



MARCH 2022
Connection

Regional Office of Education #21

Franklin, Johnson, Massac, Williamson Counties

Safety Support Success



Lorie LeQuatte, Regional Superintendent
Mandy Horn, Assistant Superintendent



Regional Office of Education #21
Serving Franklin, Johnson, Massac,
and Williamson Counties

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Please visit us at
www.roe21.org

ROE #21 District Spotlight!

2022 Southeast Regional Teacher of the Year

Six years after graduating from Herrin High School, Amber George found herself right back where she always intended to be. Amber, a family and consumer sciences teacher at Herrin High School in the Herrin Community Unit School District #4 had fulfilled a goal to replace the very person that had inspired her into education — her child care teacher. Amber is now paying it forward with her own students, especially through the preschool learning lab course she teaches for juniors and seniors. In this course, students learn the proper techniques and processes of running a preschool classroom and then ultimately becoming “student teachers” to these early childhood students.

Amber is inspired by both her students’ growth in creating a positive and productive learning environment for the preschool student and the teamwork that is fostered throughout the course. She hopes some of her students can one day follow that same journey she did back to a classroom.

Amber George is the 2022 Southeast Regional Teacher of the Year and a finalist for Illinois State Teacher of the Year.



Professional Development Summer Institute is back and bigger than ever!

We are excited to announce the ROE #21 Professional Development Summer Institute will be held at John A Logan College on June 8, and 9, 2022. On June 8, 2022, Keynote speaker Chase Mielke will present REIGNITE Avoid Burnout, Increase Outcomes & Love to Learn Education Again. On June 9, 2022, Keynote Speaker Dave Burgess will present Teach Like a Pirate. A variety of breakout sessions will be offered both days on innovative topics within SEL, Special Education, Technology, Instructional Leadership and more! This is a FREE event for all educators! Registration is now open at: <https://forms.gle/71ZHMhYcp9CEXAhU7>



Licensure

Did you know you can see when documents have been uploaded to your ELIS account?

Documents are uploaded in the order they are received and can be viewed on the Images tab in your ELIS account:

<https://apps.isbe.net/iwasnet/login.aspx>.

Update Contact Information in ELIS

Educators without contact information in ELIS will no longer have access to submit an application until they have updated their contact information. This preventative step was put into place to ensure all educators have contact information on file. If you need help updating your contact information please contact ROE #21 at (618) 998-1283.



Registrations now open for the March SUBS FOR SUBS Event!

On March 22, 2022, ROE #21 will host another SUBS FOR SUBS in an effort to help the substitute teacher shortage. During this time individuals will complete their short-term substitute training, get licensed, and complete a background check to join the ROE#21 Sublist. ROE #21 is currently looking for local businesses to partner with for the SUBS FOR SUBS lunch. If you are interested in partnering with ROE 21 please contact our office at (618) 998-1283.



If you would like to sign up to participate in the SUBS FOR SUBS Event visit our website at <https://www.roe21.org/calendar/>

ISBE announces \$2.1 million "Grow Your Own" teachers grant

Education Career Pathway program recruits local students to teaching, especially in rural and low-income areas. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced a \$2.1 million grant for school districts to "Grow Your Own" teachers.

This grant marks the third round of funding for the Education Career Pathway program, which recruits local students to the teaching profession. Applicants will receive priority points for implementing the program in rural or low-income schools. The number of licensed educators employed in Illinois has grown year-over-year since 2018. Illinois has added more than 5,000 teachers to the profession. The state's historic investments in Evidence-Based Funding have provided school districts with the resources they have needed to create more teaching positions and raise teacher pay. ISBE has also focused intently on eliminating barriers to licensure, such as the basic skills test; expanding pathways to licensure for career changers and industry professionals; and recruiting and retaining teacher candidates of color.

Grantees will receive funding for four years to design, implement, and sustain the program. The Request for Proposals is available in the electronic Grants Management System. Proposals are due electronically by 4 p.m. March 14.

Learn more about "Grow Your Own" [HERE](#).



Illinois
State Board of
Education

Upcoming Professional Development & Events

March 8, 2022

Assessment, Response to Intervention (RTI) & Progress Monitoring (Virtual)

March 18, 2022

Thinking Beyond Reward Systems (In Person)

March 22, 2022

Subs for Subs Short-Term Substitute Training (In Person)

April 5, 2022

Subs for Subs Short-Term Substitute Training (In Person)



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



March 5, 2022

Initial Bus Driver Training (In-Person)
Transportation Building
Flora, IL CUSD #35

March 8, 2022

ELDT Theory Training (In Person)
ROE #21 Training Center
Marion, IL

Join With Other Classrooms to Practice Mindfulness Together on



To celebrate [#SELday](#) on Friday, March 11 and to highlight the importance of mindfulness as a foundational SEL practice, we are culminating our Commit to 1% Challenge with a live event showcasing different classrooms from across the US modeling how to integrate mindfulness in schools in a culturally responsive way.

