



annualreport 2019-2020



DuPage Regional Office of
EDUCATION

Excellence in Education

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Darlene Ruscitti

Dear DuPage County Education Stakeholders,

I am honored to present the DuPage Regional Office of Education's 2020 Annual Report. This report provides insight on how the ROE supported education stakeholders during a very unique 2019-2020 school year. In spite of the challenges we have faced, our No. 1 priority has not changed: to provide the necessary support to ensure DuPage County students receive the best possible education—from cradle to career—even in the midst of a pandemic.

In my 18 years serving as the Regional Superintendent of Schools, I have never been more proud to be part of the team of educators in DuPage County. Administrators, teachers, and support staff have displayed grace, flexibility, stamina, creativity, and compassionate care for the children of our county. They have logged countless hours listening, learning, brainstorming, and training so our children can receive the same high quality education—in a way that prioritizes their physical, mental, and emotional health.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as tense race relations in our country, the DuPage ROE has continued to under-gird our schools by providing resources, training, guidance, and support. Just as our schools have been learning how to operate in a healthy, socially distanced way, so have we. We have pivoted to provide quality professional development in online and blended formats that has aided educators in remote and blended teaching.

Multiple training sessions on tools for virtual meetings and professional development were conducted with ROE staff groups and DuPage educators during this past year. Technology support was provided to several ROE professional development initiatives, including Illinois administrator academies, a micro-credentialing equity project, and bus driver refreshers training. A full selection

of services on equity education was offered over the past school year. Additionally, the ROE presented a series of special webinars recorded on YouTube that focused on dealing with the social-emotional needs of students and staff during the pandemic.

"In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as tense race relations in our country, the DuPage ROE has continued to under-gird our schools by providing resources, training, guidance, and support."

We have also continued to participate in cost-sharing efforts to bring the necessary resources to DuPage County while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Our focus reduces redundancies, shares resources, and increases resources through grant writing. We are in the third year of implementing the following grants: Education, Innovation and Research (EIR, \$4.1 million), Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED, \$12.0 million), Preschool Parents as Teachers (\$360,000) and a Math Science Partnership Grant (\$500,000). Results will be measured through state assessment test scores.

As we face another challenging school year ahead, we will keep partnering with our schools so every child in DuPage County schools is successful academically, socially, and emotionally.

Sincerely,

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent of Schools

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ROE

The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) has seen many new developments during the 2019-2020 school year. Below we have highlighted some of our accomplishments.

County-Wide Institute Day

The ROE hosted its first-ever virtual county-wide Institute Day in February of 2020. Fifty-two diverse learning opportunities, taught by local experts, were offered to educational professionals. More than 5,000 educators took part in this historic day.

YouTube Training Programs

The ROE, in conjunction with various local educators as well as nationally-recognized experts, produced multiple YouTube videos during the 2019-2020 school year focused on caring for the social-emotional needs of students, educators, and families during crisis. Thousands of viewers received guidance on topics such as surviving and thriving in a quarantine, managing emotions during crisis, and how to raise socially-conscious, anti-racist kids.

Book Distribution

In the spring of 2020, the ROE, in partnership with Parents as Teachers (PAT) and the Illinois Department of Transportation, distributed more than 600 children's books to at-risk DuPage families during the state-wide quarantine. Families were thrilled to receive a new children's book along with a bag of groceries at district-organized food distribution events.

20/20

In May of 2020, the ROE offered 20 online professional development sessions for \$20 each. Each session included two hours of professional development/continued credit



When DuPage County schools transitioned to remote learning in the spring of 2020, the Regional Office of Education didn't miss a beat. They jumped right in to continue offering quality, time-sensitive training and resources on a variety of subjects.

hours. Nearly 200 participants took advantage of this opportunity.

