initiative.

Volunteers can connect with service opportunities through the Giving DuPage website at www.givingdupage.org. Giving DuPage is a public-private partnership in DuPage County that connects volunteers and donors with local opportunities to give back.

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti launched a cable television show in 2014-15, *DuPage Engaged*, highlighting volunteer service in the county. In one episode she met with York High School Band Director Mike Pavlik and some of his students who shared how their service as musicians at Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) homeless shelters has affected their lives, and the lives of PADS guests.

Each month the Serve DuPage 2015 campaign focuses on volunteer service in specific areas, including the arts, literacy, public safety, food insecurity, employment and veterans’ needs. Volunteer testimonials, photos, blogs and opportunities were also all shared via social media at one hashtag - #GivingDuPage - and promoted through news stories and community events.

Serve DuPage 2015 recognizes current volunteers in action, while inspiring new

volunteers to step up and get involved in their communities. In addition, Dr. Ruscitti launched a local cable show, *DuPage Engaged*, inviting local volunteers to discuss their role in the community and how their volunteering makes a difference on behalf of the residents of the county.

Serve DuPage will continue to invite families, churches, schools and business groups to get involved in a wide variety of projects that ultimately improve their communities. There are hundreds of worthy charities and non-profits that rely on volunteers to provide essential services and programs in our region. Get involved.

Over 30 Westmont community leaders came together to launch the 2015 Illinois Reads project welcoming 22 authors. Invited guests included Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Secretary of State Jesse White, Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti and state representatives Patti Bellock and Ron Sandack.

Serving Our Most Vulnerable

Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers is a research-based prevention initiative serving children prenatal to age 3. Parents as Teachers provides home visits that include health and developmental screenings and researched-based information on development.

In 2014-2015, the ROE Parents as Teachers program provided in-home parenting support focused on school readiness to 37 families. Of those:

- 97% were low income
- 35% were teen parents
- 27% were homeless
- 68% were low education
- 90% were Hispanic

These efforts have resulted in the early identification of many developmental delays that often go undiagnosed prior to the child entering preschool. These delays can be treated much more effectively when caught early.

Alternative Learning Opportunity Program/Workforce Investment Act

The Alternative Learning Opportunity Program/Workforce Investment Act (ALOP/WIA) serves youth ages 16-19 who are credit deficient, ineligible to graduate from high school, and ill-prepared for the workforce. The goal is for these students to increase both their academic skills to pass the GED and to build occupational skills to be successfully employed. The students come from diverse backgrounds but trends include the following:

- truancy/attendance issues
- pregnant/parenting
- frequent moves between districts
- social-emotional concerns
- health issues
- substance abuse
- involvement in juvenile justice

In 2014-2015:

- 62 students at risk of dropping out of high school were referred to ALOP from 12 schools in 7 districts
- 35 students successfully received GED credentials
- Average grade-level improvement for current students is 4.0 in reading and 2.2 in math
- ALOP hosted an intensive career-readiness program over the summer to prepare at-risk students for employment
- Staff members developed and will continue to monitor 19 transition plans that include enrollment at the College of DuPage, vocational training, and employment
- 10 students were enrolled into the WIA program
- WIA internships resulted in employment for students in manufacturing and web development fields

Nicholas,
a former ALOP
student, was named Illinois
Coalition for Educating At-Risk
Youth Student of the Year. He has
gone on to successful employment,
postsecondary education and
is hoping to enlist in the
Marine Corp

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 2014-2015, 86 students were referred to the ROE Partners for Success Program for the following reasons:

- Alcohol
- Disorderly Conduct
- Robbery
- Drug Violation
- Threats
- Fighting
- Vandalism
- Weapon Possession
- Violation of Rules
- Insubordination

As a result of our program there were no additional alcohol, vandalism, robbery, threats, weapon, insubordination, or disorderly conduct instances. Of the 29 students referred for drug violations, 25 did not repeat the offense and of the 13 students referred for fighting, 11 did not repeat the offense.

