



Connection

January 2023

Lorie LeQuatte Regional Superintendent • Safety Support Success • Mandy Horn Assistant Superintendent



Regional Office of Education #21

Serving Franklin, Johnson,
Massac, and Williamson
Counties

Franklin Co. Office

901 Public Square
Benton, IL. 62812
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F: 618-435-2861

Johnson Co. Office

111 South 5th Street
P.O. Box 96
Vienna, IL. 62995
P: 618-800-3350

Massac Co. Office

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Metropolis, IL. 62960
P: 618-524-3736
F: 618-524-778

Williamson Co. Office

502 West Jackson Street
Marion, IL. 62959
P: 618-998-1283
F: 618-998-9226

ROE #21 HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed 12:00-1:00
for lunch



Visit us at www.roe21.org



Congratulations to our December 2022 Teacher of the month from Williamson County, Mrs. Whitney Houseworth! Mrs. Houseworth is a 1st grade teacher at Northside Primary Center in Herrin. She will receive a gift basket filled with various items donated by several Williamson County businesses as well as an engraved plaque donated by All Stars-N-Stitches of Benton, IL. Mrs. Houseworth's nomination stated that she has great ideas to keep her students motivated to learn. She shares ideas and strategies that help other teachers reach their students as well! She impacts numerous students by going above and beyond. You can find the entire list of Williamson County Nominees [HERE](#). During the month of January, we will spotlight teachers from our Franklin County schools! Click [HERE](#) to nominate a teacher from Franklin County for January's Teacher of the Month. Congrats to Mrs. Houseworth and all who were nominated!



Congratulations to the 2022 ROE #21 Exemplary Schools!

Ewing Northern CCSD 115
Franklin Elementary Massac UD 1
Adams School Marion CUSD 2
Longfellow Elementary Marion CUSD 2
Washington Elementary Marion CUSD 2
Goreville High School Goreville CUSD 1
Carterville High School Carterville CUSD 5



Elevating Special Educators

🎉 *Happy New Year from the IL Elevating Special Educators Network!* 🎉

Our ROE #21 Special Education Cohort has been rolling right along, and we will be meeting virtually this month on *Individual Educational Plans (IEPs)*, *New Special Education Laws*, and *Family Matters*, our family support partner. Our Remote Professional Development (PD) Conversation session on January 10th, is *Co-Teaching: Working as a Team*. We would love for you to join us for this remote one-hour opportunity! To register, please visit www.iesenetwork.org. Illinois Elevating Special Educators (IESE) is debuting two new local supports this month. Our ROE #21 Regional Specialist, Amanda Spannagel, is offering a Paraprofessional Training. If you are a new paraprofessional, or you are an administrator seeking additional support for your paraprofessionals, we hope you will join us! Please watch for information regarding registration through ROE #21. Additionally, we will begin a virtual book study opportunity--*Shifting the Balance*. This text is based on the Science of Reading, and the book study is open for all educators! Registration will be open soon! Across our area, behavior support is a leading request. Watch for details soon as we finalize planning with Lani Lawson to bring her *Teach, Train, Thrive* workshop to ROE #21. We are also excited this month to visit ROE #20 to facilitate a Special Education Roundtable. We love visiting ROEs across our area and reaching out to support all of the people who support our students with IEPs! We hope you will join us soon!



The first semester was such a whirlwind, but we have had one of the best ones yet. We are so fortunate to have the support, collaboration, and working relationships needed for our program to run successfully. Proudly, we celebrated many highlights...including students graduating, an increase in attendance, and a decrease in behaviors (just to name a few). During the spring semester, we will be setting new goals and working hard to achieve them.