Partnership with BloomBoard

In June of 2020, the ROE partnered with BloomBoard, a leading platform for educator advancement, to support DuPage County schools in providing effective blended instruction in the 2020-2021 school year. The partnership made BloomBoard's Fall Readiness Program available to DuPage County school districts. This program will coach educators to up-level their blended learning instruction to meet students' academic and personal needs. Bloomboard also offers a micro-credentialing framework that will provide districts with a customizable continuing education program that can align with each district's long-term needs, support teacher growth, and lead to improved student outcomes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Superintendent.....	2	Licensure, Relicensure & Certification.....	10
What's New.....	3	Substitute Teacher Training.....	10
Equity.....	4	Instructional Technology Team.....	11
Truancy Services.....	4	Bus Driver Training.....	11
Partners for Success.....	5	Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators.....	12
Rebound.....	5	Title II.....	12
Homeless Programming.....	6	Administrators' Academies.....	12
Alternative Learning Opportunities.....	6	STEM.....	13
BJA STOP Grant.....	7	Gifted Education.....	13
Cooperative Education Grant.....	7	Grants/EIR SEED.....	14
High School Equivalency.....	7	Leadership.....	14
Parents as Teachers.....	8	Regional Board of School Trustees.....	15
Health/Life Safety & Compliance.....	8	Fiscal Responsibility Teacher Institute Fund.....	15
Academic, Social & Emotional Learning.....	9	Directory.....	Back Cover

EQUITY

Critical equity in education requires every decision, policy, process, procedure, and practice be considered with an equity lens. It means taking a brave approach to deeply ingrained beliefs that maintain the status quo. Equity rightfully requires transformative shifts and elevating each student, especially historically marginalized populations. Equity disrupts the sameness mentality and boldly embraces fairness based on outcomes.

In other words, equity is deeper than access and opportunity and demands that outcomes demonstrate our commitment. Inclusion is also critical and is dependent on an unbiased standard. The study and practice of educational equity continues to gain traction, but we must be critical and diligent in its pursuit to ensure authentic equity disrupts all forms of racism, sexism, and classism. Equity is a non-negotiable, relentless journey of anti-oppressive and anti-bias action.

In the words of National Education Association President, Lily Eskelsen Garcia, "We have not shrunk from the challenging work of looking at our own personal biases and, with that self-knowledge, engaging in the work of addressing the racial and social inequities in public education" (*Racial Justice in Education*, 2019-2020).



All students, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, language, religion, family background, or family income, should have access to the right resources they need at the right moment in their education.

At the DuPage Regional Office of Education, we believe equity is the cornerstone of a more just and humane society and are committed to supporting our educational leaders in this journey. To that end, the ROE offered several trainings in 2019-2020, including the following:

"Leading for Equity & Excellence in the School Setting"

- Delivered 19 times
- 541 participants

"Personalized Coaching & Mentoring to Districts on Equity"

- 25 hours

Equity Audits

- 5 districts contacted
- 254 data sets analyzed
- 142 focus groups
- 738 participants

Equity Related Professional Development

- 15 sessions
- 1,234 participants

TRUANCY SERVICES

The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) Truancy Department focuses on preventative programs and intervention services. The department offers services to schools, parents, and students to promote positive school attendance and student/parent engagement. During the spring of 2020, our services were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the third year, students struggling with attendance issues were recommended for the Attendance Intervention Mentoring (AIM) Group. AIM was revised and updated to include emphasis on executive functioning skills such as goal setting, organization, self regulation, and more.

As an ROE Truancy Team, we presented "Truancy Processes and Supports" to county-wide personnel, and we sponsored "Real Tools and Strategies for School Refusal" by clinicians from The OCD and Anxiety Center.

Services provided by behavior interventionists:

- Monitoring – 191
- Academic Counseling – 111
- Referrals for Social/Academic Services – 87
- Personal Counseling – 61
- Home Visits – 47
- Court cases – 17

PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS

The Regional Safe School of DuPage County, Partners for Success, was created in 1997 in response to Illinois legislation enacted to reduce school expulsions.

Partners for Success (PFS) provides a multi-platform learning environment for students, combining distance learning, small group instruction, individual supports, and strategies focusing not only on academic success but also life skills, behavior interventions and strategies to help the student successfully transition back to their home school and continue on their educational career. Students are recommended by their home school for enrollment.

