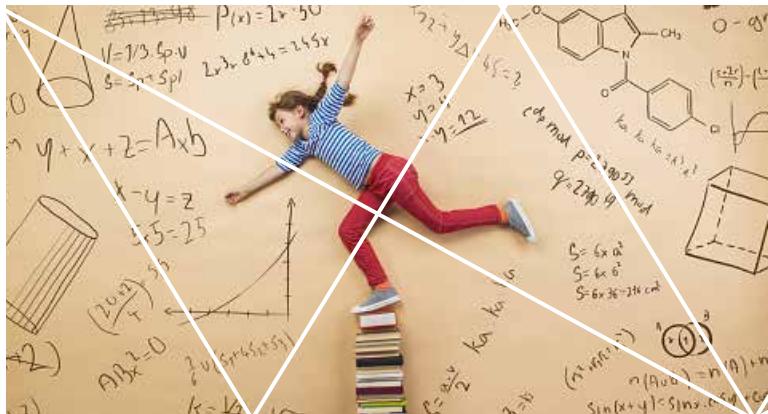




DuPage Regional Office of
EDUCATION
Excellence in Education

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent of Schools

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 2018



“Our goal remains the same: to provide the necessary support to ensure that our students receive the best possible education from cradle to career.”

—Dr. Darlene Ruscitti



“This note is just a quick appreciation for your role in securing an awesome grant opportunity for many districts in DuPage County.”

—Itasca School District 10

Dear Dr. Ruscitti,

“I appreciate your willingness to serve on the DuPage Heroin-Opioid Prevention Education (HOPE) Taskforce. Thank you for your commitment to the County’s efforts to combat heroin and opioid abuse. We look forward to your support in the upcoming years as we continue to expand and coordinate our efforts.”

—Dan Cronin, DuPage County Chairman, January 2018

“THE DUPAGE COUNTY ROE IS ONE OF THE BEST, IF NOT THE BEST IN THE STATE, AND ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC, MOST CREATIVE, MOST DEDICATED OF ANY WE HAVE COME TO KNOW.”

—ILLINOIS SCHOOL NEWS SERVICE NEWSLETTER



Dear DuPage County Education Stakeholders,

I am proud to present the DuPage Regional Office of Education’s 2018 Annual Report. This report provides insight on how the ROE supported education stakeholders during the 2017 – 2018 school year. Our goal remains the same: to provide the necessary support to ensure that our students receive the best possible education from cradle to career.

This year, unlike no other, demonstrated the need for additional resources to support the safety and social emotional health of our students. In March, my office conducted focus groups to discuss school safety and address the necessary protocols to ensure our students and educators continue to have a safe place to learn and work. Overall, participants (which included school administrators, teachers, counselors, student resource officers, parents and students) felt that safety and security was a top priority in their districts and proper precautions were in place. We dug deep and a key recommendation was the need for more safety practice drills throughout the school year.

Under the direction of the DuPage ROE, the DuPage Safety Task Force (established in 1999 after the Columbine tragedy) met in May to address recommendations from the focus groups and to assure that school safety continues to be at the forefront of our work. The resounding thread, in addition to more training, was the importance of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and the mental health needs of our students. Recognizing that SEL is critical to the whole child’s development, the DuPage ROE will partner with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to address additional professional development and support services for DuPage educators.

We continue to collaborate and participate in cost sharing efforts to bring the necessary resources to DuPage County while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. We continue to focus on reducing redundancies, sharing resources, increasing resources, creating more meaningful partnerships and advocating collectively to address issues facing our schools.

In addition, the DuPage ROE is diligent in its grant writing efforts and was awarded the following grants this year: 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).

The DuPage County ROE had the honor to be selected to attend RISE, a bipartisan conference assessing the American Education landscape. The event brought together key leaders in education, policy, business and technology and explored the future of education in the United States. It was an honor to have DuPage and Illinois represented as we look to the future of public education.

This year also involved a move for us. We are thankful for the support of the DuPage County Board for providing the space for our new Center for Professional Development in Wheaton, IL.

Sincerely,

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent of Schools

Equity AND Excellence:

It takes the entire village to ensure all students are provided 21st century skills

In the past two decades the demographics of DuPage County have changed dramatically. Our residents represent an increasingly greater number of nationalities, races, cultures, languages and religious beliefs. DuPage is not unique in the changes it is experiencing. The makeup of the U.S. population has seen significant demographic shifts and, as educators, we see the evidence of these changes in today's classroom.