- 36 middle-school and 49 high-school students participated
- 22 graduated
- 18 returned to their home school in good standing
- 3 were identified with special needs and obtained services
- 3 received other educational placement
- 4 returned to their home school in poor standing
- 5 moved out of district
- 4 transferred to ALOP for GED attainment
- 27 continued at PFS in the fall of 2015
- 45% of students tested in reading maintained or improved reading levels
- 85% of students tested in mathematics maintained or improved math concepts
- 100% of students participated in social work service - individual, group or both
- 100% of students participated in at least one service learning project
- 17 students completed WAIT (Washington Aggression Interruption Training)
- 90% of students participated in Teen Health Connection

On May 17, 2015 I walked across the Lewis University's graduation stage to receive my bachelor's degree. I am not only proud of myself however, I am so thankful for all your help through my struggles. I am very happy that you all did not give up on me and to that I thank you and want you all to know you did help someone. Days when you all may feel that you are done, think back to this moment and realize without your tough love I very well could have been a statistic.

August 2015 I start my adventure in grad school ... hoping to earn a Master's Degree!!!!

God Bless,

- Monica Rose Veronica Voss
former Partners for Success
Student

Truancy Services

In 2014-2015:

- 180 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
- 100% of students received monitoring
- 14 % received court-related services (25 cases)
- 22.2% received administrative hearings (40 hearings)
- 14% received health-related services (25)
- 19.4% received individual counseling (35)
- 14% received referral to outside services (25)

Service total for 2014-2015:

- 730 court-related services
- 345 hearing-related services
- 25 health-related services
- 595 school visits
- 235 home visits
- 35 individual counseling sessions
- 25 referrals to outside services
- 5,430 monitoring contacts
- 962 parent contacts



Currently the ROE truancy department has 400 active cases.

I wanted to send a note expressing our gratitude for the work ROE truancy social workers have been providing us at Hadley Jr. High.

The ROE truancy social workers go above and beyond to connect with our students who are in need of encouragement to attend school daily. They have helped many students and helped our school develop a more productive truancy system. We are grateful for the commitment they have to our school.

Just wanted to share our appreciation for all the ROE truancy social workers have done and continue to do here at Hadley Jr. High.

-- Emmah Welsh, 7th Grade Counselor
Hadley Jr. High

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 homeless students in the 2005-2006 school year.
 - In 2005-2006 there were 269 homeless students identified and served in the county.
 - In 2014-2015 there were 1,516 homeless students identified by DuPage County Schools
 - That is an increase of 564%
- With the rise in numbers comes the need for continued education. This year, the Homeless Student Advocate presented information on the McKinney-Vento Law to 15 separate groups to further educate professionals on how to identify and assist homeless students. Three of these groups were undergraduate education students from Elmhurst and Wheaton College who were excited to learn about the law and the protections and benefits it provides to any of their future students that may encounter homelessness.
- Ombudsman hearings are held to resolve residency and homelessness issues between school districts and families. During 2014-2015 3 hearings were held and resolved.
- Over \$13,000 worth of goods and services such as tutoring and after school programming were paid for by the grant to give homeless students a hand-up as they strive for a better future.

It is our hope that no child or person should ever be homeless. But as long as this issue exists we will do everything in our power to protect and equip students for a brighter tomorrow.

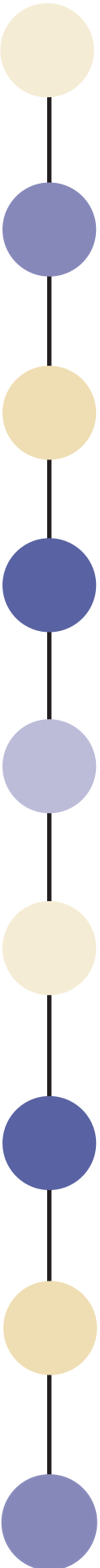
General Education Development

The General Education Development (GED) Testing program was developed by the American Council on Education to provide persons who have not graduated from high school the opportunity to earn the High School Equivalency Certificate. College of DuPage has contracted with the Regional Office of Education to offer the GED test. Examinees who achieve the minimum standards established by the Illinois State Board of Education will receive the High School Equivalency Certificate.

The GED test (2014 version) is broken into four subject tests or sections. It takes approximately 7.5 hours to complete the entire test.

