

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



DuPage Regional Office of
EDUCATION
Excellence in Education



LETTER FROM DR. RUSCITTI



Dear DuPage County Education Stakeholders,

For the past 20 years, I have had the privilege of serving as the Superintendent of the **DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE)**. As my tenure here ends, I am honored to once again present the Annual Report, which details how our office has supported education stakeholders.

DuPage County has changed and grown since I was first elected in 2003—and I have as well. However, one thing that has not changed has been my unwavering commitment to the youngest and most vulnerable residents of DuPage: our students.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) School Code states that the elected regional superintendent is to work in cooperation with ISBE and local districts to initiate, refine, and fulfill both local and statewide directives, ensuring local schools provide the best possible education while also complying with legal and curriculum requirements.

When I first ran for office, I made three campaign pledges in addition to the responsibilities outlined by ISBE. First, I promised transparency and a high standard of accountability. Second, I pledged to help recruit the best teachers as well as support them with quality professional development. And finally, I made it my personal mission to promote school safety. I am pleased to report that with the help of an amazing team, I have fulfilled those promises.

As I have stated many times, I believe in the power of public education. Focusing on the three Rs: “*reading, writing, and arithmetic*” is paramount, but public education is so much more than that. It is preparing children to be productive, contributing members of our democracy. It is ensuring both physical safety and emotional well-being. It is teaching students how our government works and how to participate in the democratic process. It is modeling and instilling integrity, compassion, and empathy. In the following pages you will read about the many programs the ROE team has worked diligently on for the past year, programs that have done just that. The ROE team’s unwavering commitment to the students in DuPage County has inspired me, and I hope it inspires you as well.

As the ROE looks to the future, my hope is that they will continue to filter all issues through two questions: *Is it good for the children?* and *Is it a wise use of the taxpayers’ dollars?* As DuPage County grows and diversifies, and as the use of technology increases, the ROE will also expand and diversify. The challenges that students and teachers faced in 2003 when I took office looked different than they do today. Demographics have changed: In 2003, 10 percent of families in DuPage were classified as low income. Today that number has risen to 31 percent. Truancy rates have climbed from less than 1 percent to nearly 10 percent. Minority students in 2003 comprised 30

percent of the population in DuPage, now that number is nearly 50 percent. There has also been a significant rise in students whose first language is not English.

These changes require attention. Thankfully, the ROE does not make decisions based on impulse. We study, research, and consult experts in evidence-based methods of teaching and learning, and we are proud DuPage has the highest number of National Board Certified teachers per capita than any other county in Illinois.

The ROE of tomorrow must continue to determine the relevance of an ever-growing and changing body of available information—on the science of the brain; on the impact of trauma and bullying; and how diversity, equity, and inclusion affect learning. They will analyze this information, find ways to build educational experiences around it, and share these findings with teachers and administrators through professional development courses and administrator academies.

In addition, the ROE of the future must address the national teacher shortage by recruiting diverse, high-quality teachers. Supporting teacher aides (paraprofessionals) on their path to receiving a regular teacher’s license through microcredentials will also be important.

Finally, the ROE of tomorrow will need to continually address technology. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and computer-based learning must be used to enhance learning—not disrupt it. Potentially, AI will be used to track students’ progress and generate unique lesson plans and teaching materials that are tailored to individual student’s needs. Teachers will need training in this area—as well as how to deal with the addictive nature of screens and how they affect interpersonal skills.

I’m excited about the next chapter at the ROE and the future of public education in DuPage County with Amber Quirk at the helm as Regional Superintendent. As we embrace the 2023-24 school year, the ROE will continue partnering with DuPage County schools and stakeholders so every child is successful academically, socially, and emotionally—while we continue to respect the rich diversity of cultures and viewpoints that our democracy affords us.

Thank you for your support over the past 20 years!

Warm regards,

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent of Schools for 2022-23
DuPage County

WHAT WE DO / AT A GLANCE

The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE #19) is an essential support office partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to aid local school districts. The ROE provides positive leadership and serves as a source of information and guidance for educators, school districts, and the public.

Working alongside with the DuPage County Board, the Regional Superintendent of Schools and her team work across DuPage County to ensure all children receive an education in a safe,

supportive, and successful environment. It is an honor to do this work on behalf of the children in DuPage County. The ROE ensures students and school buildings are safe, handles legal issues such as consolidations, and makes certain the education provided in each classroom meets Illinois state standards. The ROE partners with schools to provide the best education possible for students by providing the best training to educators and administrators via professional development, networking, and collaborative learning opportunities.

Left: The DuPage Regional Office of Education has a broad impact in the State of Illinois. We are responsible to the taxpayers and to nearly 140,000 students. This "At a Glance" breaks down the numbers.

Right: Providing Professional Development for educators is a key part of the ROE's role. We serve public, private, and parochial schools, and we are proud to receive excellent feedback on our courses.

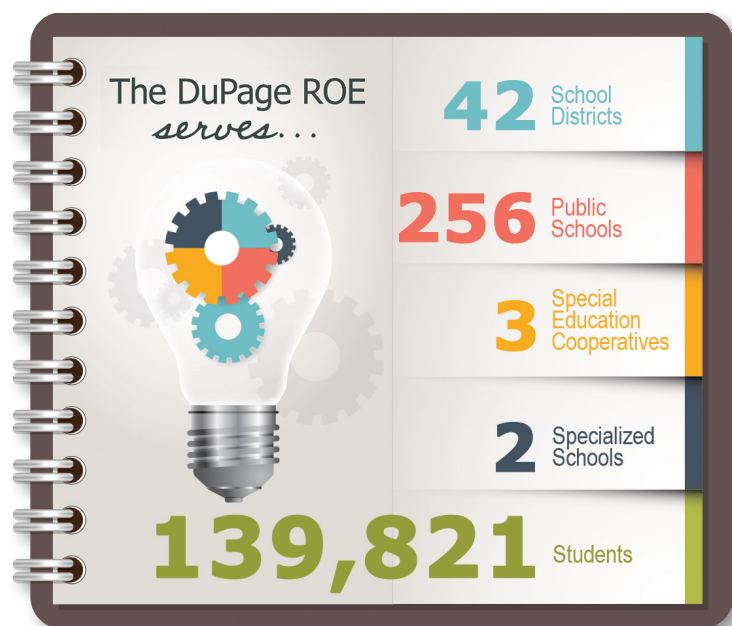


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Dr. Ruscitti	2
What We Do / At a Glance	3
Social-Emotional Learning	4
Work-Based Learning	5
High School Equivalency	5
Center for Student Success	6-7
Parents as Teachers Program	8
Homeless Student Advocacy	9
Equity	10
Illinois Civics	11
Gifted Instruction	11
Approved PD Provider Audit Process	12
Substitute Teacher Training	12
Truancy	13

Licensure	14
Health/Life and Safety	14
Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math	15
Safety	15
Administrator Academies	16
Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators	16
Instructional Technology Team	17
Bus Driver Training	17
Grants - EIR & Seed	18
Leadership	18
Regional Board of School Trustees	19
Fiscal Responsibility	19
Directory	20
Welcome to the New Superintendent	20

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING



The SEL Hub coordinated a variety of SEL and trauma-related trainings during 2022-23.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to recognize and manage their emotions, demonstrate care and concern for others, establish healthy relationships, make responsible decisions, and handle challenging situations constructively. According to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), quality SEL instruction—in conjunction with a safe, caring, inclusive, equitable, and participatory school—can result in positive outcomes such as promotion of mental wellness; prevention of mental health issues; and reduction in student absenteeism.