During the 2019-2020 school year, PFS locked arms with 20 DuPage County School Districts in providing a safe and healthy environment for students to learn in a supportive environment. PFS had 54 high school and 27 middle school students, for a total of 81 students throughout the school year and the pandemic. During this time, PFS helped 56 students transition back to their sending school district, to another placement, or to another school district because of a family move.

We are happy to report that through our successful partnerships with sending school districts, two students were able to graduate from high school. One of the students graduated a year early by undergoing an accelerated program designed by PFS and supported by the sending school district!

In late 2019, a panel of PFS students hosted local legislators and shared the importance of having a second chance opportunity in attending the PFS program. The students on the panel shared their personal journeys and how those experiences impacted their educational experiences. The legislators also took a tour of the facility.



Principal Anthony Crespo with student Ryan Carbajal, who received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing his goals and having the opportunity to transition back to Lake Park High School.

When the COVID-19 pandemic caused PFS to implement Act of God Days, the staff seamlessly transitioned to remote learning within one week. In our efforts to ensure students' social-emotional well-being, provide academic continuity, and provide resources to students and families as needed, PFS teachers, the social worker, and the administrative team contacted students and families 3,007 times, representing 58 students.

Within the context of those interactions, PFS provided students and their families:

- 1,741 social-emotional connections
- 2,255 academic connections
- 232 resource connections for items such as food, counseling, and clothing

These numbers reflect the priority of PFS: to maintain connectedness with our students and families at all times.

REBOUND

The Rebound program, a suspension intervention program, provides short-term services to middle school and high school students across DuPage county in lieu of out-of-school suspension. Students who attend the program work alongside licensed teachers to complete coursework as well as participate in reflective conversations regarding behavior. Upon completing the program, transition meetings are held with students, families, and district staff to review the placement, identify concerns regarding re-entry, and plan for support services if needed.

The Rebound program operated through March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19. In that time, the program served 49 students, which was a 30 percent increase over last year's enrollments. Of the total students served, 36 students successfully transitioned back to their district schools, 4 students were returned to the district early due to COVID-19, and 9 students required additional services at the regional safe school.

HOMELESS PROGRAMMING

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is the primary piece of federal legislation related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The DuPage Regional Office of Education employs a McKinney-Vento Student Advocate who is funded by the grant. The Advocate serves as a resource to homeless families as they navigate the law; to the schools as they strive to provide the best education for students; and to community service providers as they work together to help these families in need.

The State of Illinois began tracking the number of homeless students in 2005. At that time there were 269 homeless students identified and served in the county. In the 2019-2020 school year, there were approximately 2,000 pre-K through 12th grade homeless students identified by DuPage County Schools.

In 2019-2020, the McKinney-Vento grant provided \$30,000 worth of learning enrichment opportunities, school supplies, and hygiene products to the identified homeless students in DuPage County. "Because of the grant money, we were also able to provide a bicycle to a homeless student this year, enabling him to successfully get to school each day," said Heather Britton, the McKinney-Vento advocate.



The McKinney-Vento grant money enabled the DuPage ROE to purchase a bicycle for a student so he can get himself to and from school.

In the spring of 2020, funding was used by schools to purchase learning incentives to encourage students as they transitioned to being educated in an out-of-school environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The funds provided by this grant are an invaluable asset to our community," Britton said.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The DuPage Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) is designed for students who are at risk of academic failure and/or who are struggling with attendance. ALOP serves students from across DuPage County and helps them achieve their academic goals and move forward with post-secondary options.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the program served 44 students with preparation for their high school equivalency certificates. Of the 44 students in the program, 19 obtained their high school equivalency certificates, and 4 students completed at least one section of the certification before testing was suspended due to concerns related to COVID-19. The program offers a small group setting and is centered around strong social-emotional supports and a focus on planning beyond high school. Students participated in daily academic lessons as well as career development lessons and weekly community-building restorative circles.

