SUMMER / FALL 2022 Connect. Build. Improve. ISSUE NO.8

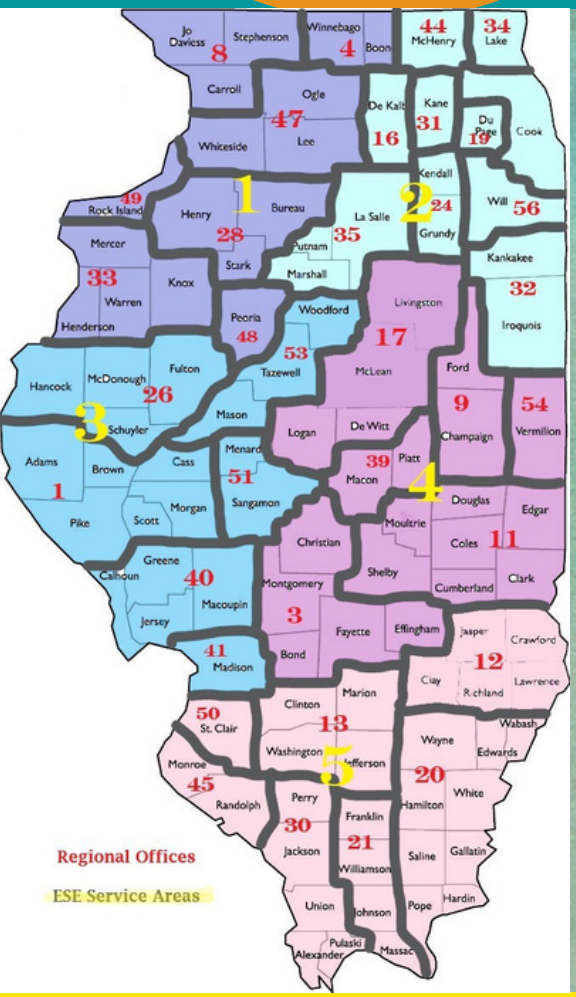
ELEVATE NEWSLETTER

el·e·vate /ˈelə ˌvāt /

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 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

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Meet Our NEW
IESE Grant Coordinator

Stephanie is the NEW Grant Coordinator for the IESE Nework. Stephanie first joined the IESE Network as a Reional Specialist with ROE #11 in Charleston, IL. She served as an IESE Network Regional Specialist for 2021-2022 and joined our team with over 19 years combined experience teaching P-12 students with disabilities and pre-service special education teachers at the university level.

We are excited to have her lead our team and look forward to continuing to serve educators and partners across the state.

Stephanie Woodley

REGISTER HERE

ILLINOIS ELEVATING SPECIAL EDUCATORS NETWORK

Each month, we will feature members of the IESE Network team and/or our partners so you can continue to get to know us and the work we are doing across the State of Illinois. We look forward to continuing to grow and learn in the spotlight with you!

Family Matters
Parent Training & Information Center

ROE9
Champaign - Ford

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 21 • ROE21 • FRANKLIN - JOHNSON - MASSAC - WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

VERMILION COUNTY
REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #54

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 51 • SANGAMON-MENARD

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AREA 1

(Northwest Illinois)

Community of Practice (Cohort) Focus: High Leverage Practices

Teachers: Join us as we explore High Leverage Practices. You will develop an understanding of these practices to benefit diverse learners, explore connections to Danielson Framework, discuss classroom implementation, and engage in future focused problem solving to support current challenges in special education classrooms.

Sept. 14 "What is a High Leverage Practice?"
Oct. 12 HLP: Collaboration
Nov. 9 HLP: Assessment
Dec. 14 HLP: Social/Emotional Behavior Practices I Jan. 11 HLP: Social/Emotional Behavior Practices II Feb 8 HLP: Instruction I
March 8 HLP: Instruction II
April 12 HLP: Wrap-Up

Please join us from 3:30pm-4:30pm on ZOOM

Targeted Improvement to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners

Administrators and teacher teams: Join us as we explore special education data, reflect on current systems & practices, understand evidence-based practices, and consider systems development and refinement through a continuous improvement approach to support diverse learners.

October 4 Setting the Stage
December 6 Setting the Compass
February 7 Crafting the Plan
April 4 Planning for Implementation & Sustainability

Please join us at Sauk Valley Community College 8:30am-2:30pm

ATTENTION ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

ILLINOIS ELEVATING SPECIAL EDUCATORS (IESE) PRESENTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT

Friday, September 30, 2022
Sauk Valley Community College
Registration 8-8:30 Sessions 8:30-3:00

ILLINOIS ELEVATING SPECIAL EDUCATORS NETWORK

IDEAs that Work
Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

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Cost: FREE
Lunch is provided

Register by September 22, 2022

Click HERE to register

Join Illinois Elevating Special Educators Network for an inaugural summit specifically designed to meet the needs of special educators in northern Illinois as we launch the 2022-23 school year. The Summit promises to provide special education professionals opportunities to come together to learn, share, grow, and connect. Summit activities will include a keynote from leading scholar Paula Kluth, author of *Don't We Already Do Inclusion?*. Special educators will also choose sessions specific to their needs, gaining insight into the latest research-based strategies and tips they can apply to supporting students with disabilities in the classroom.