SEL Hub Area 1

During the 2022-23 school year, the DuPage ROE SEL team provided ongoing leadership for Year 2 of the SEL Hub for Area 1. This area includes the counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Kendall/Grundy, Will, North Cook, West Cook, and South Cook. We met with SEL Hub leaders and coaches every other week to keep them informed and updated.

REACH

Launched by Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and the Illinois State Board of Education, REACH (Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing) is an initiative to support schools throughout Illinois to better understand and address the needs of the whole child through the creation of healthy learning environments that protect, support, and heal. The DuPage ROE SEL Hub was honored to provide guidance on the implementation of the REACH platform and the new ISBE activity tracker for Area 1. We also conducted recruitment and outreach efforts, participated in the new Communities of Practice (CoP) through REACH, and participated in monthly REACH workshops. As we look forward to 2023-2024, we hope to enroll many additional DuPage County schools in this program.

Education

The SEL Hub was instrumental in many educational opportunities during the past school year. We coordinated a variety of SEL and trauma-related professional learning opportunities for both the DuPage ROE and Area 1 as well as six different Speakers Bureau events. These included:

- *Tier 1 Universal Strategies and Tier 2 Structural Interventions: Social-Emotional Practices and Supports* with Kristine Hummel and Susan Antonini
- *Fostering Resilient Learners*, with Kristin Souers

- *Beyond ACES: A Focus on Protective Factors* with Patricia Graczyk
- *Discipline Re-imagined* with Nathan Maynard
- *What Kids Need Isn't Always Written in Our Lesson Plans* with Rufus Lott
- *Culturally Responsive SEL: What it is...and What it Isn't* with Carla Tantillo Philibert and Pharlone Toussaint

We also coordinated three Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) sessions for the DuPage ROE in Area 1 and Bloomingdale Township. Additional sessions are scheduled, and we are offering to do this training for any school in DuPage County.

Other workshops that we led or participated in included:

- *Sorting Fact from Fiction* (regarding the myths surrounding SEL)
- *Restorative Practices*
- *Promising Practice: Implementing Social-Emotional Learning System-wide to Improve Student Achievement*

Website

One of our projects during the 2022-23 school year was revamping the SEL section of the DuPage ROE website. The section was renamed "School Culture and Climate" so as to be inclusive of the many factors that contribute to a positive school culture. We also added updated resources to support educators and schools.

Summary

We are proud that as of the summer of 2023, 95 percent of schools in DuPage County have been represented at SEL Hub events since the beginning of the project. Since the start of the SEL Hub in 2021-2022, the SEL Hub has brought more than 25 programs, services, and workshops to DuPage County schools and districts. SEL Hub activities have served more than 1,000 leaders and educators representing 236 schools in DuPage County.

As we look to the future, continued focus will be placed on enrolling DuPage schools in REACH. We also are excited to present workshops on behalf of the DuPage ROE to DuPage educators on the following topics:

- Executive Functioning
- Equity Goal Setting
- TMHFA (Teen Mental Health First Aid): Train the Trainer
- Emotional Poverty: Train the Trainer

95

Percentage of DuPage County Schools that have been represented at SEL Hub events

WORK-BASED LEARNING CONSORTIUM

This is the fourth year of the DuPage Work-Based Learning Consortium, which is designed to help junior and senior high school students access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in high-demand, high-need careers in DuPage County.

This year, 54 students from 11 area high schools were involved in paid student apprenticeships/internships at local business partners during their school day. The advanced manufacturing career pathway is in its third full year of implementation, and the Information Technology (IT) pathway is in its second full year of implementation.

The Consortium is exploring the healthcare pathway for future implementation and is looking at how we can support districts with other opportunities to connect with employers, such as job shadowing, tours, and guest speakers.

A new addition this year was the start of the DuPage Regional Manufacturing Advisory Committee, which is a collaborative venture between DuPage high schools, College of DuPage, and manufacturing employers. This model increases efficiency and connections for both high schools, post-secondary institutions, and industry.

With the goal of reaching every high school in the County and expanding to other high-demand



The advanced manufacturing career pathway is in its third year of implementation, and the IT pathway is in its second. The Consortium is exploring healthcare as a future option.

pathways, the DuPage ROE continues to secure the necessary seed funding to build and sustain this regional model and advocate for more opportunities for work-based learning for DuPage students and students across the state.

The ROE will continue to work with our many partners including Project Hire-Ed (College of DuPage), Technology Center of DuPage, WorkNet DuPage, DuPage County, Choose DuPage, and GPS Education Partners to build this regional model throughout our area so students have access to industry credentials, postsecondary education, and employment opportunities in the fields that are critical to the economic development of DuPage County.

54

DuPage students participating in paid apprenticeships/internships during their school day

11

DuPage high schools offering paid apprenticeship opportunities

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

The DuPage Regional Office of Education is available to assist those who have not graduated from high school and are interested in the opportunity to earn the High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma.

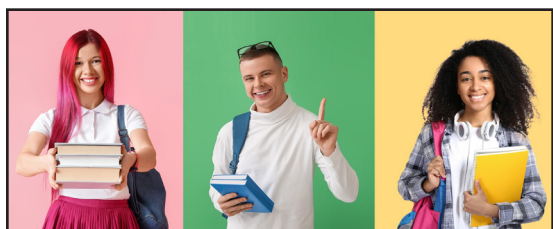
Testing options include GED and HiSET. The GED (General Educational Development) test has four sections including mathematical reasoning,

science, language arts and social studies. The HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) covers five subjects: mathematics, science, social studies, reading, and writing. This test aligns to Common Core standards.

Individuals who have completed at least 75 percent of the high school graduation requirements may be eligible to apply for transcript evaluation, which may reduce the number of tests required.

During the time period of July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023:

- 486 individuals participated in HSE testing
- 731 HSE documents were issued (in-house only)
- 556 HSE verifications were processed



486

Individuals who participated in HSE testing from July 2022 to June 2023

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

214

Students served at the CSS in 2022-23

The **DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE)** began the school year embracing the powerful theme of grace: grace for ourselves, our students, our families, and our community. One example of how the ROE practices grace on a daily basis is the Center for Student Success, which offers educational opportunities for students facing a myriad of challenges. The facility in Addison houses a continuum of programs serving students from sixth through twelfth grade who have experienced significant obstacles on their educational path, including disciplinary issues, truancy, homelessness, credit deficiency, as well as social-emotional concerns.

At the heart of our programs lies the foundation of trauma-sensitive and restorative practices. We understand that healing and growth can only flourish in an environment that acknowledges

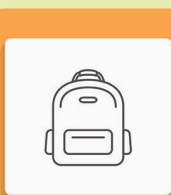
and addresses the unique traumas our students have experienced. By fostering a safe and compassionate atmosphere, we empower our students to delve into self-discovery while simultaneously striving toward their academic goals. We have forged invaluable partnerships with community service providers who supplement our efforts by offering an array of additional services to our students and families. Through these collaborations, we extend our reach beyond the confines of our facility, ensuring comprehensive support for our students. Health education, individual and family therapy, and group counseling are just a few of the vital resources available to our students.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Center for Student Success served a total of 214 students in ALOP, Rebound, PFS, and RWECEP.