In 2014-2015:

- 727 individuals participated in GED testing (took all or part of the tests)
- 329 completed all 4 parts of the test
- 209 of those individuals passed all 4 parts
- 194 Individuals were certified (passed all 4 parts and the constitution test)
- 143 sets of initial documents (certificate/transcript) were issued to newly certified individuals
- 1,047 total duplicate transcript/certificate/verification requests were completed



STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

- A total of 185 educators representing more than 45 different schools, districts or educational institutions enrolled in the three STEM workshops offered during the 2014-2015 school year. Topics included Next Generation Science Standards-related topics including assessment shifts, engineering practices, and inquiry-based learning
- For the DuPage County Institute Day, 110 educators participated in six STEM workshops including instructional shifts, robotics, engineering practices, and technology tools
- On December 5, 2014, 75 female middle school students, their parents, and several teachers attended the annual STEM Career Exploration Event at Argonne National Laboratory.
- In partnership with the Technology Center of DuPage, nearly 20 exhibitors engaged over 150 students in grades 5 through 8 and their parents in hands-on STEM learning experiences at the President's Day STEM Open House on February 16, 2015
- In support of the 7th grade career fair sponsored by Technology Center of DuPage in April 2015, the ROE STEM Team provided welcome bags and pencils with the ROE STEM logo to the nearly 1,300 students in attendance
- The STEM Team published 5 STEM newsletters
- The STEM Community Advisory Team met three times in 2014-2015 to continue its work of guiding STEM awareness efforts by the DuPage ROE
- The ROE STEM Team, with the support of the DuPage Workforce Board, designed and launched the STEM website, stemdupage.com
- The STEM team supported the IIT Engineers Week Event by sponsoring a STEM activity booth

The CASEL/DuPage ROE Initiative

Given the limitations on resources to implement SEL, the leadership of the DuPage ROE leveraged its existing partnership with CASEL to collaborate on a model that would build district capacity and sustain social and emotional learning (SEL) in schools across the county.

This four-year initiative is grounded in CASEL's emphasis on the creation of systemic changes leading to effective, sustainable, long-term implementation of SEL. CASEL and the DuPage ROE leadership provide professional development and guidance as the model progresses. Now in its fourth year, the partnership is in 12 districts serving hundreds of educators within DuPage County.

DuPage County offers a wide variety of approaches to successful implementation of SEL. One recent example is the February 2014 meeting of the DuPage ROE/CASEL Professional Learning Community (PLC). The meeting offered examples and details of how three of the districts are implementing SEL at the district and school levels.



Learning Technology Center

The DuPage Learning Technology Center (LTC) provides support and guidance to the Regional Office of Education (ROE) operations and professional development opportunities while also implementing the Illinois State Board of Education 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

The DuPage ROE/LTC also coordinates four annual sessions for DuPage technology facilitators/coaches/integrations 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. Sessions this past year were hosted by Wood Dale School District 7, Glen Ellyn School District 41, Downers Grove School District 58, and Neuqua Valley High School and Metea Valley High School of Indian Prairie School District 204.