Despite the constraints of remote learning, students were able to stay connected with their teachers and fellow students throughout the quarantine period by

participating in daily Zoom calls, online lessons, and outreach. The ALOP staff provided continued support for both students and families to ensure their health and safety, as well as resources to assist those in need. In response to COVID-19, ALOP also continued to provide support for students and families throughout the summer of 2020 to assist with academic and social-emotional needs.



DuPage ALOP helped 44 students prepare for their high school equivalency certificate during the 2019-2020 school year.

BJA STOP GRANT

The DuPage Regional Office of Education was awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) STOP (Students Teachers Officers Preventing) School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program grant with a budget of \$525,225 over three years.

In sum, the grant promotes the implementation of the DuPage Trauma Informed Schools Initiative (TISI), a multi-tiered training and student support program providing universal, base-level mental health education for students and teachers, as well as targeted trainings to address the needs of specific students exhibiting signs of adverse childhood experiences and/or trauma.

The integration of targeted trainings will help educators address the underlying causes of challenging behaviors within school settings to reduce and prevent violence. Evidence-based and promising practices, including Youth Mental Health First Aid, Ending the Silence, International Institute of Restorative Practice Trainings, and Washington Aggression Interruption Training (WAIT), are being used to educate school personnel and students.

During the 2019-2020 school year, 641 adult training sessions were completed by various employees. Total middle school and high school student training sessions for the same time period came to 2,406.



COOPERATIVE EDUCATION GRANT

The Regional Safe Schools Cooperative Education Program (RSSCEP) grant provides career-related classroom education and cooperative workplace experience for students. RSSCEP primarily supports students 16 years and older. This past year they had presentations by professionals in their various fields of service. The topics included the food service industry, therapeutic dogs, real estate, insurance, industrial, Marines, yoga, and the police department.

Statistics for 2019-2020 are as follows:

- Number of employment applications completed with RSSCEP assistance: 109
- Number of on-site interviews as a result: 23
- Number of students who gained employment and were supported with RSSCEP assistance: 17

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) Certificate. For the time period of July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020:

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

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an internationally-recognized, evidence- and research-based, home visiting program designed to support parents as their child's first and best teacher. The goal of the program is to support families and improve kindergarten readiness in young children.

Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, the DuPage Regional Office of Education's Parents as Teachers (PAT) program has continued meeting the home visiting needs of at-risk families in DuPage County. Since March 16, 2020, Parent Educators have used a variety of platforms (including WhatsApp, FaceTime, and Google Duo) to engage in 331 virtual video family visits and 314 phone visits. During this time, we have welcomed 21 new families into our program.

During the quarantine, Parent Educators provided families with diaper bags filled with books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, wipes, bowls, spoons, sippy cups, parenting pamphlets, and materials to make homemade masks.

Each of our families received two books in the mail in the months of May and June, delivered by Bushel Books. The Regional Office of Education and Parents as Teachers program worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation to deliver 600 books (English and Spanish) to DuPage families in ten of our partnering school districts.

During the 2019-2020 school year, our PAT team strengthened our monthly Family Group Connections by increasing attendance and enhancing topics and presenters. We partnered with local libraries to offer Group Connections in five communities in order to make

it easier for families to attend. We hosted 23 total groups, with 82 families attending. Topics included literacy, health and wellness, self-care, fire safety, CPR, nutrition, and community resources.



The Parents as Teachers program worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation to deliver 600 books to DuPage families in 10 of our partnering school districts.

In addition, we hosted two virtual group connections where we shared information with families related to diapering, buying diapers on a budget, and hand washing safety tips. Our Infant Mental Health Consultant shared with our families how to build strong parent and child bonds.

In December 2019, the program partnered with Toys for Tots to secure holiday toy donations for all families in the program. This is an annual event. Our goal was to ensure that no child served went without a gift over the holidays. We are thrilled to share that we successfully connected each and every family with at least one toy per child!

HEALTH/LIFE SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

School Construction: The Regional Office of Education (ROE) 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 proper procedure execution by the architect and the school district.