34

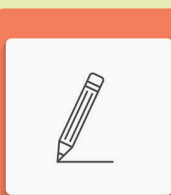
High School Equivalency diplomas earned in ALOP in 2022-23

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



ALOP

The DuPage ALOP program serves students at risk of withdrawing from high school due to severe credit deficiencies or social-emotional concerns.



Rebound

Rebound is an alternative to out-of-school suspension for students placed on four-to-ten day suspensions and provides academic and restorative support.



PFS

Partners for Success is for students with suspensions longer than three days along with expulsion. PFS offers academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support for students who struggle in a traditional school setting.



RWECEP

The Regional Work Experience & Career Exploration Program offers career technical education to help students transition to post-secondary education and careers.

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP)

The DuPage ALOP program serves students at risk of withdrawing from high school due to severe credit deficiencies or social-emotional concerns. Each student who entered the program was provided with a personalized student success plan focused on their individual academic and social emotional needs, including post-secondary planning. The program served a total of 54 students throughout the academic year. With the unwavering support of program instructors, 34 students obtained a High School Equivalency diploma, and nine students will be returning to complete their remaining courses.

Rebound (Alternative to Out of School Suspension)

Developed to address the needs of DuPage school districts in response to Illinois Senate Bill 100, the Rebound program provides academic and restorative support for students placed on four-to-ten day suspensions. The program offers students the opportunity for academic consistency with the support of a certified teacher, as well as daily restorative conversations aimed at developing a plan for the successful return to their home school.

Sixty-six students participated in the program during the 2022-2023 school year.

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS, cont.

Regional Safe School: Partners for Success (PfS)

The Regional Safe School of DuPage County, PfS, was established in 1997 in response to Illinois legislation enacted to reduce school expulsions. Furthermore, with the passing of Illinois Senate Bill 100 in 2015, school districts were required to look at alternative schools and restorative supports to further aid students who had suspensions longer than three days, along with expulsions. As a result of the passage of this bill into law, student behavior that substantially disrupts, impedes, or interferes with the operation of the school are required to be looked at on a case-by-case basis in order to determine appropriate consequences and additional support that may be needed.

(Multi-Tiered System of Support) data related to attendance, academics, and behavior to be responsive to the needs of our students, their families, and partner districts. During the 2022-2023 school year, PfS served sixty-seven high school students, and twenty-eight middle school students, totaling ninety-five. This was an increase of forty-four students from the previous school year. PfS also celebrated four seniors who graduated from their respective high schools. As we look ahead to the 2023-2024 school year, PfS is excited to continue building strong relationships with member school districts and serving and supporting students across DuPage County.

PfS serves as the Alternative School for forty-two member districts in DuPage County at the middle and high school levels. PfS offers academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports for students who struggle behaviorally in a traditional school setting. The PfS team partners with the student services teams of students' local schools to create Alternative Education Plans that set goals focused on academic performance, attendance, behavior, and social-emotional learning. Students spend anywhere from one to four semesters working on these goals, and every semester, students' progress toward these goals is evaluated. Then, based upon their improvement, meetings are held to determine students' readiness to return to their respective school.

PfS utilizes trauma-informed practices through circles, a partnership with Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services, and a full-time Restorative Interventionist to best support the needs of our students. PfS staff also teaches social-emotional learning curriculum through our advisory elective course that focuses on social-emotional learning competencies with students.

During School Improvement Days, the Center for Student Success staff analyzed MTSS



RWECEP (Regional Work Experience and Career Exploration Program)

Designed to offer career technical education to students enrolled in Regional Safe Schools, the RWECEP program connects students with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to successfully transition to post-secondary education and careers. Field trips, career exploration, guest speakers, job search support, and specific job training are offered along with individualized career planning and support. Thirty-five students participated in the RWECEP offerings during the 2022-2023 school year.

42

School Districts served by PfS at the middle and high school level

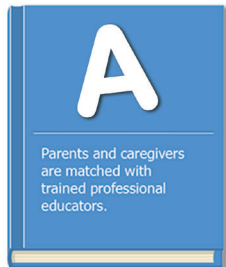
95

Students served by PfS during the 2022-23 school year

35

Students served by RWECEP during the 2022-23 school year

PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM



The Parents as Teachers (PAT) Home Visiting Program is an internationally recognized, evidence-based home visiting program designed to support parents and caregivers as their child's first and most influential teacher. PAT builds strong communities, thriving families, and children who are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) PAT program does this by matching parents/caregivers with professional educators who make regular home visits during a child's earliest years in life—from prenatal visits with the mother until the child is ready for preschool.

During visits, parent educators partner with families and caregivers to provide support, community resources, and developmental screenings to their children. At each visit, parent educators provide a new book and an age-appropriate activity for children, with the intention of creating positive parent-child interactions.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the PAT program served families in 11 school districts throughout DuPage County. This included:

- 173 families
- 194 children
- 23 pregnant women
- 2,200 personalized home visits
- 20 connection groups hosted by the ROE

Doula Program

A highlight of the 2022-23 school year was receiving funding from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to enhance home visiting by starting a Doula Program. Doulas provide support to pregnant mothers before, during, and after childbirth. Research has shown doula care improves health outcomes, reduces racial disparities, and cuts overall perinatal spending by reducing the need for medical interventions. The ROE employs two full time doulas, one of whom is bilingual in English and Spanish.

Connection Groups

Connection groups hosted by the PAT program included a field trip to Cosley Zoo with more than 200 attendees and a field trip to the Addison Fire Department to teach families and children about fire safety. In addition, PAT hosted an outing to the DuPage Children's Museum and provided every family in the program with an annual museum pass.

Partnering with Toys for Tots

In November, PAT partnered with Toys for Tots to ensure every child in the PAT program, as well as their siblings, received at least one toy during the holiday season.



Thirty-one children from the PAT program "graduated" in June. Most are headed to preschool or Head Start programs.

Graduation

In June, PAT "graduated" 31 children, most of whom headed to preschool or Head Start programs. During the annual graduation ceremony, each child received a gift and a backpack filled with school supplies. Families enjoyed dinner and made crafts with their children during this event.

Developmental Screenings

One of PAT's newest community partners is DuPage Pads, which provides overnight shelter for those experiencing homelessness. Together, we provided developmental screenings for newborns and children up to three years of age, and five of these families joined the PAT Home Visiting program.

Success Stories

The PAT program has seen many positive outcomes because of their services. In one instance, a parent educator taught a mother how to administer first aid to infants. Not long after, the woman's baby choked on a piece of apple. The baby wasn't breathing, her eyes were watering, and she was turning red. The mom did exactly what she was taught and successfully dislodged the piece of apple.

In another case, a parent educator noticed a two-year-old she was working with was nonverbal. The parent educator referred the family to Early Intervention for speech therapy. Recently, the child's mother shared a video of her child reading the book *Polar Bear, Polar Bear*.