Last year, the ROE brought together DuPage educators from diverse backgrounds to develop an Equity and Excellence plan to address the changing needs of our student population. The group developed the following goals that will be addressed over the next three years.

DuPage ROE Holds Focus Groups to Discuss School Safety

Last spring, the DuPage ROE conducted eight focus groups that included 320 school administrators, teachers, deans, counselors, school resource officers, high school students, community members and parents to discuss mental health and safety issues in DuPage County schools.

These focus groups confirmed that while school security and safety are priorities, there was consensus for the need to build stronger relationships with isolated students, strengthen Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), increase mental health supports and help youth with stress reduction and work with parents.

The focus group data was brought to the DuPage County School Safety Task Force which was formed in 1999, shortly after the tragedy at Columbine. The Safety Task Force, comprised of school, police, fire, homeland security, FBI and government representatives, meets every two years and makes recommendations based on current data and best practices.

CONTENTS

Equity AND Excellence	3	Parents as Teachers (PAT).....	7	Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators (TIDE)	10	DuPage English Language Learners (DELL)	13
DuPage ROE Holds Focus Groups on School Safety.....	3	Grant Awards	8	CASEL/DuPage Regional Office of Education Affiliated Districts Partnership	10	Health/Life Safety and Compliance	13
Regional Safe Schools.....	4	The Regional Board of School Trustees.....	8	Administrators' Academy	10	Fiscal Responsibility Teacher Institute Fund	14
DuPage Alternative Learning Opportunities Program	5	Licensure & Relicensure.....	8	Learning Technology Center	11	Regional Office of Education Activity Measures	14
General Education Development (GED).....	5	Bus Driver Training	9	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	12	DuPage Regional Office of Education Directory	15
Truancy Services	5	Foundational Services Grant Programs.....	9	Gifted Education.....	12	2018 Spelling Bee	16
Rebound, A Suspension Intervention Program	6	Professional Development on New Illinois Arts Learning Standards	9	Climate and Culture.....	13		
McKinney-Vento Act Homelessness Programming	6	Substitute Teacher Workshop	9	DuPage County Curriculum Directors (DCCD)	13		

The goals of the Equity and Excellence Action Plan is to implement the objectives in a coordinate effort with its strategies so that DuPage County school districts will:

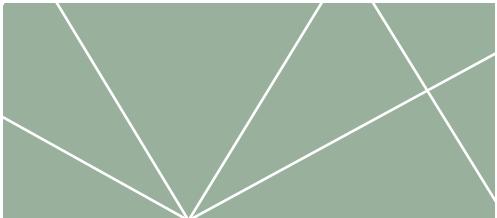
- Increase their number of minority teachers and administrators.
- Build capacity among mainstream teachers and administrators to successfully increase the academic achievement of students from diverse backgrounds; and,
- Provide students and parents from diverse backgrounds the knowledge and skills to successfully navigate the American Educational System.

DuPage ROE Holds Focus Groups to Discuss School Safety

Based on data collected from the focus groups, the Safety Task Force made the following recommendations:

- Develop a model policy for every school (public and private) to use as a best practice/guide to be used with current safety plans.
- Provide Behavioral Threat Assessment training.
- The need for additional mental health training.

Work focused on developing a model policy and providing Behavioral Threat Assessment is well underway in DuPage County. To address the need for additional mental health training, the DuPage ROE applied for and received a three-year \$400,000 Students Teachers Officers Preventing (STOP) grant by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). As a condition of the grant award, the county will provide matching funding of \$133,000. Work on this project will begin with the 2018 – 2019 school year.



Students took a tour of Wrigley Field and learned about job opportunities and career paths offered at sports arenas.

Regional Safe Schools Cooperative Education Program (RSSCEP) Grant

The RSSCEP grant provides students with Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework and field experiences, soft skills development, job placement and supports.

2017 – 2018 Statistics:

- Number of employment applications completed with RSSCEP assistance: 52
- Number of interviews as a result: 25
- Number of students who gained employment and were supported with RSSCEP assistance: 29



The Chicago Ninja Warrior Academy: students worked on team building, pushing personal limits and verbalizing encouragement to peers.

Regional Safe Schools

Partners for Success (PFS) is an alternative school setting offered by the ROE in lieu of expulsion or for multiple suspensions for middle and high school students.

In 2017-18, 92 students were served at Partners for Success

During the 2017 – 2018 academic year, the Partners for Success (PFS) staff completed Mental Health First Aid Certification training. They also began training on understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) plus identification and implementation of trauma-informed practices across the continuum. By integrating these practices with social-emotional learning standards, students are provided the connectors needed to be more in balance and thus able to learn more fully.