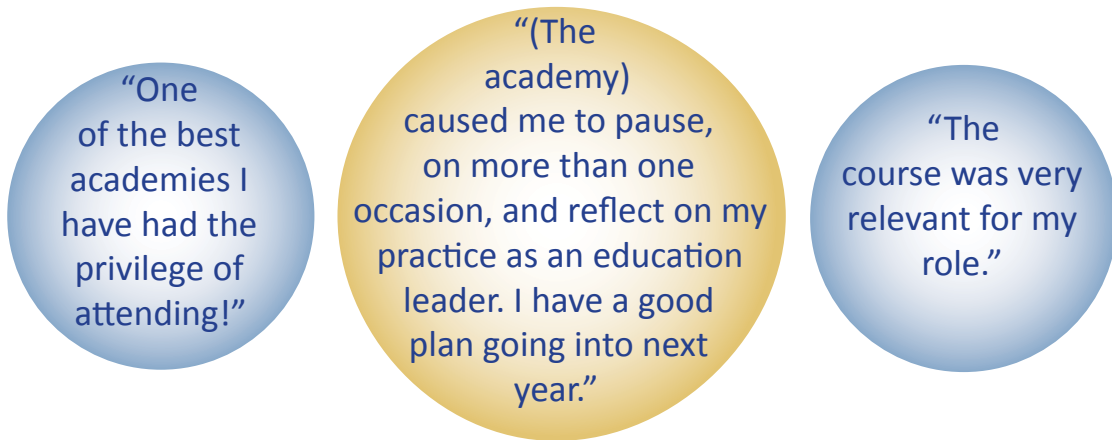
Common Core Preparation

One of the roles of the ROE/LTC is to support districts in their technology preparations for the common core assessments. During August and September of 2014, all school districts across Illinois were asked to update their district and school technology data in the Illinois State Board of Education's statewide technology readiness tool called I-TRAx. Districts received reports as to the readiness of their devices and networks at both the school and district levels. During the week of January 12-16, 2015 all districts were asked by ISBE to participate in a statewide infrastructure trial. This trial was "an opportunity for districts, schools, and students to prepare for the computer-based PARCC assessments by simulating test-day technology utilization to confirm all testing devices can successfully run the appropriate software." Districts administered the Performance-Based Assessment during the March/April testing window and the End-Of-Year Assessment during the April/May window.

Online Learning

The online Administrators' Academy "Cultural Competencies to Engineer a Single School Achievement Culture for All Students" was again offered during February 2015. This course, conducted over a two week period, included synchronous learning via web conferencing and asynchronous learning, reading, and discussion via an online learning management system (LMS). 22 area administrators successfully completed this academy.

The ROE also offered the "Educational Technology – Black Hole or Bright Light" Administrators' Academy in June. Although this academy met face-to-face at the Center for Professional Learning, an online learning management system and other technology tools were utilized for the successful completion of this academy. Comments from some of the 21 participants in this academy included:



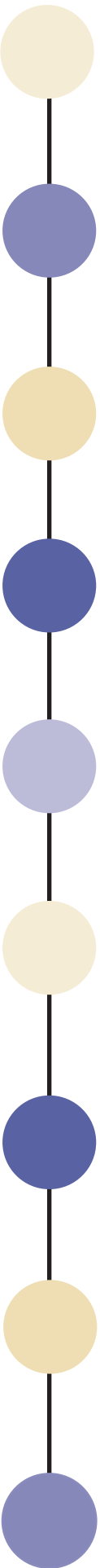
The DuPage ROE plans to continue the online development and adaptation of academies on topics of interest to area administrators.

SMART Boards

The LTC coordinates the SMART Major Account Program for DuPage County school districts. This program provides reduced pricing on interactive whiteboards and other products from SMART Technologies. Seventeen educational agencies across the county are participating in this program for the 2015-2016 school year.

Other Professional Development

Throughout the year a total of 22 technology-related professional development sessions were offered, serving over 350 participants. Additionally the ROE/LTC maintains shared folders for the DuPage Technology Coordinators and for the DuPage Technology Facilitators to allow for their professional sharing and learning to be ongoing.



Health/Life Safety

School Construction

The Regional Office of Education issues building permits for all school building projects subject to the requirements of 23 IL Administrative Code Part 180. ROE staff review the documentation submitted to verify adherence to all requirements.

During the 2014-2015 School Year:

- 8 building addition permits were processed and issued
- 135 major and miscellaneous renovation permits were processed and issued

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 Adequacy and Efficiency of each facility. ROE staff verify districts are maintaining their buildings in compliance with these State standards.

During the 2014-2015 school year:

- 318 buildings were inspected
- 667 violations were found and corrected

Compliance Review

Each of DuPage County's 42 school districts is visited every four to five years, on a rotating schedule, by ROE staff to verify they are compliant with Illinois Administrative Code (23 IL Admin Code 180,10 Et Seq).

Licensed personnel files are reviewed to verify assignment requirements are being met. School Board responsibilities, policies and procedures, budget records, curriculum and other mandates are also reviewed for compliance.

During the 2014-2015 school year eight districts were reviewed:

- 6 elementary/middle school districts
- 1 high school district
- 1 unit school district
- 2 special education facilities

School Bus Driver Safety Classes

- Delivered training for 3,022 drivers to renew certification
- Delivered training for 1,087 drivers to obtain certification
- Identified and incorporated additional safety measures not included in state curriculum





DuPage ROE Develops Heroin Toolkit for Educators

A message from Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Superintendent of Schools

One of the things I love about DuPage County is that we are not afraid to promote our strengths nor are we afraid to address our challenges. At the DuPage “Be a Hero-In DuPage” Coalition kick off on January 23rd, over 50 educators received the ROE Anti-Heroin Toolkit filled with resources to be used in their district and community. Whenever I talk to parents of drug addicted children or the children themselves, I always hear “I did not know.” DuPage makes no excuses and the Toolkit provides you with the “Now You Know” that can be used with students, parents, teachers, community members, etc.