Stories like these illustrate the importance and effectiveness of teaching parents to be their children's first and most influential teacher. The PAT program is proud to do that and looks forward to expanding their services in the future.

HOMELESS STUDENT ADVOCACY

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Act defines homeless children and youths as individuals who lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” This includes children or youth living in motels, transitional housing, shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, or “doubled up”—that is, sharing the housing of others due to the loss of housing or economic hardship. Children and youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian who fall under this definition are also protected by the McKinney-Vento Act.

During the 2022-23 school year, there were 2,663 identified McKinney-Vento eligible students in DuPage County, which is an 890 percent increase from 2005, when the State of Illinois began tracking this number. This is due to both an increase in homelessness and improvements in identifying homeless students.

The McKinney-Vento Act says eligible children may stay in their school of origin or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, according to their best interest and the choice of their caregiver. In addition, McKinney-Vento-eligible children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have required documents such as school records, medical records, or proof of residency. They are also eligible for free lunches and school fee waivers.

Research shows that changing schools causes a student to lose between four and six months of academic and developmental progress. Homeless students also have higher incidences of acute and chronic physical illness, as well as depression and anxiety. Therefore, the consistency and continuity of staying in the same

school throughout the length of the family's homelessness is crucial to the success of children in transition, and it is important to give these children every support possible.

The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) employs a McKinney-Vento Student Advocate who is funded by the grant and serves as a resource to homeless families as they navigate the law; to schools as they strive to provide the best education for students; and to community service providers as they work together to help families in need.

Every year, public school districts in DuPage County are invited to request funds for a variety of needed supplies and activities to support McKinney-Vento eligible students' full participation in school programs and social-emotional activities such as summer camps. This past year, Lisle District 202 received more than \$1,800 from the DuPage Regional Office of Education. Funds were used to cover the cost of summer camp registration for eligible students as well as for items such as bathing suits and sports gear to enable full participation with their peers. Camp coordinators recognized that transportation to and from camp has historically been a barrier for students experiencing homelessness, so a portion of the funds was also used to purchase bicycles for eight eligible students. These bicycles will provide access to many more activities in the future that might have otherwise not been available to them.

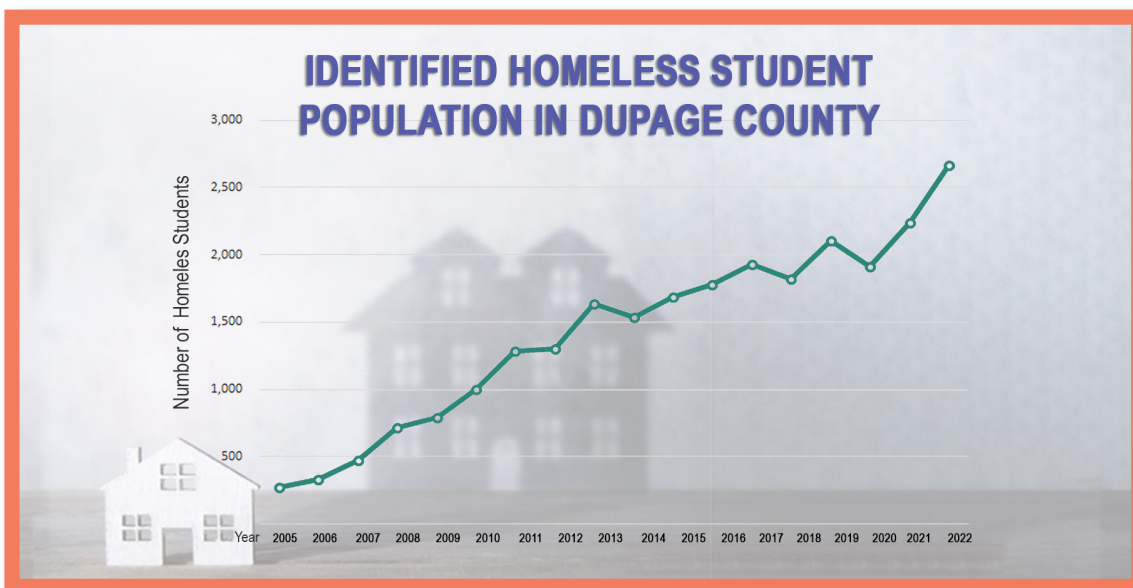
As homelessness continues to challenge DuPage County, we are thankful we can make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable residents by giving them the supports necessary to stay in school.

890

Percent increase of students identified as homeless in DuPage County between 2005 and 2023

4-6

Academic months “lost” when a child changes schools



“All students should have access to the right resources at the right moment.”

At the DuPage Regional Office of Education, we believe equity is the cornerstone of a more just and humane society. All students, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, language, religion, family background, or family income, should have access to the right resources they need at the right moment in their education.

We are committed to supporting the educational and administrative leaders in DuPage County schools in this journey and have been since 2009 when under the direction of Regional Superintendent, Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, the Equity and Excellence Committee (EEC) was formed.

During 2022-2023, the Equity and Excellence Steering Committee focused on creating learning opportunities aligned directly to the five strands of Equity:

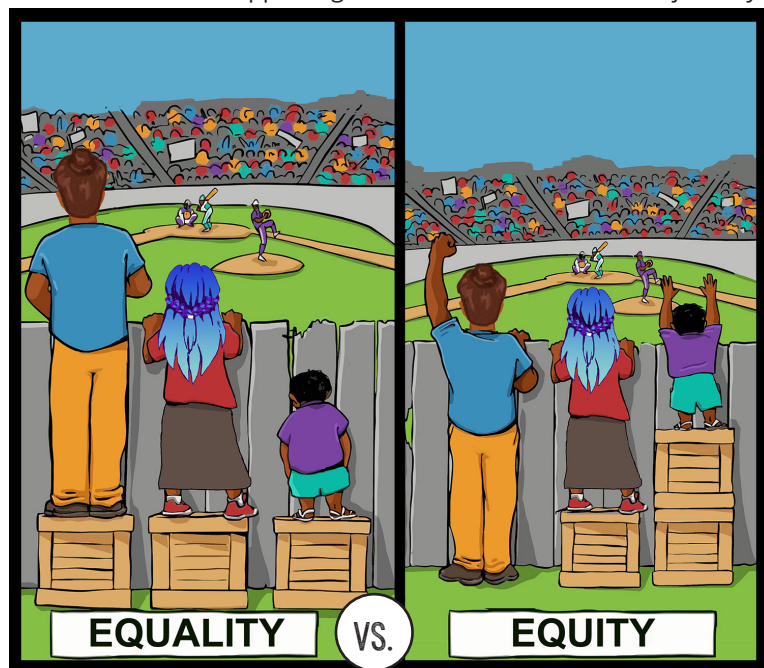
1. Systemic Equity
2. Employment and Retention
3. CIPA (Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development, and Assessments)
4. Student Voice, Climate, and Culture
5. Family and Community Engagement

In our September 2022 meeting, Dr. Limaris Pueyo (Community Unit School District 200) discussed the Equity Journey Continuum and shared how elements within the continuum were linked to the Equity Framework, enabling educators to see the connection between equitable practices, student learning, learning conditions, and elevating educators.