Increasing students' ability to successfully regulate emotions, thoughts and behaviors is enhanced by weekly social work services and incorporating the International Institute for Restorative Practices question set: "What happened?; What were you thinking at the time?; What have you thought about since?; Who has been affected by what you have done?; In what ways? and; What do you think you need to do to make things right?" In addition, identified students work through Washington

Aggression Interruption Training (WAIT) and Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS) facilitated by Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS) clinicians.

PFS students' service learning was enhanced by volunteering at Feed My Starving Children where they were able to pack 29,808 meals for needy children. Healthy Kids Week was observed with cross-curricular lessons, and physical and social emotional activities. Milestones of goal achievement, academic growth and service is regularly recognized with students and families.

PFS students complete coursework, attain credits and learn enhanced social emotional skills contributing to their successful return to the sending school. Along the way via the focused smaller learning environment, students may have discovered untapped leadership potential, future school or career pathways, self-management techniques and the power of positive connections with others.

DuPage Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP)

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. Referrals to ALOP DuPage are made through the student's home school. Each student receives an individualized success plan with strong social-emotional skill support. ALOP DuPage served 57 students, 35 students completed the GED/HSE, four students partially completed the GED and four students returned this fall to complete the GED.

Student profiles include:

- The need for alternative setting to support academic and social
 - emotional skills – short term
 - transitional – “Launch,” or
- Upperclassmen who are credit deficient and require an alternative

setting to successfully complete graduation requirements, or

- Mathematically unable to earn required credits for graduation, or
- Personal/life circumstances that impact diploma completion.

ALOP DuPage student:

“ALOP was an amazing experience for me. It’s a place where you feel welcomed and totally comfortable to ask questions if needed. Everyone is friendly and respectful when it comes to your individual progression in the program. My favorite part of the program was the teachers and staff. You’re in a smaller setting, so I found I received more one-on-one help to better understand certain things. Overall, ALOP is a great program open to people striving for the same success.”

General Education Development (GED)

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 Certificate. For the time period of July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018:

- 732 individuals participated in GED testing
- 330 Individuals passed all four sections of test
- 297 individuals passed all parts with Constitution
- 558 official documents were requested

A total of 1,162 duplicate/transcript/certificate/verification requests were made via fax.

Truancy Services

The DuPage 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.

For the second year, students struggling with attendance issues were recommended for the Attendance Intervention Mentoring (AIM) Group. The program was facilitated in elementary and middle schools utilizing the Why Try curriculum to provide extra support to improve overall school success. The department also piloted Active Parenting sessions for healthy parenting skills.

The DuPage ROE Truancy Department completed the 2017 – 2018 school year with 339 active/open cases.

Services provided by Behavior Interventionists:

- Monitoring – 340
- Academic Counseling – 213
- Referrals for Social/Academic Services – 131
- Personal Counseling – 126
- Home Visits – 96
- Court cases – 30

Truancy Department Updates for 2017-18

- Trained all staff in Mental Health First Aid Certification
- Converted to a Professional Learning Community model
- Launched design of Student Information System weekly sharing for current grades and attendance with a Google automated send
- Maintained an ongoing staff training log

- Introduced individual monthly reflective processing sessions
- Increased strategic use of, and number of, administrative hearings
- Streamlined the Individualized Optional Education Plan (IOEP) format
- Received donation to support program incentives
- Implemented home visitor identification wear
- Rolled out Active Parenting Education series
- Submitted quarterly GATA (Grant Accountability and Transparency Act) data
- Hosted professional development workshop “How to Identify and Design Intervention Plans to Address School Anxiety and Refusal” presented by Dr. Patrick McGrath. The workshop was attended by over 100 educators.

Rebound, A Suspension Intervention Program



In response to SB 100, ‘students who are suspended out-of-school for longer than four school days must be provided appropriate and available support services during the period of their suspension’ (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 b-25), DuPage school administrators and DuPage Regional Office of Education administrators designed a suspension intervention program for students in grades 6-12.

Rebound supports students with academic continuity while promoting restorative practices, teaching conflict resolution and strengthening social emotional skills. Students benefit from a satellite site as it places distance between potential triggers that exacerbate impulsivity, anxiety and/or aggression while the student explores, reflects and works on the needed self-regulation and prosocial skills to successfully

return to their school setting. A total of 21 students were served by the Rebound program during the 2017 – 2018 school year.

Quotes from Rebound students:

“I want to learn how to not let everything get to me and not to react so quickly.”

