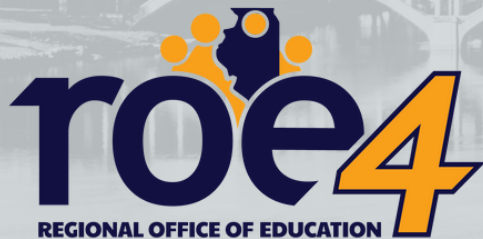


ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. SERVE

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024-2025



As a superintendent, the ROE consistently provides a powerful collaborative space to partner with other regional leaders. I am also grateful for the ROE as we annually engage in meaningful partnership around compliance support, safety coordination, and professional development.

Even in a large District with significant internal expertise,

**we appreciate that our ROE can provide a wide array of technical assistance to meet our needs.**

**Dr. Ehren Jarret, Superintendent**  
Rockford SD 205

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**124**  
**Schools**



**52,500+**  
**Students**



# About Us

Located in Loves Park, Illinois, and led by Regional Superintendent Scott Bloomquist and Assistant Regional Superintendent Allison Pierson, the Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education #4 (ROE4) serves as a vital hub of educational support for Boone and Winnebago Counties. We work both behind the scenes and alongside the 13 school districts, private schools, educators, students, and families to ensure every person has the tools they need to succeed.

Our region spans over 1,200 square miles, and includes 4,500+ educators and 60,000+ students. Our services include educator licensure, professional development, bus driver training, a regional testing center, criminal background checks, alternative education, attendance supports for students, health and life safety inspections, and more.



## OUR PURPOSE

**Be the trusted leader** for educational services and support in Boone and Winnebago Counties by living our core values as we advocate, educate, and serve.



## OUR MISSION

**Invest internally** in our organization at the highest levels to **maximize our impact externally**.



## OUR VISION

Generously provide our schools the best **tools** and **resources** to solve problems they cannot solve without us.



## THE GOLD STANDARD

Providing the highest level of excellence in **customer service** to each other, our students, schools, and communities.

## OUR CORE VALUES



### RESPECT

We treat everyone with **dignity**.



### OWN

We take **responsibility** for our attitude & actions.



### EMPOWER

We are a **solution-driven** team.



---

As Superintendent of the Boone and Winnebago Counties Regional Office of Education #4, I hereby submit the Annual Report of the activities of this office for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

This report provides an overview of the programs, services, and partnerships that help us fulfill our mission: to be the trusted leader for educational services in Boone and Winnebago Counties. While it may not capture every initiative or collaboration, it reflects the collective efforts of our dedicated staff and the many educators, districts, and partners we serve.

We hope this report provides a glimpse in to the passionate and important work being done across our region to ensure that every learner has access to safe, supportive, and high-quality educational environments.

**Scott Bloomquist**

Regional Superintendent of Schools  
Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education #4



**Our Regional School Board of Trustees**

Tosca DeGennaro, <i>President</i>	David Carlson, <i>Board Member</i>
Bob Walberg, <i>Vice President</i>	Nathan Danielson, <i>Board Member</i>
Richard Beuth, <i>Board Member</i>	Todd France, <i>Board Member</i>
William Kobler, <i>Board Member</i>	

For more information about the roles and responsibilities of our Board of Trustees, please visit [roe4.org/regional-board-of-school-trustees](http://roe4.org/regional-board-of-school-trustees)

**Legal Reference for Annual Report**

This annual report is designed in part to meet the provisions of Chapter 105, Article 3, Sections 5/3-5, 5/3-6 and 5/3-15.8 of the School Code of Illinois and to present the activities of the ROE to both Boone and Winnebago County Boards.

