



**Regional Office of Education #54**  
**Annual Report July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021**  
*Aaron Hird, Regional Superintendent Of Schools*  
*Courtney Dudley, Assistant Regional Superintendent*

## Regional Superintendent's Message

August 2021

*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 and details the accomplishments of the Regional Office of Education and its mandated and elective programs that serves the 12 public school districts, a special education cooperative and the private schools of the county. This summary lists the services offered, the regulatory responsibilities met, and highlights licensure renewal and 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 and its associated programs have and will continue to provide resources for educational staff in-service trainings and school improvement activities. Through workshops, conference sponsorship, Administrator's Academies and bus driver trainings, the Regional Office of Education reaches out to meet the identified needs of our districts using our resources in an effective and productive manner.*

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

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

*Cheryl S. Reifsteck, 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 and statutory obligations, and to deliver professional educational services effectively for the direct benefit of all the members of the edu-*

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### **ROE Staff**

**Jamie Johnson** Bookkeeper

**Camron Owens** Adm. Asst. / Licensure

**Micki Bush** Reception/GED/Bus Driver Training/ HLS

**Heidi Allen** Truancy

**Tricia Keith** Program Coordinator/Homeless Liaison

### **ROE SchoolWorks Staff**

**Jeri Callaway** Director

**Jerri Waller** Adm. Asst./Staff Development

Consultants—11

**Leslie Ellis** PD Specialist

**Kaleb Wachala** PD Specialist

### **Regional Safe School**

Nicole Provost—Principal

Nikki Duffy—Secretary

### **ESE Staff**

**Melinda Miethe** Program Advisor

**Emily Brodtko** Regional Specialist

## *Regional Office of Education Statistics*

### Public Schools

# of School Districts—12  
 # of School Buildings—37  
 # of Administrators—76  
 # of Active Teachers —  
 # of Cooperatives — 2  
 Student Enrollment -- 11,046

### Non-Public Schools

# of Buildings —6  
 Student Enrollment —605

### Total Public/Non-Public

Student Enrollment —11,651

### Public School Districts

Armstrong-Ellis CUSD #61  
 Armstrong Twnp. HS #225  
 Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1  
 Danville District #118  
 Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUSD #4  
 Hoopetston 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  
 Education Middlefork School and  
 RSSP

### Non-Public Schools

Danville Christian Academy  
 Trinity Lutheran School  
 Immanuel Lutheran School  
 First Baptist School  
 Shlarman Academy -  
 Walnut & Vermilion Campuses  
 Notre Dame La Sallete

## *Regional Office of Education Services*

### Licensure

Teacher licenses registered —286  
 Number Diplomas awarded—49

### Fingerprinting/ Background Checks

Fingerprinting/Background checks – 377  
 Substitute Teachers—73

### School Recognition

Districts Evaluated for Full Compliance —6  
 Armstrong-Ellis CUSD #61  
 Armstrong Twnp. HS #225  
 Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1  
 Bismarck-Henning Rossville-Alvin Coop. HS  
 Westville CUSD #2  
 Potomac CUSD #10

### Regional Safe Schools

GED Students Served –18  
 RSSP Students Served —13

### Health Life Safety Inspections

All Public School Buildings—35

### GED Testing

Number Tested —105  
 Number of Diplomas Awarded —34  
 Number of Certificates —69  
 Number of Transcripts Provided —131

### Bus Driver Training

Drivers Trained —235

### Truancy

Students Served — 207  
 Chronic Truants — 194  
 Court Referred —0

### Homeless Youth

Students Served—421

### Professional Development (#events/#participants)

Teacher /Adm Inservice– 309 with 4,509 participant  
 Administrators' Academies– 22 with 142 participants  
 Networking Meetings—38 with 144 participants  
 School Board Trainings—5 with 43 participants

