



BOONE-WINNEBAGO
REGIONAL OFFICE
OF EDUCATION #4

ANNUAL REPORT
FY22

SCOTT BLOOMQUIST
REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ALLISON PIERSON
ASSISTANT REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT

300 HEART BOULEVARD | LOVES PARK, IL 61111

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Anticipating the first 100% back-to-normal return to school and the ensuing school year since the pandemic hit our radar, we at Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education 4 were excited for FY22 and what that would mean for the students, staff, and districts we serve. Of course, we expected hiccups along the way, but we were prepared and fully available to serve and support every entity that reached out to us, at every need level.

During the summer, our Professional Learning team created a diverse course catalog, including more afterschool options to accommodate teachers' schedules, while curating presenters and class inclusions from right here in our local community. The Area 2 SEL Hub offered an abundance of free workshops and traveled directly to schools in order to develop customized social-emotional PD for all-staff teams, as did ROE 4 School Improvement. At-Risk Student Services and the Central Office expanded their teams to provide optimum service for the region. School bus driver training opportunities were increased, and Licensure disseminated information and shared additional pathways to address the area's teacher shortage. In addition, Summit Academy continued making adjustments in order to provide unparalleled support for regional alternative students.

Not surprisingly, the kickoff of FY22 revealed energized educators and administrators eager to step up for area youth and to grow as super engaged work teams. We had confidence in these professionals in our region, and they proved us right at every turn. They were invested in incorporating new standards, learning adapted processes and techniques, and exploring a social/emotional-dense approach to questions, concerns, and unforeseen issues for students and staff.

With the positive numbers you'll discover within this report and the continuing partnership between the ROE and area education communities, we feel like a fully coordinated team with synchronized goals. The separation between schools, families, and our office has become satisfyingly blurred. Together, we're stronger.

As area districts seek us out for support and as we continue to be proactive in that capacity, we'll enthusiastically plan for FY23. We'll add more quality staff to our teams and continue to increase collaboration with our school leaders and educators. And, we pledge to do our best to advocate, educate, and serve in the districts and communities of Boone and Winnebago counties and beyond as we work tirelessly in Area 2 to become the best source of support possible.



Scott Bloomquist
Regional Superintendent of Schools



Allison Pierson
Assistant Regional Superintendent

ROE 4 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Busy Central Office Offers Support



Front Office Staff (L-R): Mary Wilson, Denise Rux, Leah Blake, Brittany Bauer, Logan Watts



(Pictured L-R): Jamie Watts Asst Director of HR/Finance, Rachelle Blicht, Finance Director; Maria Diestelmeier, HR Director

The focus of the ROE 4 Central Office for the FY22 school year proved to be expansive in light of the changes since the pandemic began. As customers felt more and more comfortable with in-person and walk-in appointments, the number of requests for fingerprinting, minor work permits, and one-on-one licensure counseling grew. Fortunately, the Regional Office was implementing form and information distribution via their newly upgraded website at www.roe4.org prior to the start of the fiscal year.

Another ROE 4 Central Office service that was extremely busy was school bus driver training, which was driven by the national driver shortage. With a desperate need for drivers and financial incentives offered throughout the region, FY22 saw a 350% increase in new drivers certified through the Regional Office. The state also added an expanded training requirement for entry-level drivers, which was strictly implemented within the ROE 4 training by Mary Wilson, School Bus Driver Training Coordinator. She continues to work tirelessly to maintain a steady training schedule for both new bus drivers and experienced drivers earning their refresher certificate.

Throughout the year, a persistent issue plaguing not only the districts we serve but also the entire country was a substitute teacher shortage. Licensure Specialist, Jamie Watts, and Casey Veitch of Professional Learning, created a training session supporting candidates through the application process on site. This event was titled, "Subs for Subs", and the concept was adopted at other Illinois ROEs as sub requirements were dialed back throughout the state. With increased guidance, 103 new regional subs were licensed through ROE 4 for FY22, a 17% increase over FY21.