There were 54 students who participated in the “Be a Hero-In DuPage” anti-heroin message to their peers with six top prize winners, and 48 honorable mentions that also received prizes! No doubt, our future is in good hands. Over 200 community members attended the public forum in the evening.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve in public education. We continue our most important responsibility of caring for our children in every way.

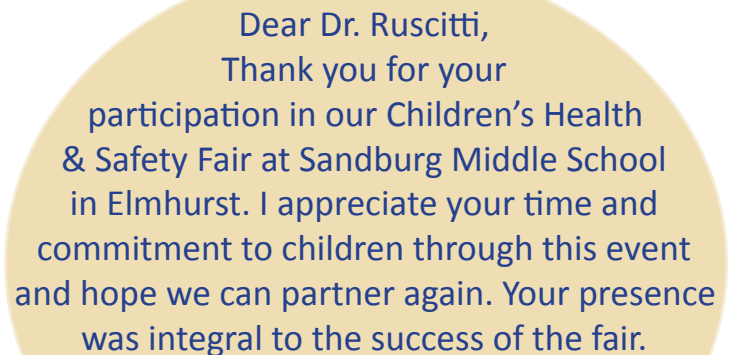
We continue to provide all public and private schools with Anti-Heroin toolkits and links to the resources on our website.

School Safety Taskforce

Dr. Ruscitti created the DuPage County Collaborative School Safety Taskforce with the goal of sharing best practices with school districts throughout the county.

Several implementation goals were identified:

- Ongoing training so staff is ready and prepared to properly act/respond during an emergency occurrence
- Review of action plans and what information should be included. There should be no guess work as to who is responsible for what during a school sponsored event
- Taskforce members continue to share their safety plans and reunification plans
- Create a countywide/statewide document to be made available for districts to review and use for our local area



Dear Dr. Ruscitti,
Thank you for your participation in our Children’s Health & Safety Fair at Sandburg Middle School in Elmhurst. I appreciate your time and commitment to children through this event and hope we can partner again. Your presence was integral to the success of the fair.

- Patricia R. Bellock
State Representative- 4th District



Service to the Community

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 boundaries. The Regional Superintendent acts as Ex-Officio Secretary to the Board. The Regional Office maintains all records of petitions heard in the region. Meetings are regularly held the first Monday of each quarter; special meetings are scheduled when needed. The main responsibilities of the Regional Board of School Trustees are:

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

During 2014-2015 – 1 petition was presented to the board and decided.

Back-to-School Fair

The annual Back-to-School Fair was held on August 6, 2014. Through the collaborative efforts of the DuPage Credit Union, Catholic Charities, Humanitarian Service Project, DuPage County Community Services, Black Diamond Charities, and the North Central Illinois Labor Council, the ROE distributed more than 3,500 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.

DuPage County Spelling Bee

Twenty-eight students in third through eighth grades, representing 16 public and 3 private schools, demonstrated impressive spelling skills during the DuPage County Spelling Bee on February 25, 2015 at Wheaton North High School in Wheaton. Christopher Chang of Butler Junior High School in Butler School District 53 won the DuPage championship. Christopher and his parents received an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., compliments of ComEd, to compete in the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 26-30, 2015.

First runner-up was seventh grader Kurt Leano of Lemay Middle School in District 33, and second runner-up was seventh grader Saahil Sorakayala of Lakeview Junior High School in District 66.

Participating schools hold their own bees and send their champion to the county competition.

On February 12, 2015, Islamic Foundation School in Villa Park hosted the DuPage County Private Schools Spelling Bee. Three top spellers from the Private School Spelling Bee went on to compete in the County Bee.

Quality Professional Services

Licensure

We are a local office, easily accessed by our constituents. We provide service and answers and research licensure issues for applicants. We also cut through bureaucratic red tape and have direct access to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in Springfield. Almost 32,000 people accessed ROE licensure services in 2014-2015.