*To each and every individual who has contributed to our success,
we thank you!*

Upcoming Events

January 10th
Principal Roundtable

January 11th
Subs for Subs Event

January 16th
OFFICE CLOSED

January 23rd
Paraprofessional Training

January 25th
Instructional Coaching
Cohort #5

January 26th
School Social Worker/
School Counselor
Roundtable

January 30th
Instructional Coaching
Cohort #4

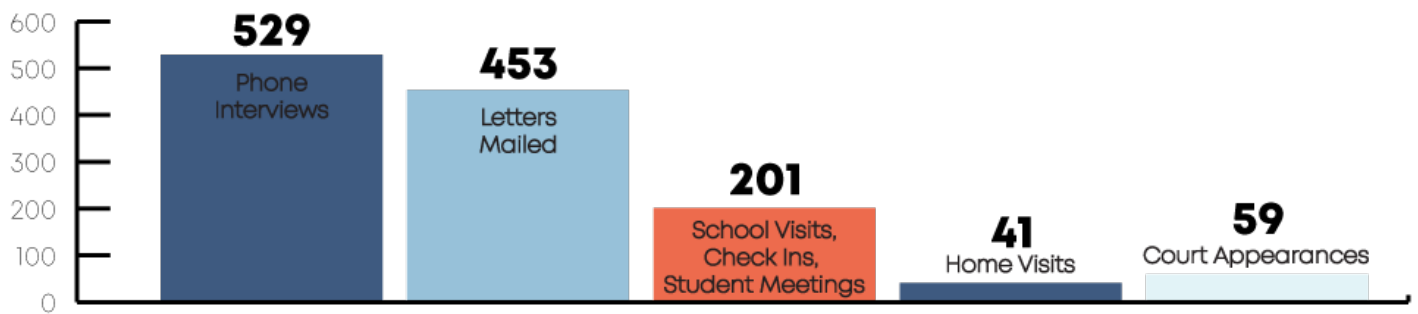
January 30th
Teacher of the Month
Drawing

February 2nd
Special Educator's
Roundtable

PACT: Partners Against Chronic Truancy

To better serve our schools, on December 7th, 2022, the Partners Against Chronic Truancy team conducted a truancy roundtable with Truancy Liaisons within the four counties that we serve.

364 Truancy Referrals this School Year



January is National Hobby Month!

What do you like to do in your spare time? From outdoor activities like swimming or hiking, to artsy projects like painting or knitting, most of us have go-to hobbies. Practicing a hobby can be a beneficial part of your self-care routine as well. Some mental health benefits of practicing a hobby are reduced stress, enhanced well-being, improved social connection, and decreases in depression and anxiety. Hobbies are a relaxing way to spend your spare time and unwind from your daily routine. Whatever your interests are, there is sure to be a hobby out there for you!

McKinney-Vento Homeless

Homelessness is a traumatic experience with long-term consequences, regardless of age, but for those prenatal to age three who are experiencing homelessness, the effects are much greater. Homelessness in infancy has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems. The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll on their health and well-being. In fact, the impacts of homelessness on young children, including on children's school readiness, are long-lasting, even after families are housed.¹ If we are to prevent longer term impacts, it is imperative young children living in a homeless situation have access to high-quality learning programs, where the effects of homelessness can be mitigated. According to Birth to Five Illinois data, 50% of the population under 6 in Region 21 are living below the 200% federal poverty level.² In the ROE #21 area, there are only 2,443 licensed childcare slots available for approximately 9,000 children under the age of 6. These programs have staff who can offer appropriate learning opportunities, identify, and assist broader family needs all of which can curb the effects of homelessness. Staff from ROE #21 McKinney-Vento program and Birth to Five Illinois, in collaboration with district liaisons are currently working on improving outreach, identification, and access to a range of services targeting this fragile population to help understand the prevalence of homelessness in this age range and address the gaps in their access to high-quality early learning programs.

¹ [Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: An Overview](#) (SchoolHouse Connection, 2022)

² <https://www.birthtofiveil.com/data/#region21>

Transitioning Back to the Classroom

As we all know, getting back into the swing of things after a long, comfortable Christmas break can be a challenge, especially for students! Check out these **Tips for Transitioning Back to School From Winter Break** from Responsive Classroom to help facilitate a smooth transition back into the classroom.

1. Plan something to look forward to.

Now is a great time to initiate a service project that includes a high level of student involvement. Fun increases engagement and inspires students to reinvest in their learning. Educators can integrate service activities into the curriculum in a variety of ways. Additionally, learning through service offers students an opportunity to help others while benefiting from the experience.