We invite you and your classrooms to join us for one or more practice segments that day. We'll have five 20-minute segments spread out from 9:00am-1:00pm where:

- Leaders in the field will share why committing to 1% is a key to life-long well-being,
- Educators and their students will lead a variety of mindfulness-based SEL practices,
- Classrooms who have joined on Zoom can say hi, introduce themselves, and share how they Commit to 1% if desired.

We'll end the day from 3:30pm-4:00pm with a segment geared to adult SEL that includes restorative and resilience-building practices for educators.

[Join the challenge](#) to get the Zoom link and segment recordings; you'll also be entered to win mindfulness-centered giveaways from our event partners Inner Explorer, [MoveMindfully](#), [Peace of Mind](#), and [JabuMind](#). We also plan to livestream the segments on our [Facebook group](#).

Help us spread the word about our challenge and #SELday event. Don't forget to also sign up at [selday.org](#) and celebrate and advocate for SEL in a special way that day or week at your own school.

Illinois Holocaust Confronting Hate Toolkit

The mission of Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is expressed in our founding principle: Remember the Past, Transform the Future. With that goal in mind, we work to teach current generations to fight hatred, prejudice, indifference, and genocide in today's environment. Through world-class exhibitions, programs, and professional development opportunities, the Museum inspires individuals and organizations with a universal wake-up call to action: Take history to heart. Take a stand for humanity.

Why We Developed the Toolkit

In 2019, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center received a 90% increase in inquiries from schools and individuals looking for support as they grapple with hate incidents. This toolkit is designed to share practical tools and resources that can be used immediately by administrators, educators, and parents who need to address hatred in their community.

Often beginning with words, hatred can accelerate quickly when left unchecked. It is critical that those in positions of influence take these early warning signs seriously and intervene. Illinois Holocaust Museum is a committed resource in helping to build safe, inclusive, and caring communities.

[DOWNLOAD THE CONFRONTING HATE TOOLKIT](#)



All educators in ROE #21 have access to a free professional membership to the Coalition of Schools Educating Mindfully (COSEM) Platform.

This membership includes:

- Professional learning events led by experts on mindfulness based SEL topics.
- Personal development events such as mindfulness fundamentals and wellness series.
- Mentorship events where members share their experiences integrating mindful practices.
- Self-care sessions where members lead yoga and other mindfulness practices.
- School family supports such as mindfulness for parents, teens, and family wellness series.
- An online community to connect and learn about mindfulness-based resources.

Your free membership for the COSEM Platform is funded by the Area VI Social Emotional Learning and Trauma Response Grant.



If you are an educator in ROE #21 and would like to gain access to your free membership, please contact Dr. Christine Wiggs, Area VI SEL Culture & Climate Director, cwiggs@roe21.org.

If you have questions related to the COSEM platform, please contact Tracy Heilers at hello@educatingmindfully.org



Illinois Association of Gifted Children presents Differentiating Reading Instruction for Advanced Learners (K-8) – You’ve Got This!



Date: 3-22-2022 | 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Online | \$30.00

Differentiating Math Instruction: Using Math Conversations to Increase Rigor for Advanced Learners

Are you looking for strategies to differentiate for advanced learners through mathematics discussion? Join this session to explore four impactful strategies to increase rigor by engaging students in math conversations. Session will include strategies to support EL learners in the classroom.

Participants should bring 2-3 upcoming lessons they plan to teach in their classrooms so that they will have the opportunity to implement each of the strategies shared during the session.

Facilitated by Denise Kuchta

Denise Kuchta is the Coordinator for Gifted, as well as the Mathematics Instructional Coach at Queen Bee School District 16, where she re-established the gifted program in 2015-2016. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with students in grades 3-8, specializing in mathematics, gifted education and acceleration for math and English/Language Arts, and special education and interventions.

Denise has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in Mathematics, History, Language arts, and Middle school Teaching from Western Illinois University. She has a Master's Degree in Administrative Leadership and an endorsement in Gifted Education from Aurora University.

March Kids for Conservation®:



Sorting Out Taxonomy Kingdom

The March edition of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic "Sorting Out Taxonomy: Kingdoms." You can learn basic facts about this topic in the information section. Watch the video podcast, too. Educators, there are resources for you to utilize. "Kids in Action" features students who are taking action to benefit the Illinois environment. This edition will be available beginning March 1, 2022, at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx>.

Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards



All seven sets of the Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Education are now available to teachers (grades prekindergarten through 12) in Illinois schools. Make your request in writing on school letterhead and mail to Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Education, 1 Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702. For more information about the trading cards and suggestions for use, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/TradingCards.aspx>.



Do you have job openings?

You can now share employment opportunities on our website at:

<https://www.roe21.org/jobs/>

ROE21
Safety. Support. Success

Join the ROE #21 Team
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