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P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DuPage Regional Office of Education Awarded \$8M Grant from the US Department of Education

Wheaton, IL, December 14, 2021— The DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE), in collaboration with partners at ROEs #1, 17, 21, 28, and 50, has been awarded a five-year, \$8 million dollar *Education, Innovation and Research (EIR) Mid-Phase* grant by the US Department of Education. Additionally, all involved partners will contribute \$800K through in-kind contributions to the project.

The funds will be used to replicate the successful *Partners To Lead (PTL)* project, which is an evidence-based, innovative program focused on building the capacity of school leaders to engage teachers in efforts to improve teaching and learning. The new grant will offer support to more than one hundred schools and provide funding to researchers at the American Institutes for Research to rigorously evaluate the project, providing additional insight into effective solutions for persistent educational challenges.

“We are thrilled to receive this generous grant from the US Department of Education,” said Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, regional superintendent of DuPage County schools. “I have seen firsthand how the *PTL* project has empowered principals and administrators to engage teachers and staff more effectively, and I am confident that this newly-funded version of the program, *PTL2*, will have an even greater impact.”

Ruscitti says student success is the goal of all programs initiated by the ROE. “We want students in DuPage County to reach their full potential, and we do this by fostering academic and social-emotional growth from the top down. Implementation of the comprehensive processes in the *PTL2* project make existing school leadership structures more effective and efficient,” said Ruscitti.

The DuPage ROE provides supports to school districts throughout DuPage County. ROEs are legislatively created education agencies that assist schools in their region and act as liaisons between school districts and the Illinois State Board of Education. Additionally, *PTL2*-participating ROEs serve as Leadership Hubs for their educational service area.

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About the DuPage Regional Office of Education

The DuPage Regional Office of Education is a service organization whose role is to provide high quality service and support to all stakeholders and collectively expend every effort to prepare DuPage County children for the world they will face. In addition to the myriad of services provided directly to educators and schools, the office also provides services and support to community members, private schools, parents, children, business leaders, and others. For more information, visit DupageROE.org.