In November 2022, Dr. Rakeda Leaks (Naperville School District 203) and Dr. Jennifer Rowe (Lyons Township High School District 204) facilitated a learning experience, using the Circle Protocol to share how educators can effectively engage in difficult conversations with all stakeholders around topics related to equity and diversity.

In January 2023, Dr. Patrice Payne (Hinsdale School District 86) and Dr. Jennifer Harth (Glen Ellyn Community Consolidated School District 89) shared with the Equity and Excellence Network how equity lives within their MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) school models. This was helpful in increasing educators' understanding of how to design an inclusive MTSS model.

In April 2023, Dr. Robert Lang (Community High School District 99) shared his story of belonging, from a white male's perspective, which was a great transition into our shared learning around affinity groups. Affinity groups improve the retention of educators of color by supporting them in their own individual journeys



and, when feasible and safe for participants, to raise challenges and propose policy solutions at the district level. The learning around this work was facilitated by Dr. Rakeda Leaks (Naperville School District 203) and Dr. Jennifer Rowe (Lyons Township High School District 204). They organized a panel discussion of educators who have benefited from the use of Affinity Groups in their working environments. In addition, Tony Bradburn and Dr. Rakeda Leaks (Naperville School District 203) shared the work that their school districts have done to support BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Administrators beyond Affinity Groups.

In June 2023, the Equity and Excellence Steering Committee, along with Dr. Deidre Farmbry, hosted an equity goal-setting workshop. One of the goals in this workshop was to engage in conversations around data and improvement actions. These conversations led to a better understanding of how to create goals that are measurable, inclusive, and align with equitable practices.

We look forward continuing conversations around equity goals and student achievement in the 2023-24 school year.

ILLINOIS CIVICS HUB

The Illinois Civics Hub (ICH), housed at the DuPage Regional Office of Education, is the leading resource for information on the required implementation of civics classes in Illinois. During the 2022-23 school year, the ICH delivered more than 500 hours of professional development (PD) to over 2,900 educators. This PD was delivered via monthly webinars, conference presentations, administrator academies, and project proposals and was designed for districts both in and outside of DuPage County to support the implementation of the revised Illinois Social Science standards and course mandates.

The ICH developed and implemented three new Administrator Academies to be responsive to district needs. The ICH monthly newsletter reaches more than 1,900 subscribers with timely resources, PD opportunities, as well as student contests. The seven regional civics instruction coaches send regional monthly emails to educators representing the geographic diversity of the Land of Lincoln.

The ICH continued working with research practice partners at Tufts University to measure the impact of services to support implementation of the middle school civics course requirements. Both teacher and student surveys and interviews were conducted at three schools that represent varied educational contexts. The data suggests

that educators are making “meaningful progress in implementing the middle-school civics mandate with fidelity.”

Illinois Democracy Schools Network

The Illinois Democracy Schools Network (DSN), which is comprised of 80 high schools, serves one-sixth of the public high school population in the state of Illinois. The DSN provides support to members with monthly webinars, newsletters, and small grants to support initiatives aligned to DSN elements. DSN grants have supported initiatives such as Youth Equity Summits (YES!) to engage students’ voices across schools, funding for Equity Audits of Curricular Offerings, and more.

In the fall of 2022, the DSN played a big role in the Illinois Civic Hub’s Annual Convening. More than 200 attendees learned about *Media Literacy and Civic Learning Across the Disciplines*. In June of 2023, the DSN convened 25 educators across the state of Illinois to solicit feedback on a new K-12 model using the *Pedagogy Companion to the Educating for American Democracy Roadmap* for vertical and horizontal articulation of civic learning across disciplines. The DSN was proud to be awarded a \$7,500 grant from the National Network of Educational Research Practice Partnerships to support Participatory Budgeting Projects in the DSN.

4, 13,
119

Illinois Civic Hub Micro
Credential Program:
Courses (4), Cohorts
(13), and educators
served (119)



7 Grants Were
Awarded to Illinois
Democracy Schools

GIFTED SERVICES

Gifted Services are in place to guide area educators in supporting advanced learners in their schools. These services include scheduled professional learning opportunities, resources for alignment to evidence-based practices and ISBE guidelines, consultation services, and networking events.

In the 2022-23 academic year, four virtual gifted network meetings were held that addressed Social-Emotional Learning, Acceleration and Enrichment, Twice-Exceptional Learners, and Instructional Resources for Advanced Learners. These meetings were held on September 21, 2022, November 8, 2022, January 10, 2023, and May 3, 2023.

A Gifted Coordinator Roundtable was also held on October 13, 2022 to collaboratively share practices for equitable identification and programming practices.



Finally, two workshops for teachers and administrators were scheduled and held at the Regional Office of Education. “Understanding Achievement, Growth and High-Ability Learners” was offered in the fall of 2022, and “Policies and Practices to Support Programming for Advanced Learners” was held in the spring of 2023. Participants came from multiple school districts in DuPage and other neighboring counties.

“Students of
high ability
require differentiated
learning experiences
in order to develop
their optimal
performance.”

APPROVED PROVIDER PD AUDIT PROCESS

13

Districts and entities notified of their participation in the Approved PD Provider Audit

The Illinois State Board of Education requires each Regional Office of Education/Intermediate Service Centers to complete reviews of the documentation for Professional Development (PD) activities offered by each district, special education facility, or technical school designated as an approved PD provider within its area.

In DuPage County, each approved PD provider is typically audited once every four years, and as part of that review process, they must submit the required documentation related to selected PD activities they offered during the designated audit year.

During the 2022-23 school year, thirteen districts and entities were notified of their participation in the Approved PD Provider Audits for PD activities completed from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. All Approved PD Providers successfully completed the audit requirements.

In addition, three districts/entities were notified they had been placed on Action Plans due to deficits noted in their prior Approved PD Provider Audit. All Action Plans were successfully completed by the Approved PD Providers.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TRAINING

“I thought the training was extremely well done.”

Illinois House Bill 5627, which became law in 2018, allows for individuals with 60 hours of college credit to apply for a short-term substitute (STS) teaching license. These STS license holders are required to complete training before working in public schools. Originally, the STS license option was set to sunset on June 30, 2023, but recent legislation has extended the license option through June 30, 2028.

As a service to DuPage County school districts, the DuPage ROE offers substitute teaching training workshops that satisfy the initial training requirement. The workshops, held virtually throughout the year, lead participants through the steps required to become a substitute teacher and cover topics such as expectations, classroom management techniques, and school safety. Participants are encouraged to brainstorm ways to handle potential real-life scenarios in a “What Would You Do?” activity.

The DuPage ROE offered training in the evenings this past year to make it more convenient for interested applicants to attend. While this training is required for STS license holders, it is open to all who want to learn more about substitute teaching.