2. Engage students in personal and/or academic goal setting.

We often associate the start of a new year with resolutions; however, we also know most resolutions will be broken. When we engage students in meaningful goal-setting opportunities and establish small checkpoints along the way, students are more likely to see the value of their effort and work toward obtaining the goal.

3. Provide socialization time.

Students have not seen each other for a couple of weeks. Set aside time for them to reunite and discuss their time apart. Consider a welcome-back activity that gives students an opportunity to share their winter break experience, incorporates movement and choice, and sets the tone for an awesome rest of the year.

4. Revisit favorite activities.

Choosing activities that students enjoyed and were successful with reestablishes their confidence in the classroom. Revisiting a fun activity, game, or song reminds students of enjoyable experiences in the classroom and encourages them to reengage. Favorite energizers, brain breaks, and interactive learning structures make learning interesting and engaging. What are those favorite activities that will ignite your class?

Annual Conference on Teaching Mathematics

A reminder that the annual conference is being held **Thursday, February 16, 2023** at John A. Logan College. We have made good progress in forming the conference program. The main speaker at the Conference Luncheon will be Dr. Alan Zollmann, Professor of Mathematics Education at Indiana University Southeast. He will present "Fixing the Most Common Myth of Learning Mathematics," which will include six research-based ideas on how students best learn--with the three persistence concepts, offered with a dash of humor, all in one run-one sentence. The talk is relevant for teachers at all grade levels, K – 12.

Other speakers are Craig Roberts giving talks on "Representing Equations and Calculations Algebraically and Geometrically" (6-12). Greg Gierhart will have sessions on "The Modern Classroom Project Will Help You Deliver!" and "Yes, Technology at Its best" (K-12). Kelly Wamser Remijan will have sessions on "Transforming Teachers into Teacher Leaders of Mathematics" and "Travel the World with Flags: Using Desmos to Explore Graphing with Equations & Inequalities" (6-12). Nick Koberstein will have sessions on "Reinventing the Graphing Calculator" and "Making Statistics Accessible to All" (9-12). Craig Cullen will speak on "Sine, Cosine, Tangent -> Sine, Secant, Tangent" (11-12). Bob Mann will give a talk on "Minion Mathematics: Make It Fair"(3-10). Erica Larsen, Jamie Brown, and Jessica Zerjal will have a session "Number Sense Routines to Kick Start your Lessons" (K-5). Erica Larsen, Shelly Murphy will have a session "Get Ready to Let Go of the 'Too Little Time' with Decomposing Standards"(K-12). Maura Brueggeman will give a talk on "Changing Math Mindsets & Growing Number Sense" (K-4). Shelly Liefer will have a session on "Songs and Games for Math Skills" (K-5). Heather Melton & Courtney O'Dell will give a talk on "Using Mathigon Tools" (6-8). Jackie Murawska & Holly Nick will have a session on "No More Mimicking: Our Journey with Thinking Tasks" (6-8). Keenan Clark & Jacob Towers will give a talk on "Skills Based Teaching" (6-12). Dr. Erin Sagaskie will have a session on "The Status Quo in High School Mathematics is Unacceptable" (9-12). Josh Lemons will give a speak on "Putting the M in STEM" (6-8). Also giving talks are Annie Forest, William McNeary, Adam Poetzel, Alison Childers, Cheryl Lubinski, Janae McGee, Elissa Miller, Jie-Shi Liew, Ho-Feng Chueh, Kuan-Chun Chen, and many others that cover elementary, middle and high school. The full program will be mailed and on the website in the near future.

Where: Hancock Conference Center at John A. Logan College

When: Thursday, February 16, 2023

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Registration and Continental Breakfast 8 -9 a.m., then three sessions followed by a Hot Lunch and main talk 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.)

Registration: \$85 (On or before Jan. 6) \$95 (After Jan. 6) [Includes all sessions, breakfast, Snacks/beverages during breaks, Hot Lunch, conference folder and other materials]

Register here: <https://dce.siu.edu/wconnect/ace/CourseStatus.awp?&course=23D0901101>.

Professional Development Units: 4.5 CPDUs

It will be good to be back in-person for our conference!