March brought the 38th Regional Spelling Bee to Harlem High School Auditorium. The Bee is funded by the Eunice Wishop Stromberg Spelling Bee Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. It was a phenomenal evening emceed by Mr. Mike Garigan, 23 WIFR Evening News Anchor, with Wolfgang Schaff, an 8th grader, taking home the title and a trip to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in the Washington, D.C. area in May.

As spring bloomed, we watched as ISBE adjusted requirements to keep current educators and administrators in their positions and offered concessions to entice lapsed or retired educators to reinstate their licenses. As a result, Professional Services and Licensure shifted into overtime to support the processes required to get teachers back in classrooms.

Now a well-oiled machine, ROE 4 Professional Services has joined in the excitement of a new school year, has added to its experienced manpower, and is prepared to support schools and the community as we move forward into a successful FY23.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

TESTING CENTER

- 883 Pearson Vue Tests
- 1,317 GED Tests
- 206 ParaPro Tests

GED

- 254 Earned GED Diplomas

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER CLASSES

- 32 Initial Classes
- 323 Drivers Certified
- 33 Refresher Classes
- 621 Drivers Re-Certified

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- 103 New Regional Substitutes

FINGERPRINT SERVICES

- 1,715 Individuals Fingerprinted

HOME SCHOOL

- 14 Families Registered
- 26 Students

IL MINOR WORK PERMITS

- 314 Permits Issued



FY22 Annual Information

51,822

of K-12 Public School Students We Serve

5,028

of K-12 Non-Public School Students We Serve

801

of Square Miles We Serve

95

of Attendance Centers We Serve

13

of School Districts We Serve

1

of Alternative Schools We Serve

ROE 4 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

FY22 Timeline with Teaching Growth

Kim Maville of the ROE Professional Learning Department kicked off the school year in a big way by hosting a Poverty Simulation Experience at Cherry Valley Elementary for their entire staff. Large in-person professional learning events were back in full force for the FY22 school year, and educators as a whole made it known that this format was preferred over the virtual workshops that had been required for the past several years during the pandemic. And, Professional Learning was eager to support this choice by quickly growing their course catalog to meet those needs.

PL Facilitator, Casey Veitch, drew upon the knowledge that book studies had been extremely successful during the pandemic and proceeded to create a quarterly book study bundle. This self-paced PD option was made available to educators with reading selections offered in the realms of academics, SEL, and leadership. An innovative way to engage educators in continuing education, each bundle box included the book, resources, and several aligned gifts procured from local businesses. This has proven to be a true win-win for our region.

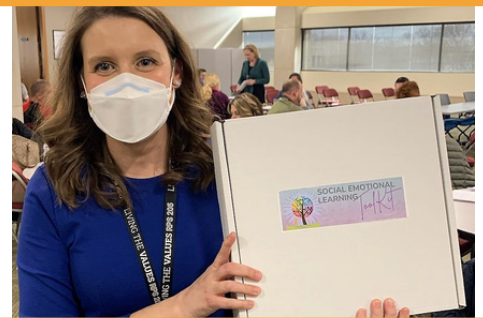
Continuing in her visionary mindset, Mrs. Veitch introduced 2 new innovative educational series: PL Quick Bites and Co-Teaching Collaborative. Co-Teaching Collab offers specialized instruction for special education co-teaching pairs and teams in order to maximize their co-teaching systems.

Quick Bites offers an after school educators' workshop, where attendees receive 1 hour of PD and leave with a piping hot large pizza from Nunzio's Restaurant in Loves Park. Community support is a high priority for the departments at the Regional Office.

Also in the fall of 2021, the ROE continued its tradition of partnering with ROE 8 located in Freeport to bring Attorney Brandon K. Wright to the area for a large conference. Administrators attended both in person and online and earned their academy requirement while learning about Title XI.