During the 2019–2020 school year, the ROE reviewed and issued:

- 17 building addition permits
- 2 new building construction permits
- 166 major and miscellaneous renovation permits
- 185 total building permits

During the 2019–2020 school year:

- 271 buildings were inspected
- 762 violations were observed and corrected

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ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In 2010, the DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) partnered with the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) to develop successful strategies to support the implementation of high-quality, social-emotional learning (SEL) as an integral component of teaching and learning. The two organizations worked closely together to create a replicable model for SEL implementation to inform regional and state service providers. Over an eight-year period, the partnership has supported 21 districts and two special education schools in the systemic implementation of SEL. This includes a total of 169 schools serving more than 107,100 students.



Each district has approached the SEL implementation process differently, based on their specific needs and resource assessments. However, there are some common elements that are shared among the districts.

- There are both commitment and resources at the central office level to support the implementation process at the district and building levels.
- Each district has an SEL leadership team that has attended an SEL workshop and has the capacity to lead the implementation process at the building level.
- A major focus is enhancing the adult SEL competencies to foster relationships among staff and students to ensure a safe, caring learning environment.
- Each district uses the CDI rubric to yearly monitor the SEL implementation process.
- Most districts have adopted an evidenced-based program. All districts have adopted an SEL EBP.
- Most districts report a decline in discipline referrals after teaching students SEL skills. Several districts report an improved climate, as measured by the 5 Essentials, as adults increase their own competencies and improve their abilities to collaborate with peers.
- Each district SEL team provides an annual SEL report to the Board of Education. In Districts 2, 11, 20, 66, 86, 200, 203, and 204, SEL was highlighted in the strategic plan and supported by the entire community.
- The DuPage SEL Network has provided districts the opportunity to learn from each other and from professionals outside of DuPage. Speakers have included Dr. Marc Brackett Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, Megan Parker, Ashley Robertson, Stacie Noisey, Lisa Xagas, and Dr. Michael Connelly. This year's meeting topics included examining equity, discipline, assessment, and student voice through the lens of SEL. Partner districts presenting included Naperville 203 and Keeneyville 20.

The DuPage ROE has partnered with CASEL to develop and provide strategies that support social-emotional learning as an integral part of education.

Though the Novo Foundation grant is no longer providing funding support to the DuPage Affiliated Partnership project, the DuPage Regional Office and CASEL remain committed to supporting district/school efforts to implement SEL system-wide.

HEALTH/LIFE SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

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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 2019–2020 school year, 12 districts were reviewed:

- 7 elementary/middle school districts
- 1 high school district
- 2 unit school districts
- The Technology Center of DuPage
- Partners for Success

LICENSURE, RELICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

The Regional Office of Education (ROE) is a local office, easily accessed by our constituents. Our Licensure Department answers inquiries and researches licensure issues for educators and school districts, as well as assists educators with initial licensure applications, subsequent endorsement applications, 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 licensure issues for educators/districts and to cut through any bureaucratic red tape.

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, the Licensure Staff:

- Renewed or issued 7,931 credentials
- Fingerprinted and ran background checks on 1,804 individuals
- Assisted 2,607 people at the Licensure Counter
- Responded to 13,338 licensure telephone calls
- Responded to 14,857 licensure emails
- Welcomed 10 new National Board teachers

Comments the ROE has received about its customer service:

"The employees were kind, courteous, and exceedingly helpful. Best government experience I've had in years. If every government or bureaucratic office provided the same level of kind service as the DuPage ROE, life would be great."

"Every time I call the DuPage ROE, the customer service is far and above some of the best experiences I have. I am always SO THANKFUL for those who answer the phone and assist in answering questions. They are wonderful."

"The employees I encountered were extremely efficient, quick, and friendly."