“I’ve started to learn more about my values in life and how with one false move your world can turn upside down.”

“I am a respectful young man who is trying to make up for a bad choice I made.”

“I need to think before I act and surround myself with successful people.”

McKinney-Vento Act Homelessness Programming

*It is our hope that no child or person should ever be homeless.
But as long as this issue exists, we will do everything in our power to protect and equip students for a brighter tomorrow.*



The Regional Office of Education employs a McKinney-Vento Advocate, funded through federal McKinney-Vento grant dollars. 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 the 2005-2006 school year. At that time there were 269 homeless students identified and served in the county. In the 2017-2018 school year there were 1,872 pre-K through 12th grade homeless students identified by DuPage County Schools.

Over \$25,000 was earmarked in the grant to provide services such as tutoring and after-school programming, giving homeless students a hand-up as they strive for a better future.

The following is a true story of one of the Advocate’s encounters in offering supports to a struggling family:

After escaping a very violent home situation resulting in criminal charges, a mother and her daughter found themselves homeless in a new state. After a very fruitful meeting with DuPage ROE staff where needs and resources were shared, the following email was received,

“Thank you again for all the information. Finally feels like I may start to see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

This is one of the best parts of what we do. By our shedding light on available assistance, families can begin to rebuild and have hope for a brighter future.

Through Parents as Teachers, families receive regular home visits that include: parenting education and support, health and developmental screenings and research-based information.



Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Parents as Teachers is an internationally recognized evidence and research-based home visiting program designed to support parents as their child's first and best teacher. The overall goal of the program is to support families and improve kindergarten readiness in young children. The DuPage ROE program follows the essential requirements of the model, which provides expectations for program design, infrastructure, service delivery and represents best practices in the field.

Program efforts support families facing many challenges by providing:

- **increased connection to community resources**
- **early identification of developmental delays that often go undiagnosed**
- **support navigating the early childhood system and a smoother transition to preschool**

Through the DuPage ROE PAT program, families receive regular home visits that provide:

- parenting education and support that helps parents be the best parents they can be,
- health and developmental screenings that help to celebrate a child's milestones and identify and address developmental delays that often go undiagnosed,
- connection to community resources, and
- support in navigating the early childhood system and supporting a smoother transition to preschool programs.

In addition, all families are invited to participate in monthly Group Connections. Group Connections offer families an

opportunity to build social connections with each other, engage in parent child interaction, and increase their knowledge of ways to support the development of their child.

Overall, the PAT program ensures families have the support and resources children need to be safe, healthy and eager to learn.

This year was an exciting and busy one for the DuPage ROE PAT program. In the 2017-2018 year, the program provided in-home parenting support focused on school readiness to 98 at-risk families. Of those:

- 88% were low income
- 57% were uninsured or underinsured
- 47% were low education
- 11% were homeless
- 10% were teen parents

Results from parent feedback surveys submitted in FY17 show:

100% of families agree or strongly agree that they know how to show their child love, physical closeness and positive feelings.

100% of families agree or strongly agree that this program has helped them become a better parent.

During the 2017-2018 program year, the PAT program offered a total of 22 Group Connection events: 13 community groups and 9 high school Group Connections for teen parents. A cumulative attendance of 324 individuals (parents and children) were in attendance throughout the program year. Topics ranged from literacy, health and wellness, self-care, fire safety and CPR, health and nutrition, and community resources.

Grant Awards

The U.S. Department of Education awarded nearly \$17 million dollars to Illinois State University and the DuPage Regional Office of Education, which serve as the two fiscal agents, overseeing these two grants dedicated to increasing principal effectiveness in areas that lead to increases in student achievement. The monies extend over a five-year period for the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant and three years for the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant.

Thirteen DuPage school districts were selected by the American Institutes of Research (AIR) for this national study on principal leadership effectiveness. They are Bensenville SD2, Itasca SD10,

Medinah SD11, Marquardt SD15, Queen Bee SD16, Keeneyville SD20, Glen Ellyn SD41, Maercker SD60, DuPage SD88, Carol Stream SD93, Fenton SD100, Wheaton-Warrenville SD200, and Elmhurst SD205.

Fifty principals from the 13 districts are participating in this ground-breaking federal research study.

The project goals include supporting effective principals to: 1) increase time spent on instructional improvements; 2) improve instructional quality by engaging teachers in an on-going change process; and 3) positively impact student learning particularly with high-need students.

The 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; 2017 continued the Midwest Club Petition 2017PDA01 and 2018 started the Mack Road Petition 2018PDA01.