# Who We Serve



**Rockford  
SD 205**  
44 Schools  
28,162 Students



**Rockton  
SD 140**  
3 Schools  
1,579 Students



**Shirland  
CCSD 134**  
1 School  
96 Students



**South Beloit  
CUSD 320**  
5 Schools  
873 Students



**North Boone  
CUSD 200**  
6 Schools  
1,455 Students



**Kinnikinnick  
CUSD 131**  
4 Schools  
1,668 Students



**Pecatonica  
CUSD 321**  
3 Schools  
862 Students



**Belvidere  
CUSD 100**  
10 Schools  
7,458 Students



**Hononegah  
CHD 207**  
1 School  
1,782 Students



**Prairie Hill  
CCSD 133**  
2 Schools  
790 Students



**Durand  
CUSD 322**  
3 Schools  
524 Students



**Harlem  
UD 122**  
11 Schools  
6,045 Students



**Winnebago  
CUSD 323**  
4 Schools  
1,232 Students



**Winnebago  
County Special  
Education  
Cooperative**

**+27**

**Non-Public  
Schools**

# How We Serve

**142**

**ROE4  
Staff**



**3,783**

**Tests Taken in  
Testing Center**

**1,493**

**Background  
Checks  
Completed**

**2,185**

**Educators  
Registered  
in 2025**

**53**

**Summit  
Academy  
Graduates**

**1,021**

**Truant  
Students  
Supported**

**845**

**Certified  
Bus Drivers**

**5,214**

**Professional  
Learning  
Attendees**

**580**

**Professional  
Development  
Events**



**116**

**Public School  
Building  
Inspections**



# Regional Services

Our Regional Services team provides a wide array of services to educators and community members across Boone and Winnebago Counties. With the recent addition of a bilingual team member, we are now proud to offer all of our regional services in both English and Spanish.

## Bus Driver Training

ROE4 administers the mandatory training required for all school bus drivers in the region. New drivers must complete an eight-hour course in bus driver safety and first aid to receive their initial permit. Experienced drivers must attend a two-hour annual refresher workshop within the 12-month period prior to renewing their certification.

*(105 ILCS 5/3-14.23)*



**57** New Regional Substitutes

**2,185** Educators Registered in 2025

**116** Newly Certified Bus Drivers

**730** Drivers Re-Certified

**12** Initial Bus Driver Classes

**27** Refresher Bus Driver Classes

**186** Minor Work Permits

**1,493** Individuals Fingerprinted

## Educator Licensure

The ROE4 Licensure Team supports current and aspiring educators with all aspects of the complex licensure landscape. We actively guide individuals through the process they need - from the initial application or adding endorsements to an existing license, to annual registration and renewal.

ROE4 is proud to assist with a variety of license types, including:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
- Administrator License
- Career & Technical License (CTE)
- Transitional Bilingual Educator (TBE)
- Substitute & Short-Term Sub (SUB & STS)
- Paraprofessional (PARA)

By streamlining this process, ROE4 minimizes administrative burdens, ensuring dedicated, licensed educators remain in our schools to maximize student success.

*(105 ILCS 5/21)*

## Homeschooling

Homeschooling is considered a form of private education in Illinois, meaning that families are responsible for researching and implementing educational materials for their child's learning. ROE4 provides resources and guidance related to this process.



## Minor Work Permits

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Labor, ROE4 issues permits to eligible minors who reside in Boone and Winnebago Counties and meet all requirements outlined in Section 12 of the Illinois Child Labor Law.

## Background Checks

ROE4 is a licensed Live Scan fingerprint and background check vendor, authorized to conduct checks for any Illinois school district or company requiring them. The Illinois School Code requires all new school employees to have both a State and FBI criminal background check. ROE4 provides these via electronic fingerprinting services for its own staff, several contracted regional organizations, and school districts.

*(105 ILCS 5/10-21.9)*

## Pearson VUE Testing Center

ROE4's Testing Center, which is a certified Pearson VUE Testing Center, offers a wide variety of professional, academic, and licensure-based exams to our region, utilizing the full range of Pearson VUE testing options. Additionally, we specifically offer the WorkKeys Paraprofessional Exam at our center for individuals pursuing their paraprofessional license.

**1,938 Pearson VUE Tests**

**64 Paraprofessional Tests**

### High School Equivalency (HSE)

For individuals who do not complete high school, an alternative path is available through the High School Equivalency (HSE) Certificate. ROE4 offers HSE exams in English or Spanish at our Pearson VUE Testing Center to those who are 17 years of age or older. All fees are collected by Pearson VUE at registration. We also provide proctored HSE testing for local inmates housed at the Winnebago County Jail. (105 ILCS 5/3-15.12)

**1,781 High School Equivalency Tests**



## Transcript Review & Ordering

ROE4 is the custodian of records for Boone and Winnebago County residents completing the HSE process. Our office can verify completion of HSE to candidates and their designated recipients at no cost and can generate official transcripts and diplomas upon request with payment.