The ROE licensure department responded to:

- 14,076 phone calls
- 12,605 emails
- 3,326 over-the-counter walk-ins

Additionally, staff members:

- fingerprinted 1,821 applicants for employment
- welcomed 15 new National Board Certified teachers

Professional Development

During the 2014-2015 school year the DuPage ROE Center for Professional Learning provided:

- 22 fee-based courses to 581 participants
- 45 free workshops to 1,013 participants
- 67 professional development workshops with 1,594 participants

Roundtables and Networks

The DuPage Regional Office of Education organizes and supports a variety of roundtables and networks for educational professionals. These networking opportunities have provided many benefits to districts by promoting collaboration and shared services. We served over 850 professionals through roundtables such as Technology, Buildings & Grounds, School Deans and Police Departments, Nurses, Social Workers, Counselors and other academic networks.

Project-Based Assistance

During the 2014-2015 school year, we provided 63 onsite projects for DuPage County school districts and 19 onsite projects for school districts outside of DuPage County. This work includes assisting districts with school improvement projects, helping them develop evaluation processes, and providing onsite training for teachers and administrators.

Thanks
so much
for your help.
Your friendly and
speedy service is greatly
appreciated.

*-Benjamin School
District 25*

I sincerely
appreciate all your
effort and time that you
put into my
application. I know this is a
very busy season and I truly
appreciate your help and
support. I look forward to
teaching in DuPage
County.

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 2014-2015 school year, 54 Administrators' Academies were held.

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.

In 2014-2015:

- 20 first-year principals were mentored
- 6 second-year principals continued to be mentored
- 4 new superintendents were mentored

GES

The Gifted Education Seminar (GES) was developed in 2009 by the State of Illinois and the Illinois Association for Gifted Children. Since 2010, the DuPage Regional Office of Education has provided the GES to over 500 teachers. In the 2014-2015 school year, over 60 teachers completed the GES with the DuPage

Regional Office of Education with the aim of applying for a gifted endorsement.

Thanks for your hard work. I was in contact with someone else first, then called and was directed to IAGC, and that number directed me to a third number. It was rather frustrating for a while-you've been the first helpful person in a month. Thanks again for actually helping me get answers before the deadline, I really appreciate it!
- Michele

The GES was designed with the regular classroom teacher in mind. It is a rigorous course of study that supports teachers in understanding gifted learners. Differentiation strategies are studied and modeled in the GES to support the achievement of all learners. There is an emphasis on the use of technology to create learning environments that are conducive to small group study and individualized research. The overall goal of the GES is to help teachers support a year's growth in achievement commensurate with a high-ability learner.

Thank you so much for doing such a great job yesterday. The feedback has been fabulous! I appreciate your hard work and expertise to make the afternoon a worthwhile PD experience for our staff.

Thank you for all the support and time that you provided so that the ROE could offer the Gifted Education Seminar. Teachers report that they are passing the state exam and getting their endorsements!

TIDE

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators (TIDE) provides quality university coursework at below-market costs for DuPage County educators.

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Regional Office of Education's TIDE program:

- Continued its focus on expanding teacher skills and qualifications by offering an array of graduate courses leading to additional teaching endorsements
- Operated as a financially self-sustaining program while presenting 79 graduate credit courses, serving 1,179 teachers
- Collaborated with multiple DuPage County school districts to offer on-site endorsement-linked courses to their staffs
- Now partners with five local universities to deliver a selection of cost-effective endorsement programs
- Added TIDE/Lewis University reading endorsement cohorts at the Indian Prairie and Wheaton-Warrenville school districts to complement the multiple sites for the ESL endorsement program
- Is considering offering new cohort groups in both Indian Prairie and Wheaton-Warrenville locations in January 2015
- Continued to investigate courses and programs enabling school districts and teachers to build their professional capacity
- Sustained a five-year trend of increasing program income and enrollment

Residents Asked to Share Their Ideas on Improving Local Government

Illinois has nearly 7,000 separate taxing bodies, ranging from counties to townships to fire protection districts. This number is 1,800 more than any other state in the country. Governor Bruce Rauner has asked local governments to cut their spending in an effort to freeze property taxes for two years.