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 regularly held quarterly in January, April, July and October; special meetings are scheduled as necessary.

Licensure & Relicensure

The ROE is a local office, easily accessed by its constituents. It provides service and answers and research licensure issues for applicants. It also cuts through bureaucratic red tape and has direct access to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in Springfield.

Almost 38,500 people accessed ROE certification services in 2017-2018.

The office staff:

- responded to 14,872 phone calls, 14,771 emails, 3,156 walk-in customers
- fingerprinted 2,073 applicants for employment
- welcomed and supported 18 new National Board Certified Teachers
- supported work with the National Board courses
- assisted 11,146 educators with the renewal of their licenses

Customer service continues to be our #1 priority.

Some June Customer Service comments:

“Went way over and above in helping me resolve my issue. I would probably not have even known about the law change as I had given up on resolving my certification. The fact that she remembered the conversation and then also followed through to help me is admirable. I am grateful to her for her help.”

“I came with a friend who had spent hours online for licensure renewal and we both agreed that it was worth the trip to the ROE. Thank you again for the wonderful treatment I received.”

“I work in customer service currently and her assistance went above and beyond the call of duty.”

“The Customer Service Rep that I spoke with, was most helpful and professional in communicating my concerns to ISBE. Outstanding customer service.”



Bus Driver Training

The DuPage Regional Office of Education offers the required 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 4,365 individuals registered for bus classes from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018
- Initial Bus Driver Course Registered – 1,663
- Refresher Bus Drivers Registered – 2,702
-

In DuPage County

- Bus certification renewals – 2,384
- Drivers that received initial certificate – 1,228

Foundational Services Grant Programs

State-funded Foundational Services grant funds were used to provide high quality professional development at low or no cost in a variety of topics, ranging from assessment to trauma. Through this program, the DuPage Regional Office of Education directed the Foundational Services funding to provide learning opportunities to nearly 1,050 educators in 26 districts throughout DuPage County in the 2017-18 school year. Over 40 professional development opportunities were funded through the Foundational Services grant.

Professional Development on New Illinois Arts Learning Standards

The DuPage Regional Office of Education provided professional development in the Arts to approximately 200 registrants over three sessions in the areas of Visual Arts, Music and Drama. With the understanding that the Arts are vital to a well-rounded education, sessions focused on exploration of the new Illinois Arts Learning Standards recognizing alignment with current curriculum structures and exploration of inquiry models. Participants were provided time to develop, design or refine local curriculum with support of content experts as well as begin the exploration of performance assessments.

“Thank you for supporting the Arts!” – Board of Education member



Substitute Teacher Workshop

To increase the pool of substitute teachers for DuPage County schools, the ROE hosted a workshop entitled, “Why Not Become a Substitute Teacher?” in the fall of 2017.

The workshop led over 90 attendees through the steps required to become a substitute teacher, allowed time for questions and assisted those interested in completing an online application utilizing the Educator Licensure Information System. ROE staff members presented along with school leaders from DuPage County.

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



A workshop, held in the fall of 2017, brought over 90 people together to learn about the steps required to be a substitute teacher in Illinois.

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators (TIDE)

Teacher In-Service for DuPage Educators (TIDE) provides quality university coursework at below-market costs to licensed DuPage County educators. During the 2017-18 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 76 graduate courses serving 917 teachers from July 11, 2017 through June 30, 2018
- collaborated with multiple DuPage County school districts to offer on-site endorsement-linked courses to their staffs

- partnered with five local universities to deliver a selection of cost-effective endorsement programs
- TIDE and its university partners offered courses in reading endorsement, special education endorsement, Director of Special Education endorsement and instructional technology endorsement courses, in addition to five district sites for the ESL endorsement program.

In 2018-19, TIDE staff will continue to investigate opportunities for DuPage and area educators to develop their professional capacities.

CASEL/DuPage Regional Office of Education Affiliated Districts Partnership

For the past eight years the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)/ DuPage ROE partnership has supported systemic implementation of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in 21 DuPage districts and one therapeutic day school that include 169 schools with 7,438 certified staff serving over 107,000 students. Though each district has tailored their program to meet their needs, some common elements shared among the districts include:

- a commitment by district leadership to support the implementation process
- participation in the SEL network to

learn, share resources and improve practice

- creation of a leadership team that has attended an SEL/CASEL training and has the capacity to lead the implementation process at the building level
- a commitment to enhancing adult SEL competencies to foster relationships among staff and students, and ensure a safe, caring learning environment
- using the CDI rubric to monitor the SEL implementation process annually
- demonstrating social and emotional learning implementation as a

school improvement strategy that supports closing achievement gaps using traditional metrics, such as collecting discipline office referral data, attendance data, graduation rates, and academic growth as data points, to measure the quality of program implementation and skill development.