Professional Learning

Mentoring

Coaching

Parent & Family Education

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AREA 2

(Northeast Illinois)

ADMINISTRATOR ACADEMY ON JUNE 27TH, 2022: "PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR SUPPORTING & EVALUATING SPECIAL EDUCATION PERSONNEL (#1894)"

21 administrators attended an IESE hosted Administrator Academy on "Practical Ideas for Supporting and Evaluating Special Education Personnel". Administrators were trained. to analyze student growth, more effectively support special educators through high leverage and evidence-based practices, and help educators develop their own professional learning plan.

DESCRIPTION:
Evaluating and supporting special education staff poses a unique challenge for administrators. The full range of responsibilites of a special educator may not always be reflected in the educator evaluation rubric.

In addition, many practices that are best designed to support the needs of diverse learners may not be familiar to all school administrators.

This academy will provide adminstrators with tools to effectively evaluate educators which should ultimately lead to better student outcomes.

SOUTH COOK ISC 4: SPECIAL EDUCATORS BOOTCAMP

The IESE Network hosted a two-day Early Career Boot Camp for 17 early career special/new to special education educators. Participants attended 8 breakout sessions on topics such as IEPs, behavior, inclusive practices, and collaboration and received resources to help with successful implementation.

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AREA 3

(West-Central Illinois)

"Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)
Rural Residency Summer Symposium"

Western Illinois University (WIU) on July 27th & 28th on Zoom

Jennifer Houch, Area 3 Program Advisor, presented on *"Instructional Strategies & Interventions for Special Education"* where over 25+ particpants attended. Read more on WIU's MAT Program **HERE**.

IESE Network partnered with Family Matters Parent Training & Information Center (PTIC) to share information and partner in providing professional development to families based on what needs were discussed in a Needs Assessment Survey that was sent out to families recently. Feedback has been great and informative.

Welcome, Chris Pennell!

Chris is a Regional Specialist for Area 3. She has experience teaching in general education and special education classrooms, in both the private and public sectors. Before retiring, Chris worked in administration as both a Program Supervisor and a CoOp Special Education Director.

Welcome, Christine Craddock!

Christine is a Regional Specialist for Area 3 / ROE #51. Before joining the IESE network, she spent 25 years as a classroom teacher involved with gifted education, the AVID program at the middle school level, and Social Emotional programs. She is passionate about supporting teachers and students.

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AREA 4

(East-Central Illinois)

Welcome, Ashton Powell!

Ashton is a Regional Specialist for Area 4 / ROE #54. Prior to joining the IESE Network, Ashton taught Special Education at the high school level for 10 years, Ashton's passion lies in building relationships with all students and utilizing trauma informed practices.

Area 4 was extremely busy this summer with teachers, administrators, and support staff. We would like to thank our partnering districts as they have put in countless hours with our IESE Network grant, Program Advisors, and Regional Specialists. Some highlights of the work going on with our partners:

- **Area 4 staff is currently working alongside multiple districts to evaluate induction and mentoring programs as well as address additional duties and expectations of special educators with district-wide programs.**

Developing ELA curriculum maps, committee development, development and kick off to mentoring programs, getting creative to increase retention throughout districts and beyond, supporting new teachers and making sure they also feel supported and welcomed.

INTC: Beginning Teacher Conference

The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC): Beginning Teacher Conference was held on June 21-22, 2022, and centered around "Building Community: Navigating with Resilience, Relationships, and Reflection".

Over the two days, participants had opportunities to attend breakout sessions, featured speakers, roundtable discussions, and networking opportunities which will help them create more effective and supportive learning environments for students in PreK-12 settings. Participants included pre-service and beginning teachers from across the state.

Melinda Miethe, Area 4 Program Advisor, spoke at the INTC Conference was also able to share resources with new teachers.

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AREA 5

(Southern Illinois)

ROE #20 Teacher Bootcamp

On July 15, 2022, ROE #20 in cooperation with the IESE Network, offered a 1-day Teacher Bootcamp that provided tips, tools and tricks for regular and special education teachers to help pave the way for a great school year. Strategies were presented from Dr. Harry & Rosemary Wongs book titled "The First Days of School: How to Be An Effective Teacher."

ROE #21 Teacher Bootcamp

On July 28 & 29, 2022, ROE #21 in cooperation with the IESE Network, offered a 2-day Teacher Bootcamp that provided tips, tools and tricks for regular and special education teachers to help pave the way for a great school year. Strategies were presented from Dr. Harry & Rosemary Wongs book titled "The First Days of School: How to Be An Effective Teacher."

Staff Spotlight

Welcome, Amanda Spannagel!

Amanda is a *Regional Specialist* for Area 5 / ROE #21. Before joining the IESE Network, she spent 17 years as a classroom teacher, ESL Coordinator, MTSS Coordinator & Post- Secondary Readiness Coordinator. She is passionate about preparing all students for a successful future.

UPCOMING:

Special Eduction Roundtable: REGISTER HERE

Thursday, November 3rd | 1:00 – 3:00 pm

- Opportunity to network and collaborate with other Special Education Teachers in your region!
- Conversations around high interest topics and shared resources.
- PDH Credit Available
- Download Flyer HERE

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