To facilitate this process, Gov. Rauner has named a number of suburban officials, including the ROE's Regional Superintendent of Schools Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, to a committee aimed at streamlining local government. The Task Force's mission is to reduce the heavy burden on Illinois taxpayers by empowering citizens and government officials to eliminate waste in local government through consolidation and eliminating unnecessary state mandates.

Cultural Competency

Cultural competence is critical to increasing academic and social success and is respectful of and responsive to the needs of diverse students. When developed and implemented as a framework, cultural competence enables educators to function more effectively to understand the needs of all students. With continuous demographic changes, we at the ROE are building a cadre of diverse professionals that will be available to you to address:

- how to draw talent
- discipline issues
- special education issues and diversity
- parent-teacher conferences and diverse parents
- motivation and engagement
- interventions needed to increase engagement

Opportunities will be forthcoming.

Dr. Ruscitti Gives Keynote Speech to Honor Martin Luther King

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti gave the keynote address at the DuPage County Dr. Martin Luther King celebration. The event was held at Elmhurst College's Hammerschmidt Chapel on January 19, 2015. Fifty years previously, Dr. King himself stood in the same spot and spoke. His legacy lives on.

Below are excerpts from Dr. Ruscitti's address:

As an educator, I share Dr. King's dream that all in our country deserve the best, free quality public education. It is what we owe our children. It is what we owe our future. It is what we owe to Dr. King's legacy.

From Dr. King's example I learned that public service is a stimulating, proud, humbling, lively enterprise. Public service is not just a way to live, but a way to live fully. It can fulfill the highest of aspirations.

We need to continue to teach our young people that they can make a difference, they can continue our American story and that the next chapter has not yet been written.



To
Dr. Ruscitti:
I appreciate all you
do to ensure that the
voices of educators are
heard throughout DuPage
County. I appreciate your
leadership.

To Dr. Ruscitti:
Your service and
leadership has been honorable
and hopefully rewarding as you
model excellence to work effectively
with others to represent the needs
of our families. Many rely upon your
diligence and hard work to sort
out all the special interests and
demands from those who seek to
relentlessly drive our choices
and outcomes.

Fiscal Responsibility

DuPage ROE Financial Overview for School Year 2014-2015

DuPage Regional Office of Education (DROE) services the DuPage Public Schools in liaison to the State Board of Education (ISBE). During School Year 2014-2015, \$6,490,816.59 in local, state and federal were distributed through the DuPage Regional Office of Education.

Overview of Local Funding:

The DuPage Regional Office of Education received local funding to be used strictly for TIF and TIDE programs in the amount of \$426,477.35 and \$680,464.12, respectfully. Other funds received in the amount of \$1,485,370.99 for projects, workshops, seminars, technical assistance and other work that are used to pay for services rendered.

Overview of State Funding to Area Districts:

The DuPage Regional Office of Education receives State funds that are distributed to our DuPage County School Districts and Safe Schools in the form of General State Aid, Career and Technical Ed Improvement (STEM), Safe Schools, Truancy, and Early Childhood (PAT) grants in the amount of \$3,426,787.15. Other State funding includes the ROE/ISC Operations grant in the amount of \$244,116 which is used for DuPage ROE operational costs.

Overview of Federal Funding to Area Districts:

Federal funds received by the DuPage Regional Office of Education are distributed to our DuPage County School Districts to support program initiatives for McKinney Vento Homeless, Title I School Improvement, Teacher Quality and Work Force Investment Act (WIA) in the amount of \$227,600.98.

2014-2015 Funding Break Down by Category (Unaudited)				
<i>Programs</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>TIF</i>	<i>TIDE</i>	<i>Total</i>
Local	\$ 1,485,370.99	\$ 426,477.35	\$ 680,464.12	\$ 2,592,312.46
State	\$ 3,670,903.15			\$ 3,670,903.15
Federal	\$ 227,600.98			\$ 227,600.98
	\$ 5,383,875.12	\$ 426,477.35	\$ 680,464.12	\$ 6,490,816.59



Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti

Regional Superintendent of Schools

630.407.5770

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Director of Administrative Services**

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Raquel Wadsworth 630.407.5774

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Leadership Development

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Dr. Gail Fahey

Compliance & Health/Life Safety

To leave a message for Bill Black, Jim Patterson,
Fred Munding or Tom Romano,
contact Kelly Kozerka 630.407.5773