PL continued to offer an abundance of learning opportunities for educators, staff, and administrators during the winter of '21-'22. This included Chris Collins, Director of School Improvement, working directly with area schools and districts, like East High School and NBCUSD, on establishing strong team skills. PL also worked diligently to partner with University of St. Francis to offer graduate credits and with other approved providers to offer CEUs to Illinois educators and staff. The variety of workshops and formats was a success as PL tallied record attendance numbers for FY22.

Following the extremely rewarding year, ROE 4 Professional Learning was optimistic for an even more successful FY23.



61 In-District PL Events

- 1,613 In-District Participants
- 14.3% Increase over FY21

65 - Regional PL Events

- 846 Regional Participants
- 10.8% Increase over FY21

130 - 1:1 Coaching Events

- 159 Coaching Participants
- 54.7% Increase over FY21

AREA 2 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING HUB

Supporting the SEL Needs of Students, Staff & Schools

Boone-Winnebago ROE 4 began FY22 being selected as the headquarters for the Area 2 Social-Emotional Learning Hub. One of only 7 hubs in the state, the Regional Office started off strong as a power player in this newly created Illinois State Board of Education initiative. Funded entirely by the ESSER Grant, the Regional Office dove head first into the expansive framework that would bring FREE high-quality professional development, SEL coaching and support, and innovative student and staff learning opportunities to every district in Area 2.



Pictured: Area 2 SEL Hub Logo
Created by ROE 4 Communications Department

With Director Allison Pierson at the helm of the Hub, the Area 2 group continued to schedule impactful SEL workshops for educators, staff, and teams in Area 2. This included Teach. Train. Thrive. with Behavior Specialist Lani Lawson. Ms. Lawson remains a well-respected presenter in the social-emotional learning genre throughout our region.

The Hub also unveiled the SEL collaborative training model, bringing SEL coaches into each ROE in Area 2. Coaches were hired to support students and staff in area schools, which had been the predominant request highlighted in a focused area-wide needs assessment.



Restorative Circles



During the spring months, the SEL Hub offered both in-person and online professional development, including courses addressing bullying as well as the intersection of SEL with both early education and students with IEPs.

As FY22 saw steady growth of the Hub, ISBE and other area hubs increasingly looked to them for advice on organizational structure, data collection, marketing strategies, and content development.

FY23 already looks bright for the SEL Team with additional administrators, specialist support for schools, a new interactive website with free SEL toolkit resources, and a strong and active area SELF (Social-Emotional Learning Foundation) cohort.

40

ROE 4 SEL
Professional
Learning Events

980

ROE 4
SEL PL Event
Registrants

96

Schools
Participated in
SEL PL Events

AT-RISK STUDENT SERVICES

Looking to continue to remedy the issue of barriers to education for far too many students in the 13 districts served by ROE 4, the At-Risk Student Services Department initiated the fiscal year by adding 3 new interventionists to their already experienced team. Kevin Anderson, Val Pobjecky, and Alexandra Zimmerman assumed their independent caseloads at the start of the school year.

The department goal throughout the year continued to be identification of chronically truant and McKinney-Vento eligible students in our districts. Director, Meghan Hawkinson, even created several free, online presentations to educate families, communities, and school staff on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act and the responsibilities we all share in supporting those families.

Following adding attendance interventionist, Jordynn Meyer, to the team, ARSS spent time at Thanksgiving packing and delivering food boxes to local families in need.

At-Risk Student Services then hired a McKinney-Vento Navigator/Outreach Specialist to focus solely on those students identified through the Homeless Assistant Act. Elmer Rice, was a perfect fit for this role, and as a local native, he was excited to continue to work with the at-risk student population.

The department continued to share success stories of regional students and families who benefited from truancy intervention and subsequent support by attendance specialists from ARSS.