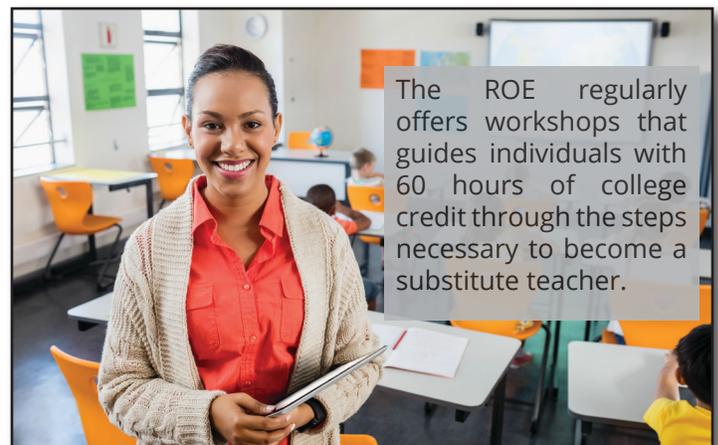
"The knowledge, professionalism, and patience in serving my needs should not go unnoticed. In addition, the kindness and support made me feel as though I finally had someone on my side, working toward the same goals I had been chasing."

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TRAINING

Illinois House Bill 5627 was signed into law on July 1, 2018. This law 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 the public schools. As a service to DuPage County school districts, the DuPage ROE has been offering substitute teaching training workshops that satisfy this requirement. The workshops have been open to anyone interested in substitute teaching in DuPage County.

The workshops are held throughout the year and lead participants through the steps required to become a substitute teacher. Topics covered include expectations, classroom management techniques, and school safety. During the pandemic, the DuPage ROE transitioned to holding the training via video conferencing and added information on substitute teaching during COVID-19. Time is allowed for answering questions, assisting those interested in completing a license application, and facilitating background checks for license holders.

"Across the state, we are experiencing a shortage in substitute teachers," explained Dr. Ruscitti. "We want to encourage interested applicants to learn more about this rewarding job opportunity and what DuPage public schools have to offer."



The ROE regularly offers workshops that guides individuals with 60 hours of college credit through the steps necessary to become a substitute teacher.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY TEAM

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

EdTech Network: The ROE conducts regular meetings of the EdTech Network for County school districts and other learning agencies. These meetings provide an opportunity for participants to discuss issues of interest.

Technology Facilitators Group: The ROE also coordinates four sessions for DuPage technology facilitators/coaches each year. These sessions provide strategies and tools to district staff who support learning technologies in the classroom. In 2019-2020, these sessions were hosted by DuPage High School District 88, Indian Prairie School District 204, and Downers Grove Grade School District 58. The April session was conducted virtually.

SMART MAP-E: The ROE coordinates the SMART Major Account Program for DuPage County. This program, which is open to all DuPage public school districts, provides reduced pricing on interactive whiteboards, interactive flat panels, and other products from SMART Technologies.

E-Learning Panel Discussion: In January 2020, the ROE hosted an e-learning panel discussion. Staff members from Gower School District 62, Community High School District 99, and DuPage High School District 88 shared their experiences and plans for e-learning. Mike Robey of the ROE reviewed the process for verification of these plans.



The DuPage Instructional Tech Team has been hard at work training schools and providing resources as many schools moved to e-learning platforms in 2020.

Digital Citizenship: As part of an ongoing discussion of this topic, the ROE offered “Citizenship in a Digital World Meet-Up” in October 2019. This session followed an “unconference” format of shared conversation and was hosted by Downers Grove High School District 99.

Collaborations: The ROE collaborated with the Illinois Learning Technology Center(LTC) to offer two Google Certification workshops. The ROE and LTC also teamed up to offer “Legal Implications of the Use of Technology in School Districts” Administrator Academy in October 2019.

Other: The ROE offered internal professional development and support to accommodate the need for virtual professional development, webinars, and network meetings. Throughout the year, 43 technology-related professional development sessions were offered or supported, serving almost 700 participants. Additionally, the ROE maintains a shared folder for the DuPage EdTech Network and Technology Facilitators to allow for professional sharing and learning. A listserv is also supported for the EdTech Network, and another for Technology Facilitators.