### Total PD Events

**162 with 3,794 participants**

## *Regional Office of Education Duties and Responsibilities*

### *Educational Administration*

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

### *Disseminate information on scholarships and teacher vacancies*

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

### *Cooperation Management*

- *Assist the Illinois State Board of Education, Compliance division, in the evaluation and recognition of public schools, and 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 and vocational programs*
- *Serve as Ex-Officio secretary of the Regional Board of School Trustees*

### *Health and Life Safety*

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

### *Financial*

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

### *Public Relations*

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

## *Vermilion County Board of School Trustees*

*Michael Black- Chairman  
Susan Bird, James Cox, Jerry Harper, Jr.,  
Terry Prillaman, Kay Smoot, and Mark Wagoner*

# Overview of the 2020-2021 Year

*The following functions and 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 and safety, personnel, instructional programs and services, elementary programs, high school programs and special education. The results of this evaluation of School Code references and 23 Illinois Administrative Code determine Recommended Recognition Status for the districts. This evaluation is done every third year and directly involves the building principals and superintendent in many areas. In the 2020-21 school year, the following school districts were visited by the ROE for a full compliance visit: Armstrong-Ellis CUSD #61, Armstrong Twnp. HS #225, Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1, Bismarck-Henning Rossville-Alvin Coop. HS, Westville CUSD #2, and Potomac CUSD #10*
2. *Health, Life Safety Visits: The ROE conducts annual visits to all school buildings in the districts including a district superintendent interview and a review of new staff personnel records and new district policies. School facilities and 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, new applications for licenses and endorsements. In 2020-21, 284 teaching licenses were newly issued, endorsed, renewed, or registered. There were 79 Substitute licenses issued. The ROE provides fingerprinting/background checks for all public school employees and substitute teachers.*
4. *School Code and Legal Issues: Through ISBE, the ROE provides legal opinions on various matters and tries to provide information and interpretation of School Code issues for administrators at all levels.*
5. *ISBE information and Regulatory Channel: There are numerous forms and claims that must go through the ROE prior to submission to ISBE. They include financial claims, census, personnel, policy submission, assurances, and public school recognition.*
6. *Financial Flow-Thru Function: The ROE disbursed over \$37,249,683 in state and federal funds annually to local school districts.*
7. *Regional Safe Schools Programs: The Vermilion County Regional Safe Schools Program is funded through the ROE and coordinated in conjunction with the Vermilion County Special Education Association. This school is designed for junior and senior high age students eligible for expulsion from their home districts and administratively transferred to the Safe Schools Programs in lieu of their expulsion. The program is housed at the VASE building. In the 2020-2021 school year, 31 students in grades 6– 12 were serviced. .*
8. *Calendar, Institute, and Inservice: School Calendars, Institute and 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 2020-2021 school year, 207 students were serviced with truancy services and 194 students were considered chronic truants. 0 students were court referred.*
10. *Substitute Teachers: The ROE maintains a county substitute teacher list and updates this list as needed.*
11. *Continuing Education: The ROE promotes and 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 and a Specialist in Education MS which has served 34 students.*
12. *Professional Development Opportunities and System of Support Services : ROE SchoolWorks supplies professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, and School Board members in Vermilion, Champaign and Ford Counties. It employs 1 director and 3 staff members and 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, and many other workshops. All school districts in the county participated in PD services last year.*
13. *GED: Until January 1, 2014 the ROE coordinated and 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 and issuing transcripts and certificates to past test takers. In 2020-21, 105 GED tests were administered, 34 new diplomas were awarded, 69 certificates were issued, and 131 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 2020-21, the ROE provided initial & refresher bus driver training to 235 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 29 years, over 1498 rulers have been awarded.*
17. *Homeless Grant—The ROE was awarded \$29,685 through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant to help meet the needs of the 434 homeless students reported in Vermilion County. School and basic health supplies were provided.*
18. *A high school cooperative began on July 1, 2017 between the boards of Rossville -Alvin and Bismarck-Henning. The creation of the BHRA Cooperative High School is now a new separate school district.*