The Partnership supports partnering DuPage districts by providing resources, coaching and creating opportunities to share success stories and implementations. More information about the partnership and individual district SEL work can be found at (<http://dupagesel.org>).

Administrators' Academy

The DuPage Regional Office of Education conducts Administrator Academies throughout the academic year in a variety of areas covering a multitude of topics. Some of the topics that were delivered during the 2017-18 school year include Homelessness, SEL, Climate and Culture, Crisis Management and Planning,

Evaluation, Assessment, Leadership and Parenting.

Much of the focus has revolved around teacher and principal evaluation training. Superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals and department chairs, have participated in this type of academy, referred to as

“Retraining” academies. Thirty-five academies have been delivered in schools and school districts over the last school year. Another 35 administrator academies with 368 participants were delivered at the Center for Professional Learning in Wheaton.

Learning Technology Center

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

Technology Coordinators

The ROE conducts monthly meetings of technology coordinators for all DuPage County school districts and other learning agencies. Based on input from coordinators, the format of these meetings is designed to focus on providing a shared learning environment as an opportunity for the coordinators to network regarding various issues of current and future interest to them. Host school districts for meetings this year included Community High School District 99, DuPage High School District 88, Wood Dale

School District 7, Addison School District 4, Maercker District 60, and Woodridge School District 68.



Technology Facilitators Group

The DuPage ROE also coordinates multiple sessions for DuPage technology facilitators/coaches/integration specialists. These sessions focus on learning with technology by sharing strategies and tools with district staff who support learning technologies in the classroom on a daily basis. Two sessions this year focused solely on digital citizenship. Each of these sessions was hosted by a DuPage school district whose staff led discussion regarding strategies, tools, and implementations relative to their district experiences. Sessions this past year were hosted by DuPage High School District 88, Indian Prairie School District 204, Community High School District 99, Itasca School District 10, and Lake Park Community High School District 108.

Common Core Assessments

One of the roles of the ROE is to support districts in their technology preparations for the common core assessments by serving as a communication link between ISBE and DuPage school district technology coordinators. In addition to sharing test-relevant information, Illinois Assessment Update webinars

are reviewed for technology specific information to share with districts.

SMART MAP-E

The ROE coordinates the SMART Major Account Program for DuPage County. This program provides reduced pricing on interactive whiteboards, interactive flat panels, and other products from SMART Technologies and is open to all public school districts in the county. On November 14, 2017 the ROE hosted a “SMART Technology Solutions” showcase to share information regarding the newest SMART products available. The SMART Executive Briefing on December 12, 2017 was also supported by the ROE.

Twitter Workshops

The ROE conducted an advanced use of Twitter workshop for 30 DuPage County educators on March 2 as part of the county-wide institute day. Then again on March 19 a morning and an afternoon session of advanced Twitter use was held for ROE employees, 10 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon. All three of these sessions were held at the ROE facility.

Coding

The ROE collaborated with the Illinois Learning Technology Center to offer “Teach the Future: K-5 Computer Science Fundamentals.” This all-day workshop was led by Michele Roberts of Code.org. On December 1 the ROE led a demonstration on the teaching of coding for second grade students and staff at Heritage Lakes School in Community School District 93.

Transition to Gmail/G-Suite

The instructional technology team supported the ROE’s transition to Gmail through support at the transition preparation sessions and via one-to-one support. Additionally, professional development sessions were offered for transitioning to Gmail and for using Google Drive and Docs.

Other Professional Development

Throughout the year a total of 22 technology-related professional development sessions were supported, serving almost 300 participants. Additionally, the ROE maintains a shared folder for the DuPage Technology Coordinators to allow for their professional sharing and learning to continue. A listserv is also supported for the Technology Coordinators, and another is supported for Technology Facilitators.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

STEM is the integrated application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. First introduced in 2001, the four subject areas are combined into a single, interconnected discipline. In 2017 – 2018, the DuPage ROE STEM Team provided a wide variety of programming for students, parents and teachers.