Participants were grateful for the opportunity to learn more about substitute teaching, and many



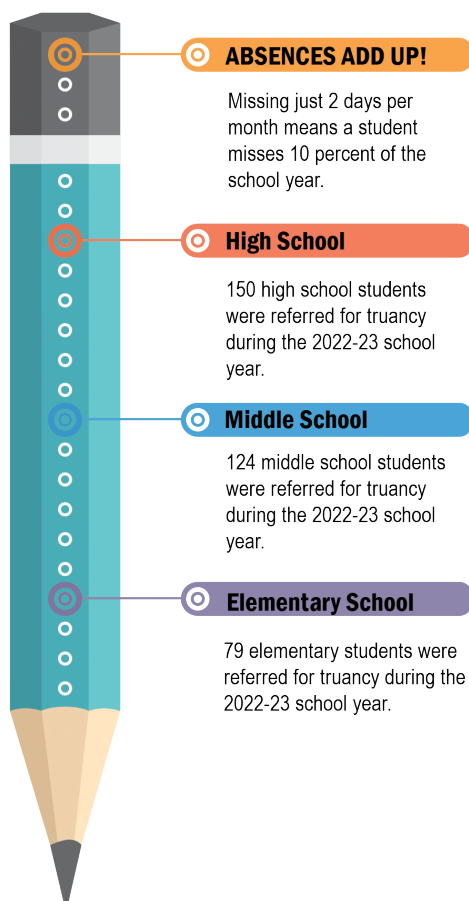
As a service to DuPage County school districts, the DuPage ROE offers substitute teacher training workshops that satisfy the initial training requirement for short-term substitute teachers.

left positive comments about the effectiveness of the training. “I thought the training was extremely well done. Good coverage of the information and well structured,” said one attendee. Another wrote, “Overall it was a great experience. As a beginner, I’ve learned a lot in a short time period.”

TRUANCY SERVICES

The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) School Attendance and Truancy Department continues to incorporate preventive programs with intervention and support services. The department serves schools, parents, and students to promote positive school attendance and student/parent engagement. During the 2022-2023 school year, the School Attendance and Truancy Department served 546 chronically truant and truant students countywide. Some highlights from this past year include:

- Attendance & Truancy Team Behavior Interventionists completed 197 outreach meetings to inform schools about our support strategies and how we can work together to improve student attendance. By assigning referral schools to specific interventionists, they each built stronger relationships with the schools. Behavior Interventionists co-facilitated 1,254 school support meetings, up from 345 the previous year, connecting school personnel



with students and parents for increased communication and understanding. Interventionists conducted 537 home visits. Referrals for social services nearly doubled to 542, connecting families to additional supports in DuPage County. Trained behavior interventionists provided personal counseling 208 times.

- Partnering with Dr. Patricia Graczyk, the department presented at the School Attendance and Truancy network regarding processes and resources.
- Dr. Graczyk also presented an overview of attendance practices related to MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports) to the Network, as well as in a workshop format.
- In order to offer schools a Tier 2 intervention option, the team continued the "Train the Trainer" model for Attendance Improvement Mentoring (AIM), with the "Why Try" curriculum enhanced by executive functioning and a trauma-informed lens. The team assisted with 13 AIM groups at area schools.
- In addition, the team piloted an observation tool based on Attendance Works' Scan of Environmental Attendance Tool (SEAT). The interventionists will continue to work with schools to provide the SEAT data so they can triangulate it with other climate and culture survey results for stronger decision making in regards to attendance.
- Finally, the team collaborated with a developer to create an online referral tool that will eventually improve communication about students needing assistance and attempted interventions.

2022-2023 Truancy Data

- Total Students Served: 546
- New Referrals for 2022-2023: 268
- Elementary referrals: 79
- Middle School Referrals: 124
- High School Referrals: 150
- 76 percent of referred students qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- 24 percent of referred students speak Spanish

537

Home visits conducted by DuPage ROE Truancy Interventionists during the 2022-23 academic year

546

Students served by DuPage ROE Truancy Department during 2022-23

LICENSURE, RE-LICENSURE, & CERTIFICATION



Credentials the ROE staff aided educators in renewing or obtaining

The Regional Office of Education (ROE) Licensure Department answers inquiries and researches licensure issues for educators and school districts. We also assist educators with initial license and credential applications, subsequent applications for endorsements/credentials, submission of official documents, and renewal/registration of licenses.

Our Licensure Specialists have direct access to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in Springfield and use that access to facilitate resolution of licensure issues for educators and districts, and to cut through any bureaucratic red tape. Our staff keeps apprised of all ISBE updates and legislative changes and can provide the most up-to-date information available.

The DuPage ROE is the contracted provider of fingerprint-based background checks for many of the districts—and also provides this service for educators wishing to serve as substitute teachers in DuPage County school districts.

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, the licensure staff:

- Aided educators in renewing and obtaining 12,548 credentials
- Fingerprinted and ran background checks on 1,696 individuals
- Assisted 2,882 people in person at the Licensure Counter
- Responded to 13,935 licensure telephone calls
- Responded to 26,701 licensure emails

HEALTH/LIFE, SAFETY & COMPLIANCE



Buildings inspected by the ROE

The Regional Superintendent serves as a member of the Governor's Illinois School Safety Task Force. Therefore, the DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) is influential in providing school safety protocols that are distributed statewide. We are leaders for the State of Illinois, particularly in the ROE-developed Emergency Operations Protocols, Threat Assessment, Common Language, Reunification Plans, and Merit initiatives.

School Construction

The ROE issues building permits for all school building projects, subject to the requirements of 23 IL Administrative Code Part 180 and the International Building Code. ROE staff reviews the documentation submitted to verify proper procedure is followed by the architect and the school district. During the 2022-2023 school year, the ROE reviewed and issued:

- 4 building addition permits
- 2 new building construction permit
- 145 major and miscellaneous renovation permits
- 151 total building permits

During the 2022-2023 school year:

- 299 buildings were inspected and benchmarked against OSHA standards, local fire codes, municipal codes, and ISBE protocols
- 710 violations were observed and corrected

Compliance Review

Each of DuPage County's 42 school districts is visited every four years on a rotating schedule by ROE staff to verify they are compliant with the 23 IL Administrative Code Part 1, Operational Requirements. Licensed personnel files are reviewed to verify that assignment requirements are being met. School board responsibilities, policies and procedures, budget records, curriculum, and other mandates are also reviewed for compliance.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 12 reviews were completed:

- 8 elementary/middle school districts,
- 1 high school district
- 2 unit school districts
- 1 special education cooperative

In addition, the ROE reviewed 36 Non-Public School Recognition applications and submitted them to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The ROE team also reviews ten-year Health/Life Safety Surveys and submits them to ISBE. Other ROE safety initiatives included the continued work of cybersecurity education, as well as sharing Health Department updates regarding safety protocols due to the pandemic. Ongoing communication and support have also been provided for private schools in DuPage County.

SCIENCE, TECH, ENGINEERING & MATH

The STEM Squad facilitated a total of fifteen after-school workshops for students in five different DuPage middle or junior high schools. These workshops included the assistance of thirty-six teachers and/or teacher aides and engaged a total of 251 students. In addition, the Squad engaged over 1,100 students and six teachers in STEM activities at events sponsored by nine different DuPage schools and organizations. The number of participants reported does not include parents, guardians, and other family members/friends who also enjoyed participating.

Thirty-nine STEM Trunks were loaned to thirty different schools. The trunks are designed to assist educators with expanding STEM learning activities in their classrooms and for after-school learning opportunities. While on loan, more than 121 teachers used the STEM Trunk activities with approximately 4,190 students.

Nearly 185 STEM-related educators participated in six professional learning and networking opportunities offered by the STEM Squad.