Spring was a celebratory season for the At-Risk Student Services Team as Mary Bawinkel, a Boone County Schools Attendance Interventionist and Regional Office employee with over 30 years of service, was awarded the Illinois Coalition for Educationg At-Risk Youth (ICEARY) 2022 Excellence in Education Award. Congratulations to Ms. Bawinkel on this amazing achievement. Coworkers and family were both in attendance to congratulate her on her tremendous dedication to area youth and education.

With a successful re-write by Mrs. Hawkinson of her TAOEP grant, FY23 looks to be yet another year of growth for ARSS. The team will add at least 3 new attendance interventionists and an administrative assistant to coordinate all the moving parts of their complex youth intervention department. This growth will, of course, result in added support for the youth of our districts.



Meghan Hawkinson
ARSS Director

FY22 Truancy Information

Open Court Cases	138
Closed Court Cases	43
Districts Served	12
Total Interventionists	7

504 Open Truancy
Intervention Cases

295 Closed Truancy
Intervention Cases

*1,947 Children Identified
as Homeless Under
McKinney-Vento
Homeless Assistance Act

*Projected data

SUMMIT ACADEMY CONTINUES TO GROW & THRIVE



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM OPTIONS

REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOL PROGRAM (RSSP)

- GRADES 6-12
- STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPELLED OR ARE CONSIDERED EXPULSION-ELIGIBLE

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMS (ALOP)

- GRADES 6-12
- STUDENTS WITH LACK OF PROGRESS IN HOME SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

TRUANCY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (TAOEP)

- AGES 17-21
- SECOND CHANCE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM
- STUDENTS W/ ATTENDANCE ISSUES
- ADMINISTERED SAT

VISIT THE
SUMMIT ACADEMY WEBSITE:
www.saeagles.org

Middle and high school students returned in late August to Summit Academy with a special "blue carpet" welcome by staff and administrators. It was only year two of existence of the area's only regional alternative school at its Machesney Park campus, and the administrative team was quick to make advances in hiring, procedures, and district and family communication. This included unveiling a brand new school website at www.saeagles.org on the first day of school.

In October, executive director, Nicole Corbett, and several Summit team members accompanied Scott Bloomquist, Regional Superintendent of Schools, and Allison Pierson, Assistant Regional Superintendent, to the National Alternative Education Association Conference in St. Louis in order to explore as many new structures and processes as possible to continue to best support regional alternative students and staff at Summit.

Summit rounded out 2021 by holding a student career fair and hiring expo. Held on the Summit campus, all students were given access to businesses and employment experts who had volunteered their time to discuss future opportunities. Participating students were exposed to a variety of organizations, and a positive impact was made by local restaurants, marketing agencies, politicians, and military branches.

To begin 2022, many area schools returned to remote learning due to low enrollment and staff absences due to Covid or Covid exposure. Summit fell into that transitional population of a brief return to remote learning. During that time, the Summit administrators and staff invested their time in delivering free meals to their school families. Because of this, students were able to receive 2 complimentary meals per day delivered directly to their homes. Over 1,200 meals were successfully delivered during that time.

Much of the spring semester was spent interviewing and hiring administrators and educators for the growing Summit school community. The Regional Office continued to offer an employment package which included funding a teacher's Master's degree if they contracted to teach at Summit. This proved to be an enticing piece of the puzzle, and several current and new candidates happily accepted their new roles with ROE 4.

SUMMIT ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

FY22 concluded with the Summit Academy High School graduation, where 23 seniors received their high school diplomas in front of staff and invited guests. Marching in traditional caps and gowns, Ms. Corbett and her team congratulated the 2022 graduating class, honoring their perseverance and resilience.



Congratulations, Summit Academy Class of 2022!

HEALTH/LIFE SAFETY

The purpose of the health/life safety provision is to establish minimum standards for public school facilities which will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of pupils, school staff, and communities, as well as others who use them.