- Over 400 educators attended science, math and STEM related workshops, representing more than 40 schools, districts or educational institutions. Workshops were held throughout the year and on the County Institute Day, some of which were attended by educators from outside DuPage County. Topics included coding, engineering, NGSS, STEM, STEM careers and how toys related to teaching STEM as well as an amazing outing at Fermilab.
- ExSTEMaganza, an event for middle school students and their parents, was held in the fall and resulted from a partnership with Indian Prairie Public Library and Gower School District 62. The 70+ attendees participated in design activities and engaged in a conversation with several STEM professionals.
- Eighteen after-school STEM workshops for students were held at nine different DuPage middle schools. In total, the workshops involved nearly 500 students in STEM-related activities.
- In December, 50 female middle school students, their guests, and several teachers attended Pathways to STEM, the annual STEM career exploration event at the Rice Campus of Illinois Institute of Technology in Wheaton. AAUW volunteers assisted at the event.
- The STEM team supported the IIT Engineers Week Event at the Wheaton campus by sponsoring a STEM activity room on February 24, 2018.



Service providers from the DuPage ROE bring STEM activities to middle schoolers during after school workshops.

- The seventh-grade career fair sponsored by Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) in April 2018 supported by the ROE STEM Team by providing welcome bags to the nearly 1,200 students in attendance.
- The STEM Team partnered with AAUW to provide STEM gift bags at the Tech Savvy event held in April 2018. The event was attended by nearly 200 female middle school students.
- The STEM Team published eight newsletters and continued to update the STEM website (stemdupage.com) and also made presentations to the DuPage County Board on Pi Day and to several school and community groups throughout the year.
- A group of 30 DuPage elementary school educators completed a two-year program funded through a \$500,000 grant. Participants focused on building their content knowledge, expanding their repertoire of instructional strategies, understanding the elements common to math, science and ELA practices, as well as using the lesson study process to build highly collaborative and effective teaching teams.



Countywide Institute Day - Gifted Education Camp

Countywide Institute Day – Gifted Education Ed Camp

“The information shared today directly relates to what I do every day in my classroom. This was a fantastic way to discuss issues that are taking place as well as teach each other new ideas.”

“I love the set-up of allowing the teachers to create the content for the day.”

Gifted Education Seminar:

“This has been the one class that I think I got the most new information from... I have changed many of my philosophies and actions.”

Gifted Education

2017-18: Gifted Services Snapshot

During the 2017 – 2018 school year, the DuPage ROE held a variety of network meetings, workshops and seminars to support educators who teach high ability students.

Three network meetings were held and focused on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Gifted/Talented Learners, Differentiating English Language Arts for Advanced Learners, and Creative Thinking Skills for the Gifted Classroom. A total of 102 individuals participated in the networks.

“This was a well-run professional development session. I appreciated the time to network as well as the time that was given to professionals from area districts to share what they are doing.”

Workshops held included Academic Acceleration with a total of 56 attendees during two offerings, Gifted Education Ed Camp with 50 attendees during County-Wide Institute Day, and a five session Gifted Education seminar that included online and site based learning with 98 individuals participating.

Climate and Culture

The Regional Office of Education provides ongoing professional development for schools and districts in the area of Climate and Culture. It is intended to promote the success of all students by advocating, nurturing and sustaining a school culture and instructional program that enhances student learning. The ROE's professional development incorporates several critical areas that impact school culture including Social Emotional Learning.



Equity, Family and Community Engagement, School Safety, Bullying Prevention, Restorative Justice, Culturally Relevant Teaching, and Classroom Environment. Delivery approaches include personalized sessions, ongoing consultation with schools/districts and various network meetings providing an opportunity for collaboration amongst districts.

DuPage County Curriculum Directors (DCCD)

PURPOSE OF DCCD: DCCD is committed to excellence in education for all children of DuPage County through professional growth, best practices, networking and sharing, advocacy/statewide influence, and flexibility.

With just over 150 members representing the DuPage School Districts and surrounding areas, the group hosts five meetings per year planned by the leadership committee and based on the needs of the group.

DuPage English Language Learners (DELL)

Purpose of DELL: DELL is committed to equitable access to language support services for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds identified as English Language Learners. Members share best practices on leadership, advocacy and support for language learning and stay up-to-date on state initiatives.

This group has approximately 90 members representing DuPage School Districts and surrounding areas, and hosts five meetings per year planned by the leadership committee and based on the needs of the group.

Health/Life Safety and Compliance

School Construction

The Regional Office of Education 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 handling by the architect and the school district.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the ROE reviewed and issued:

- Seven building addition permits
- Two new building construction permit
- 136 major and miscellaneous renovation permits
- 145 total building permits

Health/Life Safety Protocols

As specified in Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/2-3-12, each public-school building in DuPage County must be inspected to verify the adequacy and efficiency of each facility. ROE staff verify that districts are maintaining their buildings in compliance with these state standards.

