

# ELEVATE NEWSLETTER

el·e·vate /'eləˌvāt /

to raise or lift up to a higher position or more important, impressive level

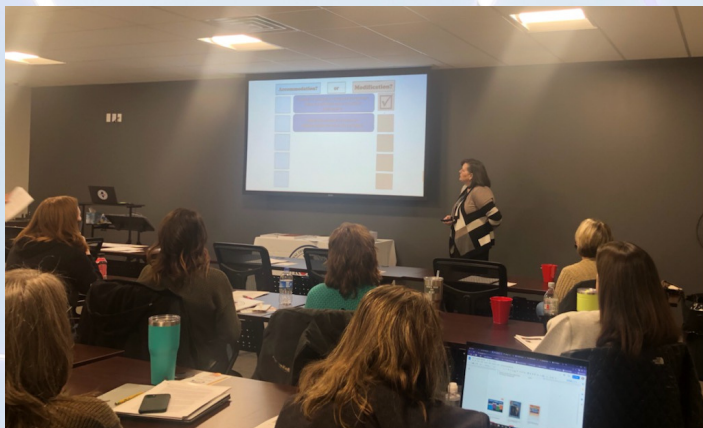


## OUR PURPOSE:

- Recruiting & Retaining High Quality Special Educators
- Building Sustainable, Professional Learning Opportunities for Educators
- Improving Outcomes for Students with Disabilities
- Connecting Families & Educators to Create Powerful Partnerships

## IESE in ACTION!

"Adaptations for All Learners" professional development session was held in Area 5 on January 27th, 2022. PD was presented by Roxanna Alldredge and Pam Walden at ROE #21 in Marion, Illinois. The teachers brought great conversation and collaboration around the topic. Area 5 is repeating the session in other ROE's in the area and school districts.



ILLINOIS ELEVATING  
SPECIAL EDUCATORS  
**NETWORK**

## About Us

The Illinois Elevating Special Educators Network (IESE) project is a statewide system of professional learning funded by IDEA Part D State Personnel Development Grant dollars. In order to meet objectives, the IESE Network has divided the State into five areas that cover Northwest, Northeast, West Central, East Central and Southern Illinois. Program Advisors & Regional Specialists in each area collaborate to design and implement professional learning activities within four key areas of focus, which include: Mentoring, Coaching, Professional Learning & Parent/Family Education.

**CONTACT US: 3358 Big Pine Trail - Champaign, IL 61822 • (217) 893-3219 • [www.iesenetwork.org](http://www.iesenetwork.org)**

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #MY21533. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Jennifer Coffey.



## Monthly Sessions:

### OCTOBER 12TH

Beginning of the Year: Organization & Setting Up Roles

### NOVEMBER 9TH

Co-teaching 101: What They Teach You, and What They Don't

### DECEMBER 14TH

Holidays Aren't Happy for All: SEL Lens

### JANUARY 11TH

Writing the IEP: A Look at Each Section of the IEP

### FEBRUARY 8TH

Partnering with Parents

### MARCH 8TH

Assessment, Response to Intervention (RTI) & Progress Monitoring

### APRIL 12TH

Mediation: How to Mediate School Conflicts & Keep Students Learning

### MAY 10TH

IEPs & the Law

## 2022 Monthly Remote Mentoring Sessions

### February 8th, 2022

#### "Partnering with Parents"

When parents are partners with educators, a relationship of trust and respect can be developed. The educator can work to provide strategies and the parent can collaborate to support those strategies. The best pathway is a pathway where parents are partners. This session will have a panel of parents who will assemble to address how to become a true partner in the educational process.

Visit our website at [www.iesenetwork.org](http://www.iesenetwork.org) for more information and to [register](#).



#### Coffee & Collaboration with ROE #54

Quarterly Meetings on Saturday Mornings

Mission: Exhale frustrations and inhale inspiration through vulnerable conversations and over coffee or your morning adult beverage of choice.

Vision: Supporting one another through REAL relationships, that are solid with others where it becomes easier to positively influence and impact others and doing what is best for the specialized population of students we all work with on a daily basis.

**Saturday, February 5th**  
**8:00am - 9:00am**

[Google Meet Link](#)

#### ROE #54 Special Educators PLC:

**"Goal Writing, Data Collection, PLOP, Accommodations vs. Modifications"**  
(Monday, February 7th / 3:00PM - 4:00PM)

&

**"Effective Communication for Difficult Conversations"**  
(Monday, February 28th / 3:00PM - 4:00PM)

**Location: Hybrid Model (In-Person / Remote)**

#### ROE #54

200 College Ave.  
Danville, IL 61832

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 84792900396 / Passcode: mz7NT6q2  
(US) +1 253-215-8782 / Passcode: 09651153

## February Featured Staff

Each month, we will feature members of the IESE Network team so you can get to know us and become familiar with our faces! We look forward to working with professionals across the State of Illinois!



Roxanna Alldredge, Program Advisor  
(Area 5)



- Emily Brodtko, Regional Specialist  
(Area 2)



- Liza Thomas, Grant Coordinator  
(ROE #9)

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## (Area 1) Special Education Community Cohort

### "Math Intervention: What Strategies Work for Struggling Learners"

Wednesday, February 9th (3:30pm-4:30pm)

[Zoom Link](#)

In this networking session, we will be taking a deep dive into all things MATH! We will be sharing tips and strategies to help students who struggle with grasping concepts in the learning process.

Tips and tricks of the trade will also be shared in this session! Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences.

Contact Kelly Marcum for questions/concerns:

[kmarcum@iesenetwork.org](mailto:kmarcum@iesenetwork.org)

### The IESE Network has.....

- Held over 165 events & meetings since July 2021.
- Established over 25 agreements with school districts, Special Education Cooperatives and Universities across the State of Illinois.
- Averaged 60 participants in the monthly online Remote Mentoring Sessions since its start in October 2021.
- Staff designated in 5 areas of the State of Illinois to assist with special education supports and services. See the statewide service areas [HERE](#).

**DID YOU  
KNOW ?**



## Coordinator's Corner

The IESE Network is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of staff who support students with disabilities through research based professional development. One of our priority topics is [High Leverage Practices in Special Education](#).

Developed by the Council for Exceptional Children and the CEEDAR Center, High-Leverage Practices are 22 essential special education techniques that all K-12 special education teachers should master for use across a variety of classroom contexts. Learn more about these practices in the guidance document High-Leverages Practices in Special Education.

Our team provides professional learning to new and early career educators through trainings, mentoring, and coaching. A very helpful tool we have utilized for teachers to be able to self-assess their implementation of High Leverage Practices is the [High Leverage Practices Self-Assessment Tool](#).

No matter what curricula teachers use, this instructional practice framework supports effective implementation leading to improved outcomes for all students. Take a look at the resources included and contact IESE for further information.

- Liza Thomas, Grant Coordinator

**Professional  
Learning**

**Mentoring**

**Coaching**

**Parent &  
Family  
Education**

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