Ten newsletters were published that highlighted STEM news, events, and resources. Each edition is distributed to nearly 750 educators and school personnel throughout the area.

The STEM Program benefited from a \$2,000 donation used to purchase four water quality testing kits. The kits will be used to provide professional learning for area teachers and will be made available for area schools to borrow as a STEM Trunk.

The STEM program also includes maintenance of a STEM web page and Instagram account, both of which highlight various STEM learning activities and resources. A STEM Squad member also serves as a DAOES (DuPage Area Occupational Education System) Advisory Board member. This year the representative attended ten meetings and distributed note summaries to DuPage Regional Office of Education administrative staff when pertinent.



1,100 Students participated in STEM activities at events sponsored by DuPage Schools and organizations



SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety is a priority for the DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE). Throughout the 2022-23 school year, our Safety Team hosted and coordinated numerous events and trainings to ensure the physical and emotional safety of our students

A highlight of the year was partnering with DuPage County to develop DuSmart, a mutual aid plan for school administrators that will provide mutual aid in the event of a crisis in a DuPage County school district that exceeds the capacity of an individual district to respond to effectively on its own. Currently, 32 school districts are participating.

Another highlight was the "I Love U Guys" training that was held twice this past year with a total of 229 participants, which included representatives from 39 public schools and 29 private schools. This program has been heralded as the gold standard in reunification training during a school crisis, which could include fires, tornadoes, power outages, bomb threats, acts of violence,

and other unplanned situations. Studies show that without a plan to reunite students with their parents or caretakers, the stress and potential trauma of the crisis itself is exacerbated, and the district's responsibility for the chain of custody for each student is jeopardized.

In January of 2023, the ROE hosted the Annual School Safety Summit in cooperation with the College of DuPage's Homeland Security Training Institute. More than 300 participants attended. In June of 2023, the ROE hosted an all-day Threat Assessment training. At this workshop, 370 attendees evaluated their current threat assessment procedures through practical role-play scenarios. Nearly 70 percent of DuPage school districts participated.

From the top-down, the DuPage ROE is using evidence-based findings and trainings to create schools that are safe. For the 2023-24 school year, we will continue to research, train, and practice safety procedures to protect the students and school employees of DuPage County.



Participants who took part in a Threat Assessment Training in June 2023

ADMINISTRATOR ACADEMIES

72

Administrator Academies offered by the ROE

676

Participants who attended academies

Administrator Academies (AA) conducted by the DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) were delivered in three formats during the 2022-23 school year: in-person, virtual, and off-site. In-person academies were held at the ROE offices, and third-party academies were typically held in schools or district buildings. While administrators continue to favor the virtual option because of its convenience, they also indicated third-party delivery was a positive experience.

The ROE offered a variety of academies to inform, enrich, and train administrators. Some of the subjects included:

- Teacher and Principal Evaluator Retraining Academies for Professional Educator License Renewal
- Climate and Culture
- Crisis Management (with College of DuPage)
- School Leadership
- Social Skills Training
- Post-Secondary and Career Expectations
- Restorative Practices
- Culturally Responsive Practices
- Homelessness
- Microcredentials in Social-Emotional Learning, EL and Culture
- Illinois Social Science Standards
- School Leader Team Building
- Executive Functioning

In total, the ROE offered 72 courses during the 2022-23 school year.

- 699 participants registered
- 676 participants attended



Virtual academies continue to be a popular option for busy administrators.

- 30 courses were canceled
- 42 courses were held

There were 26 third-party courses offered.

- 668 participants registered
- 668 participants attended
- 1 course was canceled
- 25 courses were held

The course catalog for the 2023-24 school year will continue to include a combination of face-to-face academy delivery as well as numerous virtual options. Third-party academies will also continue to be an option for schools and school districts as they are well-attended in DuPage County.

TEACHER IN-SERVICE FOR DUPAGE EDUCATORS

1,103

Teachers participating in quality university coursework at below-market costs via TIDE

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators (TIDE) provides quality university coursework at below-market costs to licensed DuPage County educators. During the 2022-23 school year, the DuPage Regional Office of Education's TIDE program:

- Continued its focus on expanding teacher skills and qualifications by offering a variety of graduate courses—most of which led to additional teaching endorsements
- Operated as a financially self-sustaining program while presenting 121 courses, serving 1,103 teachers from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

- Collaborated with multiple DuPage County school districts to offer their staffs on-site, endorsement-linked courses
- Partnered with three local universities to deliver a selection of cost-effective endorsement programs

TIDE and its university partners offered courses required for popular endorsement areas such as special education, instructional technology, ESL, and English Dual Credit courses for our high school teachers.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY TEAM

The DuPage ROE Instructional Technology Team supports and guides the Regional Office of Education (ROE) operations and professional development staff while implementing the Illinois State Board of Education K-12 technology initiatives. The goal of the Instructional Technology Team is to provide support and resources to aid school districts in planning and implementing technology initiatives to improve academic achievement and provide all learners with technology-rich learning opportunities.

DuPage Technology Directors' Network

The ROE conducts meetings for Technology Directors in DuPage County school districts and learning agencies five times yearly. Based on input from district staff, these meetings focus on current technology topics and trends that impact our schools and districts. This network meeting supports DuPage Technology leaders such as Networking, Security, Applications, Data Management, and User Support. These meetings provided a shared learning environment around issues of current and future interest.

Technology Coordinators and Coaches Network

The DuPage ROE also coordinates four sessions for DuPage Technology Coaches and Coordinators. These meetings support Technology Coaches who partner with their classroom colleagues to utilize technology to support and enhance student learning. ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) Standards for Students guided our discussions and provided a framework for our technology leadership's continual growth and professional development.

Listservs, File Sharing, and Websites

The DuPage ROE Instructional Technology Team continued hosting online communication and

The ROE and the Illinois Learning Technology Center provided courses for educators on DRONES in the Classroom, 3D Printing, and Makerspace Starter Kits.



sharing services for professional educators across DuPage County, allowing them to continue collaborating and sharing resources beyond their face-to-face and virtual meetings. The listservs are updated each fall to reflect changes in district personnel.

Collaborations with the Illinois LTC

The ROE collaborated with the Illinois Learning Technology Center (LTC) and the Lake County ROE in June to sponsor our first annual EdCamp for Illinois Coaches. Participants met in Bensenville SD2 for a half day of learning. During this EdCamp, Illinois Coaches came together to learn, collaborate, and network with other instructional and technology coaches from around the state. The ROE and LTC also provided courses for educators on DRONES in the Classroom, 3D Printing, and Makerspace Starter Kits.

5

Meetings held yearly for school Technology Directors in DuPage County

4

Sessions held yearly for DuPage Technology Coaches and Coordinators



BUS DRIVER TRAINING

The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) offers the bus driver training courses required by the Illinois State Board of Education. While delivering the "Initial" and "Refresher" training courses, bus safety is emphasized. The modules for the courses are updated annually as we prepare drivers to transport our students. Interest in bus driver training continues to grow rapidly in DuPage County.

A total of 188 bus classes were offered from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:

- Initial Bus Driver attendees – 1,116
- Refresher Bus Driver attendees – 1,983
- Total Attendees: 3,099

The ROE hopes more individuals will take advantage of this training in the coming year, as there is currently a bus driver shortage.

