



Regional Office of Education #54 Annual Report July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Aaron Hird, Regional Superintendent Of Schools
Courtney Dudley, Assistant Regional Superintendent

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Regional Superintendent's Message

August 2023

Dear Friends of the Educational Communities of Vermilion County,

This Annual Report meets the requirement of Section 5/3-5 of the Illinois School Code & details the accomplishments of the Regional Office of Education & its mandated & elective programs that serves the 12 public school districts, a special education cooperative & the private schools of the county. This summary lists the services offered, the regulatory responsibilities met, & highlights licensure renewal & registration for those who are directly responsible for the educational programs in Vermilion County.

In order to increase the quality of programs, the Regional Office of Education & its associated programs have & will continue to provide resources for educational staff in-service trainings & school improvement activities. Through workshops, conference sponsorship, Administrator's Academies & bus driver trainings, the Regional Office of Education reaches out to meet the identified needs of our districts using our resources in an effective & productive manner.

The Regional Office of Education acknowledges the strong support of the Vermilion County Board, its leadership, membership & staff for their continuing financial support of this office.

Together we can best serve the needs of our future—our children.

Aaron Hird , Regional Superintendent
Vermilion County Regional Office of Education

Mission Statement

The Vermilion County Regional Office of Education has as an organizational mission to promote quality education for all the school children of Vermilion County, to provide educational leadership for licensed staff throughout the county, to assist districts in meeting their recognized needs & statutory obligations, & to deliver professional educational services effectively for the direct benefit of all the members of the educational communities of Vermilion County. The Regional Office of Education promotes professional services that promote learning.

ROE Staff

Jamie Johnson, Bookkeeper
Lindsay Light, Licensure/Communications
Micki Bush, Programs Assistant/GED
Heidi Allen, Truancy
Kayla Overstreet, Truancy
Amy Linares, Truancy Assistant
Tricia Keith, Program Coordinator/
Homeless Liaison

ROE SchoolWorks Staff

Jeri Callaway, Director
Jerri Waller, Administrative Assistant
Consultants—11
Kaleb Wachala, PD Specialist

Regional Safe School

Jill Fulton, Principal
Nikki Duffy, Secretary

ESE Staff

Melinda Miethe, Program Advisor
Ashton Powell, Regional Specialist

Regional Office of Education Statistics

Public Schools

of School Districts—12
of School Buildings—33
of Administrators— 85
of Active Teachers — 703
of Cooperatives — 3
Student Enrollment -- 10,631

Non-Public Schools

of Buildings —5
Student Enrollment — 721

Total Public/Non-Public

Student Enrollment — 11,352

Public School Districts

Armstrong-Ellis CUSD #61
Armstrong Township HS #225
Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1
Danville District #118
Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUSD #4
Hoopeston Area CUSD #11
Oakwood CUSD #76
Potomac CUSD #10
Salt Fork CUSD #512
Rossville-Alvin CUSD #7
Westville CUSD #2
Bismarck-Henning Rossville-Alvin
Cooperative High School

Cooperative Schools

Vermilion Association for Special Ed
Middlefork School &
Regional Safe Schools Program
Vermilion Vocational Education
Delivery System/College Express

Non-Public Schools

Danville Christian Academy
Trinity Lutheran School
Immanuel Lutheran School
First Baptist School
Schlarman Academy

Regional Office of Education Services

Licensure

Teacher Licenses Registered —373
Substitute Licenses Registered —129

Fingerprinting/ Background Checks

Fingerprinting/Background checks — 1,182
Substitute Teachers— 46

School Recognition

Districts Evaluated for Full Compliance — 0

Regional Safe Schools

GED Students Served - 13
RSSP Students Served — 26 high school
8 junior high

Health Life Safety Inspections

All Public School Buildings—33

GED Testing

Number Tested —123
Number of Diplomas Awarded —32
Number of Certificates —71
Number of Transcripts Provided —138

Bus Driver Training

Drivers Trained —265

Truancy

Students Served — 224
Chronic Truants — 196
Court Referred — 5

Homeless Youth

Students Served— 455

Professional Development (# events/# participants)

Teacher /Adm Inservice - 350 with 3,474 participants
Administrators' Academies- 42 with 888 participants
Networking Meetings —17 with 182 participants
School Board Trainings — 1 with 21 participants

Total PD Events

114 with 2,533 participants

Regional Office of Education Duties & Responsibilities

Educational Administration

- Respond to legal questions from educators, boards of education & other citizens
- Issue, register & renew teacher licenses. Supervise & assist in transportation programs, scientific literacy programs & other staff development program
- Provide G.E.D. transcripts & diplomas

Disseminate information on scholarships & teacher vacancies

- Conduct professional growth opportunities.
- Approve school calendars, in-service days, workshops & institutes.
- Conduct hearings for formation of Unit districts & consolidation of existing school districts

Cooperation Management

- Assist the Illinois State Board of Education, Compliance division, in the evaluation & recognition of public schools, & private schools who ask to be recognized
- Maintain maps of all school districts
- Administer cooperative programs
- Monitor public schools during strikes
- Assist with cooperatives, special education programs & vocational programs
- Serve as Ex-Officio secretary of the Regional Board of School Trustees