During the 2017-2018 school year:

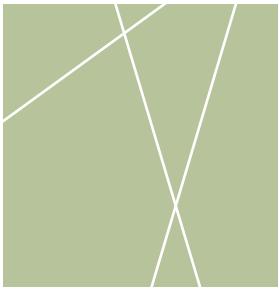
- 276 buildings were inspected
- 382 violations were found and corrected

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 2017-2018 school year, 11 districts were reviewed:

- Seven elementary/middle school districts
- Three high school districts
- One unit school district



Fiscal Responsibility Teacher Institute Fund

This 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)

7/1/2017 \$2,558,050.00

Revenue

Licensure \$580,224.000

Interest \$27,671.64

Total Revenue (+) \$607,895.64

Expenditures

Purchased Services \$111,563.86

Supplies and Materials \$0.00

Capital Outlay \$0.00

Non-Capitalized Outlay / Transfers \$13,752.64

Total Expenditures (-) \$125,316.50

ENDING FUND BALANCE (UNAUDITED)

June 30, 2018 \$3,040,629.14

Regional Office of Education Activity Measures

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Licenses Renewed - Licensure	10,118	13,258	12,872	14,118	11,146
Number of School & Administration Bldgs Inspected	317	317	318	277	276
Number of School Bldg Violations Found & Corrected	569	560	687	272	382
Number of Criminal Background Checks & Fingerprinting	1,845	1,858	2,227	3,363	2,073
Number of Families Served Through Truancy Prevention	872	875	682	335	339
Number of GED Diplomas Issued (In-house only) - initial	997	970	1,057	493	297
Number of ALOP Students	136	109	110	62	57
Number of Bus Driver Training Initial & Refresher	3,052	3,502	4,149	3,173	4,365
Number of People Assisted at Licensure Counter	4,726	4,872	3,957	26,137	38,500
Number of Phone Calls Served	16,338	19,397	18,492	13,580	14,872
Number of PD Workshops Offered (In-house only)	185	82	82	61	121
Number of PD Workshops Attendees (In-house only)	4,012	2,813	2,813	1,616	1,613
Number of Students that took the GED test	1,339	1,316	2,114	818	732
TIDE Graduate Courses Offered	116	116	108	276	76
Number of Licensure Emails Served	--	--	--	10,914	14,771

DuPage Regional Office of Education

Administrative Team

630 407-5800

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti, Regional Superintendent druscitti@dupageroe.org
Ms. Joan Glotzbach, Assistant Regional Superintendent jglotzbach@dupageroe.org
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/PAT 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

Heather Britton, Homeless Liaison 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**

Ms. Kathy Ekstrand, Program Coordinator kekstrand@dupageroe.org

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

Ms. Linda Downey, Principal ldowney@dupageroe.org
Mr. Anthony Crespo, Dean acrespo@dupageroe.org
Ms. Terese DiSilvestro, School Secretary tdisilvestro@dupageroe.org

Professional Development Team **630 407-6080**

Dr. Mary Biniewicz, STEM/IL Empower mbiniewicz@dupageroe.org
Dr. Anne Roloff, Leadership aroloff@dupageroe.org
Dr. Beth Sullivan, Administrators' Academy Coordinator bsullivan@dupageroe.org
Ms. Vicky Amaro, Administrative Assistant vamaro@dupageroe.org

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

Ms. Kelley Zerfahs, Coordinator kzerfahs@dupageroe.org
Ms. D'Arcy Greenleaf, Division Assistant dgreenleaf@dupageroe.org

2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee, DuPage

ComEd and the DuPage Regional Office of Education sponsored the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee for DuPage County Schools. In total, 69 DuPage County public, private and parochial schools registered and completed in school and district spelling bees. At the county level, 27 students competed.

After 13 rounds, Hinsdale Middle School sixth grader Atman Balakrishnan spelled portulaca correctly to win the DuPage contest. Atman competed in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC in May. Atman's father won the National Spelling Bee in 1985.



Hinsdale Middle School 6th grader Atman Balakrishnan is pictured with his family, Advaith Balakrishnan and (back row, from left) Dr. Balu Natarajan, Chanda Natarajan, Dr. Meenakshi Balakrishnan and Janaky Natarajan.



DuPage Regional Office of
EDUCATION
Excellence in Education

Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti
Regional Superintendent of Schools

421 N County Farm Rd
Wheaton, IL 60187

630.407.5800 tel
630.407.5802 fax

www.dupageroe.org