BUS DRIVER TRAINING

The DuPage Regional Office of Education 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 3,006 individuals registered for bus classes from July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020:

- Initial Bus Driver attendees – 893
- Refresher Bus Driver attendees – 2,113

TEACHER IN-SERVICE FOR DUPAGE EDUCATORS

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators (TIDE) provides quality university coursework at below-market costs to licensed DuPage County educators. During the 2019-2020 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 leading to additional teaching endorsements
- Operated as a financially self-sustaining program while presenting 20 graduate courses, serving 438 teachers from July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020
- Collaborated with multiple DuPage County school districts to offer their staffs on-site endorsement-linked courses

- Partnered with four local universities to deliver a selection of cost-effective endorsement programs

TIDE and its university partners offered courses required for popular endorsements such as reading, special education, and instructional technology.

In addition, TIDE was very excited to offer new cohorts in Marquardt School District 15 and Elmhurst District 205.

In 2020–2021, TIDE staff will continue to investigate opportunities for DuPage County and area educators to develop their professional capacities.

TITLE II GRANT

Funding from this grant supported fees associated with completion of initial principal evaluator and initial teacher evaluator academies that are required by someone who is in a role requiring them to evaluate the performance of principals and/or teachers.

In the 2019-20 grant year, which was extended through August due to the pandemic, 31 educators received grant funding that allowed them to complete the academies at no cost to them or their districts.

ADMINISTRATORS' ACADEMY

The DuPage Regional Office of Education offered a number of Administrator Academy sessions during the 2019-2020 school year. Most sessions were held at the Center for Professional Learning, providing direct, face-to-face instruction. Academies were requested and provided in school districts and other entities on a variety of topics and content areas. Content focus was teacher and principal evaluation, initial teacher evaluation, school finance, retraining, leadership, equity, special education, school safety, instructional practice, etc.

Approximately 50 administrator academies were conducted at our Center for Professional Learning with approximately 700 participants attending. Thirty third-party academies were delivered as requested in school districts and with/for other groups where the DuPage ROE coordinated all facets of the course. Additionally, we had several multi-session academies, led by DuPage superintendents and principals that focused on leadership skills.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit our country, the ROE presenters successfully pivoted to a virtual delivery model. Most academies that had originally been scheduled for in-person learning were converted to the virtual/ZOOM modality.



With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ROE quickly pivoted to online and virtual training models for their Administrator Academies.

GRANTS—EIR & SEED

The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) completed its third year of participation in the federally-funded LEAD grants EIR (Education Innovation and Research) and SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development) research study, as of September 30, 2020.

Eleven school districts representing 46 schools participate in this grant. The eleven school districts are SD10, SD11, SD15, SD 20, SD41, SD60, SD88, SD93, SD100, SD200, and SD205.

Participating principals work with a coach who assists them in working with their instructional leadership teams to strengthen current processes for finding and solving problems. The Cycles of Inquiry process focuses on root cause problem identification, beginning with digging deep for the student learning problem and its relationship to instructional practices. The theory of change for this groundbreaking research study, for which the Department of Education allocated \$17 million over five years, examines the interdependency of the principal's time utilization, distributed leadership practices, and the thorough analysis of all types of data to determine the root causes of student learning problems.

The DuPage ROE serves as the fiscal agent for the EIR grant, and Illinois State University is the fiscal agent for

the SEED grant. The four participating ROEs represent the north, south, east, and west sections of the state. The university partners are North Central College, Illinois State University, Western Illinois University, and Loyola University.

The DuPage ROE anticipates and is planning for the eventual supports that will be needed to maintain the level of services the grant pays for. The ROE vision is that the grant deliverables described above remain a sustainable, workable part of the professional learning options the ROE provides to principals for a long time to come.



LEADERSHIP

The Superintendent Collaborative met regularly throughout the 2019-2020 school year. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as tense race relations in our country, the meetings were pertinent and timely. School attendance, social-emotional learning, remote learning, and school safety were all discussed. Cycles of Inquiry were incorporated at each meeting.

The Principal Collaborative met monthly in 2019-2020. They met in different schools for each meeting—and then virtually during the quarantine, and they learned about best practices in other districts. The Cycles of Inquiry model served as their focal point throughout the year.