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Ray Rehberg 630.495.6080

Center for Professional Learning (CPL)

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Linda Knicker
Dr. Beth Sullivan

Teacher Inservice for DuPage Educators (TIDE)

James Battle 630.495.6080

Homeless Student Advocate

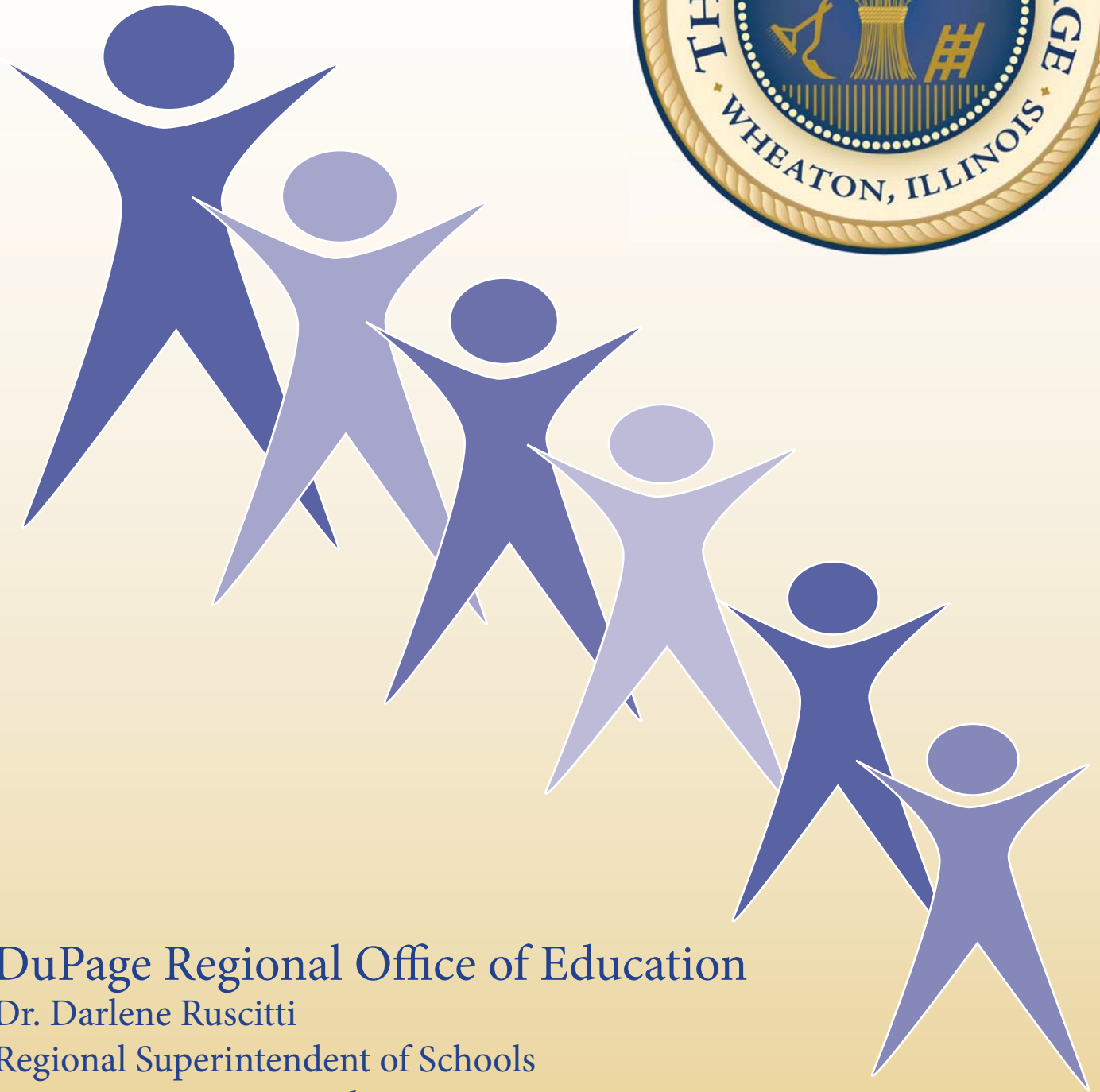
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Parents as Teachers Program

Lucy Ferri 630.878.1041



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