LEADERSHIP



The Women in Leadership Network is held virtually, and twice a year the meetings are open to all aspiring female leaders

Superintendent Collaborative

The Superintendent Collaborative met seven times over the course of the 2022-23 school year. Superintendents across the county share best practices and critical updates throughout the year, while focusing on identifying strategies, developing tools, and solving problems identified as part of the instructional rounds process to enhance leadership performance.

Meeting topics were generated by the group to provide “just in time” support and to harness the collective efficacy of the participants. Topics included the equity continuum journey, cybersecurity and school security issues, teacher and staff shortage challenges, school board member training, and teacher evaluation. Cycles of Inquiry were incorporated at each meeting. This method typically incorporates four steps: analysis of evidence, determination of a focus, implementation and support, and analysis of impact.

Women In Leadership Network

The purpose of the Women in Leadership Network is to empower and equip female leaders by supporting those in their current roles and lifting others to higher levels of leadership. This group continues to be a collaborative venture of the DuPage ROE, DuPage IASA (Illinois Association of School Administrators) and ROE #4, who partnered together to find ways to bring women superintendents together for networking and support.

Meetings are held virtually with DuPage Superintendents and Special Education Cooperative Directors, and twice a year the meetings are open to all aspiring female leaders. The 2022-23 topics included How to Reinroduce Happiness Post Pandemic, Crucial Conversations, How to Prepare for the Next Level of Leadership, and discussions on the books *Quit* and *The Power of Moments*.

GRANTS: EIR & SEED



Three federal grants, plus two state grants, were implemented for Leadership Development

LeadHUBS are located in six Regional Offices of Education. The six established LeadHUBS are organized to provide a statewide system of support, as each has an assigned Educational Service Area that extends beyond their ROE boundaries. The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) is the LeadHUB for Area 1.

For the 2022-23 school year, the DuPage ROE served as a LeadHUB for Leadership in Partnership. Along with the other five LeadHUBS, DuPage implemented three federal and two state grants from the Illinois State Board of Education. These grants support leadership development for aspiring leaders, first year principals, and other principals—whether they are early in their career or are more experienced. Starting in the 2023-24 school year, Central Office support will also be offered.

The DuPage ROE has established itself as a leader because of our work in collaborating and operating these grants. In total, the grants supported 42 leaders in Area 1 and 161 leaders statewide during the 2022-23 school year. Recruitment is underway for the 23-24 school year.

While providing learning opportunities and one-on-one coaching, which are critical components to the current leaders we are servicing through the grants, the DuPage ROE Leadership Services is equally focused on the sustainability of these services post grant. Because the grants are from different entities and have varying requirements, the DuPage ROE is working to align content across grant programs. This will support all leaders across the continuum of their career and will focus on the same outcome: developing capacity for organizational leadership for continuous school improvement.

The sustainability of content and experience in all grants will be grounded and designed to be flexible and personalized for the leader and where they are in their development, while maintaining the integrity and rigor of the research. Secondly, we will focus on the on-boarding of coaches and mentors, which will include training. Lastly, learning experiences will be designed for application of the content and will align to adult learning theories for leaders.



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:

- 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
- 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 held on the first Monday of each quarter. Special meetings are scheduled as necessary.

The Board of Trustees for the 2022-23 school year were as follows:

- Mary Aherne Young (Addison Township)
- John Gardner Huff (Lisle Township)
- Mary Ann Manna, President (Winfield Township)
- Paula McGowen (Milton Township)
- Marilyn Menconi (Bloomington Township)
- Jaye Wang, Vice President (Downers Grove Township)
- Dr Darlene Ruscitti, Ex-Officio Secretary

4

Times per year the Regional Board of School Trustees meets to discuss pertinent school- and district-related matters

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	
July 1, 2022	\$4,342,513
REVENUE	
Certification	\$473,715
Interest	\$158,137
Total Revenue (+)	\$631,852
EXPENDITURES	
Purchased Services	\$85,307
Supplies and Materials	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0
Non-Capitalized Outlay / Transfers	\$0
FY Prior Period CPA Review and Accounting Adjustment	\$0
Total Expenditures (-)	\$85,307
ENDING FUND BALANCE (UNAUDITED)	
June 30, 2023	\$4,889,058

Note: All numbers are rounded to nearest dollar.

CONTACT US



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

630 407-5800

Amber Quirk, Regional Superintendent
Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Business/CSBO
Dr. Vicki Trotter, Assistant Regional Superintendent
Debbie Doyle, Assistant Regional Superintendent for Leadership

aquirk@dupageroe.org
jdotson@dupageroe.org
vtrotter@dupageroe.org
ddoyle@dupageroe.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS TEAM

Kelly Kozerka, Administrative Assistant, Compliance & Health Life Safety
Lori Ladesic, Administrative Assistant, Human Resources/FOIA
Raquel Wadsworth, Division Assistant, Bus/PAT/Work Permits

kkozerka@dupageroe.org
lladesic@dupageroe.org
rwadsworth@dupageroe.org

EDUCATOR LICENSURE TEAM

Elizabeth Bryers, Team Lead – Licensure Specialist

ebryers@dupageroe.org

FINANCE TEAM

Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Regional Superintendent for Business/CSBO
Cecilia Stroe, Accounts Receivable
Anna Wiczorek, Accounts Payable

jdotson@dupageroe.org
cstroe@dupageroe.org
awiczorek@dupageroe.org

HOMELESS LIAISON

Heather Britton, Homeless Liaison

hbritton@dupageroe.org

PARENTS AS TEACHERS TEAM

Rhonda Eubanks, Program Director

reubanks@dupageroe.org

TRUANCY PREVENTION TEAM

Annie Jones, Team Lead – Truancy and Attendance
Angie Tijerina, Senior Staff Assistant

ajones@dupageroe.org
atijerina@dupageroe.org

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (ALOP)/REBOUND TEAM

630 386-6781

Andrew True, Program Coordinator

atrue@dupageroe.org

SAFE SCHOOLS: PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS TEAM

630 543-4222

Jeff Gerard, Principal
Sandra Gorski, Assistant Principal
Kathy Ekstrand, Director of Student Services
Jennifer Johnson, School Secretary

jgerard@dupageroe.org
sgorski@dupageroe.org
kekstrand@dupageroe.org
jjohnson@dupageroe.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

630 407-6080

Dr. Vickie Trotter, Assistant Regional Superintendent
Anissa Ramos, Administrative Assistant

vtrotter@dupageroe.org
aramos@dupageroe.org

TIDE (TEACHER INSERVICE FOR DUPAGE EDUCATORS)

Kelley Zerfahs, Coordinator
Sarah Baumbach, Division Assistant

kzerfahs@dupageroe.org
sbaumbach@dupageroe.org

WELCOME THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT

The DuPage Regional Office of Education is pleased to announce that Ms. Amber Quirk assumed the position of Regional Superintendent, effective July 1, 2023, after winning in the General Election on November 8, 2022. With nearly two dozen years of experience in the field of education, including most recently serving as the Assistant Regional Superintendent and overseeing many of the programs detailed in this Report, Quirk is poised to lead with confidence, efficiency, and integrity.

Congratulations, Amber, and welcome to your new role at the DuPage ROE!