We were pleased to continue a collaborative group this year for assistant principals. Led by Jill Bullo, the Assistant Principal Collaborative met regularly throughout the school year in different school buildings and also virtually. They received formal professional development

on the Cycles of Inquiry and held important discussions on numerous pertinent topics.

The Elementary Principal Network, led by Anne Roloff, also met regularly this year. This group is an important network for elementary principals throughout DuPage County. Meetings provided opportunities for sharing of best practices, troubleshooting issues, and networking. This group will continue to meet and evolve next year to continue meeting the needs of elementary principals.

The Cycle of Inquiry is a pattern of steps to be taken for the purpose of continuous improvement. In education, this cycle can be applied by school administrators and usually has four phases: analyze evidence, determine a focus, implement and support, and analyze impact.

REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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

The main responsibilities of the Regional Board of School Trustees are:

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

Regional Board of School Trustees meetings are held quarterly in January, April, July, and October; special meetings are scheduled as necessary. We appreciate the service of the following individuals who are currently serving:

- Catherine Hanzelin, President (Naperville Township)
- Mary Aherne Young, Vice President (Addison Township)
- John Huff (Lisle Township)
- Mary Ann Manna (Winfield Township)
- Paula McGowen (Milton Township)
- Jaye Wang (Downers Grove Township)
- Darlene Ruscitti, Secretary

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Teacher Institute Fund is a restricted fund to support educator licensure and professional development opportunities for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement. (Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/3 -12).

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE (UNAUDITED)

<i>July 1, 2019</i>	<i>\$ 3,371,116.64</i>
Revenue	
Certification	\$ 351,639.00
Interest	\$46,583.78
<i>Total Revenue (+)</i>	<i>\$398,222.78</i>
Expenditures	
Purchased Services	\$32,233.18
Supplies and Materials	\$3,631.22
Capital Outlay	\$10,749.05
Non-Capitalized Outlay / Transfers	\$0.00
<i>Total Expenditures (-)</i>	<i>\$46,613.45</i>

ENDING FUND BALANCE (UNAUDITED)

<i>June 30, 2020</i>	<i>\$3,722,725.97</i>
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DUPAGE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Administrative Team630 407-5800

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti, Regional Superintendent druscitti@dupageroe.org
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Dr. Mike Robey, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Operations..... mrobey@dupageroe.org

Administrative Assistants Team

Ms. Kelly Kozerka, Administrative Assistant, Compliance & Health Life Safety kkozerka@dupageroe.org
Ms. Lori Ladesic, Administrative Assistant, Human Resources/FOIA lladesic@dupageroe.org
Ms. Raquel Wadsworth, Division Assistant, Bus rwadsworth@dupageroe.org

Educator Licensure Team

Ms. Elizabeth Bryers, Licensure Leader ebryers@dupageroe.org

Finance Team

Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Business, CSBO..... jdotson@dupageroe.org
Ms. Bopha Loera, Accounts Payable..... bloera@dupageroe.org

Homeless Liaison

Ms. Heather Britton, McKinney-Vento Student Advocate..... hbritton@dupageroe.org

Parents as Teachers Team

Dr. Vickie Trotter, PAT Director vtrotter@dupageroe.org

Truancy Prevention Team

Mr. Stephen Garlington, Truancy Coordinator..... sgarlington@dupageroe.org
Ms. Angie Tijerina, Senior Staff Assistant..... atijerina@dupageroe.org

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP)/Rebound Team.....630 386-6781

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Safe Schools – Partners for Success Team (PFS).....630 543-4222

Mr. Anthony Crespo, Principal acrespo@dupageroe.org
Ms. Cortney Thomas, Dean cthomas@dupageroe.org
Ms. Jennifer Johnson, School Secretary..... jjohnson@dupageroe.org

Professional Development Team630 407-6080

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Ms. Lori Broncato, Administrative Assistant..... lbroncato@dupageroe.org

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators (TIDE).....630 407-6080

Dr. Kelley Zerfahs, Coordinator..... kzerfahs@dupageroe.org
Ms. Sarah Johnson, Division Assistant..... sjohnson@dupageroe.org