111

Buildings
Inspected

0

New School
Buildings Constructed

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2021-2022

During his last full year leading the Health/Life Safety Division of ROE 4, Mr. Don Keigher fine tuned the data collection processes that help guide a department that ensures public schools are safe for all who use them. Mr. Keigher and his team perform annual facility inspections for all schools in Boone and Winnebago counties. He also completes compliance reporting and issues all educational building permits for the 13 districts in those counties served by the Regional Office.

Each local school board operates and maintains compliance for its facilities. Inspections of each building take place annually under the authority of the Regional Superintendent of Schools.

The total number of buildings inspected by the Health/Life Safety Team at the Regional Office in FY22 is 111.

The beginning of the fiscal year, or July 1 of each year, marks the start of facility inspections for Boone and Winnebago counties. Inspections are normally completed by mid November. Facility inspections are coordinated with local fire departments to ensure strict adherence to all codes and standards. Mr. Keigher is assisted by several ROE 4 employees who have successfully completed Illinois State Board of Education health/life safety compliance training.

The annual inspection results of each building are available at the Regional Office of Education (ROE), and a summary report is filed with the Illinois State Board of Education as required by law.

Throughout the remainder of the fiscal year, the HLS Department issues building permits for planned construction within the same 13 districts within both Boone and Winnebago counties and completes any data compilation and reporting prior to the end of FY22.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Superintendent

Scott Bloomquist, Regional Superintendent of Schools sbloomquist@roe4.org

Allison Pierson, Assistant Regional Superintendent apierson@roe4.org

Area 2 Social-Emotional Learning Hub

Allison Pierson, Director apierson@roe4.org

Kim Maville, Assistant Director kmaville@roe4.org

At-Risk Student Services

Meghan Hawkinson, Director mhawkinson@roe4.org

Finance

Rachelle Blitch, Director rblitch@roe4.org

Jamie Watts, Assistant Director jwatts@roe4.org

Human Resources

Maria Diestelmeier, Director mdiestelmeier@roe4.org

Jamie Watts, Assistant Director jwatts@roe4.org

Professional Learning

Casey Veitch, Director cveitch@roe4.org

Linda DeYounge, Facilitator ldeyounge@roe4.org

Professional Services

Leah Blake, Director lblake@roe4.org

School Improvement

Chris Collins, Director ccollins@roe4.org

Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education 4

Phone 815.636.3060

Fax 815.636.3069

District Report Cards

[Click Here](#)



Regional Board of School Trustees

	TERM EXPIRES
Robert Phelps President - Rockton	2023
Annetta "Nettie" Parker, Vice President - Loves Park	2023
Nathan Danielson - Belvidere	2023
Todd France - Rockford	2027
Chuck Johnson - Cherry Valley	2025
Char Remer - Winnebago	2023
Bob Walberg - Belvidere	2025

WHO WE SERVE

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

- 8 - Unit Districts (K-12)
- 4 - Elementary Districts
- 1 - High School District

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS:

- 61 - Elementary Schools
- 17 - Jr. High/Middle School
- 15 - High Schools
- 15 - Other Buildings

STUDENT ENROLLMENT:

- 13 Public Schools – 51,822
 - 7,275 Belvidere CUSD #100
 - 502 Durand CUSD #322
 - 6,324 Harlem UD #122
 - 1,934 Hononegah CHD #207
 - 1,638 Kinnikinnick CCSD #131
 - 1,535 North Boone CUSD #200
 - 888 Pecatonica CUSD #321
 - 746 Prairie Hill CCSD #133
 - 1,539 Rockton SD #140
 - 27,145 Rockford SD #205
 - 101 Shirland CCSD #134
 - 931 South Beloit #320
 - 1,264 Winnebago CUSD #323
- 23 Non-Public Schools – 5,028
- **TOTAL ENROLLMENT – 56,850**

Contact Us

Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education
300 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park, IL 61111
815.636.3060
www.roe4.org
info@roe4.org