Health & Life Safety

- Visit & inspect each public school annually
- Supervise school buildings for health & life safety & condemn buildings if necessary
- Provide courses in safety & first aid for bus drivers
- Approve building permits & occupancy permits

Financial

- Audit district claims for General State Aid, categorical funds, & Federal grants
- Review budgets, audits, evidence of indebtedness & annual financial reports
- Check bonding of school treasurers
- Disburse state & federal funds

Public Relations

- Respond to questions & concerns, including legal questions, from parents, teachers, administrators, boards of education & other citizens
- Promote & support educational programs & achievements of the schools & educators
- Hold public hearings on topics vital to education
- Serve as liaison between the Illinois State Board of Education & local school districts
- Serve as liaison between the state legislature & local school districts

Vermilion County Board of School Trustees

Michael Black- Chairman

Susan Bird, Cheryl Reifsteck, Jerry Harper, Jr., Lori Eells, Kay Smoot, & Mark Wagoner

Overview of the 2022-2023 Year

The following functions & services represent areas provided through the Regional Office of Education:

1. **Compliance Issues:** The Regional Office of Education conducts a school evaluation that covers governance of operations, general health & safety, personnel, instructional programs services, elementary programs, high school programs & special education. The results of this evaluation of School Code references & 23 Illinois Administrative Codes determine Recommended Recognition Status for the districts. This evaluation is done every third year & directly involves the building principals & superintendent in many areas.
2. **Health, Life Safety Visits:** The ROE conducts annual visits to all school buildings in the districts including a district superintendent interview, a review of new staff personnel records, & a review of new district policies. School facilities & facility improvement projects fall under the purview of the ROE.
3. **Licensure:** The ROE registers all licenses in the region annually. We assist with processing entitlements, & assist with new applications for licenses & endorsements. In 2022-2023, **373** teaching licenses were newly issued, endorsed, renewed, or registered. There were **129** Substitute licenses issued. The ROE provides fingerprinting/background checks for all public school employees & substitute teachers.
4. **School Code & Legal Issues:** Through ISBE, the ROE provides legal opinions on various matters & tries to provide information & interpretation of School Code issues for administrators at all levels.
5. **ISBE information & Regulatory Channel:** There are numerous forms & claims that must go through the ROE prior to submission to ISBE. They include financial claims, census, personnel, policy submission, assurances, & public school recognition.
6. **Financial Flow-Thru Function:** The ROE disbursed over **\$734,342** in state & federal funds annually to local school districts.
7. **Regional Safe Schools Programs:** The Vermilion County Regional Safe Schools Program is funded through the ROE & coordinated in conjunction with the Vermilion County Special Education Association. This school is designed for junior & senior high age students eligible for expulsion from their home districts & administratively transferred to the Safe Schools Programs in lieu of their expulsion. The program is housed at the VASE building. **In the 2022-2023 school year, 34 students in grades 6-12 were serviced.**
8. **Calendar, Institute, & Inservice:** School Calendars, Institute & Inservice Approvals must be submitted through the ROE. All Inservice days must be approved by the ROE.
9. **Truancy Issues:** The ROE serves as the Vermilion County Truant Officer. Formal filings for truancy are made to the State's Attorney's office through the ROE. The ROE also has a Truancy Counselor that serves in a counseling function for potential truants in grades 1-8. In the 2022-2023 school year, **224** students were serviced with truancy services & **196** students were considered chronic truants. **5** students were court-referred.
10. **Substitute Teachers:** The ROE maintains a county substitute teacher list & updates this list as needed.
11. **Continuing Education:** The ROE promotes & coordinates continuing education opportunities for the certified personnel in the county. The majority of these credit opportunities have been through Eastern Illinois University. Currently, the ROE sponsors a Principal Endorsed MS in Educational Administration & a Specialist in Education MS which offered 9 different courses.
12. **Professional Development Opportunities & System of Support Services :** ROE SchoolWorks supplies professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, & School Board Members in Vermilion, Champaign & Ford Counties. It employs 1 director, 3 staff members, & 11 part time consultants. ROE SchoolWorks offers Administrators' Academies, Assessment Training, RTI training, Gifted Education, Literacy Education, School/ Parent Relationship Inservice, Curricular/Common Core Inservices, technology training, & many other workshops. All school districts in the county participated in PD services last year.
13. **GED:** Until January 1, 2014 the ROE coordinated & administered the GED test for those individuals who would like to earn a high school equivalency certificate. The ROE is still responsible for maintaining records & issuing transcripts & certificates to past test takers. In 2022-23, 123 GED tests were administered, 32 new diplomas were awarded, 71 certificates were issued, & 138 GED transcripts were provided.
14. **Home School Registration:** Although home schools are considered private schools by the state, the ROE requests students to be registered with this office.
15. **School Bus Driver Training:** In 2022-23, the ROE provided initial & refresher bus driver training to 265 bus drivers.
16. **Educational Employee/Volunteer Recognition:** The ROE recognized **48** members of the county educational communities at its annual Golden Ruler Awards Banquet. **In 30 years, over 1,550 rulers** have been awarded.
17. **Homeless Grant—**The ROE was awarded **\$51,240** through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant to help meet the needs of the **455** homeless students reported in Vermilion County. School & basic health supplies were provided.