**858 Diplomas & Transcripts Processed**





## Health Life Safety

ROE4 ensures the Health, Life, and Safety (HLS) compliance of all public school buildings in Boone and Winnebago Counties through a continuous inspection process. Working in conjunction with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, we conduct annual inspections and review reports to guarantee compliance with the Illinois School Code. These yearly reports are filed with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and shared directly with the districts. ROE4 also oversees the required 10-Year Safety Survey, which involves a licensed architect or engineer resurveying every public building. *(105 ILCS 5/3-14.21)*

### 116 Public School Inspections

## Compliance

We conduct Technical Assistance Visits (TAVs), during which our School Safety team reviews documents such as board policies, state-mandated curriculum, student records, and staff/personnel records, while also ensuring compliance with HLS standards. The results are incorporated into the Illinois Report Card, serving as a vital tool to improve school operations and support the delivery of top-quality educational programs for students.

### 8 Compliance Visits

## Construction and Building Permits

ROE4 plays a crucial role in overseeing the physical safety of public school facilities by reviewing all construction and remodeling plans to ensure code compliance. Our office is responsible for issuing all required Building Permits and the final School Occupancy Permits for public schools. In coordination with licensed architects and engineers, we also provide approval the use of temporary and mobile classroom units.

*(23 Ill. Admin. Code Part 180)*

### 36 Building Permits

### 6 Additions & Major Remodels

**\$46,920,000 Work Completed**





# Student Support Services

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**Alex Zimmerman | Senior Director | [azimmerman@roe4.org](mailto:azimmerman@roe4.org)**

## **Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP)**

Our Attendance Intervention Program has provided truancy intervention services to our school districts within our two-county region for over fifteen years. Our eight interventionists engage with students after school districts have implemented their own interventions without success. Once a student has been referred, one of our attendance interventionists meets with the student, their guardian, school personnel, and other key stakeholders to develop a personalized intervention plan aimed at addressing the underlying causes of truancy. We work closely with school-based and community resources to remove barriers and create sustainable solutions that support long-term attendance improvement.

*(105 ILCA 5/3-13)*

## By the numbers

# 1,021 Students Served

<b>341</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>296</b>
<b>K-5th Grade</b>	<b>6-8th Grade</b>	<b>High School</b>

**Attendance Increased from  
75.46% to 84.39%**

## 781 Services Provided

Home Visits | Tutoring | Support for  
Parents & Families | Mentoring  
Health-Related Services & more

## 115 Juvenile Court Cases

## 35 Community Resource Referrals

## 37 Students Receiving Services through McKinney-Vento

## 7 SSIs in Our Schools

## Court Services

ROE4 is responsible for receiving and managing court petitions for our 13 school districts as well as providing continuous support and intervention to the students. When our interventions do not lead to meaningful progress, we may submit a petition to the State's Attorney's Office as a final option. Court involvement is always a rehabilitative, not punitive, process.

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program

Our Homeless Education Program is dedicated to partnering with local school districts to uphold the requirements of the federal McKinney-Vento Act. Our primary objective is to facilitate equal educational access for all homeless children and youth.

We specifically assist districts in fulfilling their mandate to be proactive in identifying and locating homeless children and youth who may not be currently attending school.

*(Federal, Subtitle B of Title VII, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 U.S.C.11431 et seq)*

## Student Support Interventionist (SSI) Program

Developed this year, our Student Support Interventionists (SSIs) provide academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and attendance support to students in grades K-12 from within their own school.

Their mission is to bridge the gap between home and school, ensuring that every student has the resources, encouragement, and guidance needed to succeed.





# Educational Services

**Meghan Hawkinson | Executive Director | [mhawkinson@roe4.org](mailto:mhawkinson@roe4.org)**

## **Summit Academy**

Summit Academy is an alternative education program operated by ROE4. We serve students in grades 6–12 across Boone and Winnebago Counties.

In partnership with our 13 local school districts, we provide a safe, relationship-driven setting where students can re-engage with learning, rebuild confidence, and set new goals for their future. Our goal is to reset, connect, restore, and return every student to their sending school.

*(105 ILCS 5/13 A-8)\* (105 ILCS 3/Art.13B)\*\* (105 ILCA 5/3-13)\*\*\**

Summit is a Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP)\*, part of an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)–funded initiative for students who have been suspended, expelled, or are at risk due to serious behavioral or academic challenges.

We also serve students through the Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP)\*\* and the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP)\*\*\*.





*Summit Graduates at their commencement.*



*Danielle Tomlinson,  
ICEARY State  
Outstanding Student  
Award recipient.*



**53 Graduates**

**432 Students Served**

**25  
Sending  
Schools**

**16  
Community  
Resource  
Referrals**

**76  
Total  
Staff**

## Highlights:

- Recognized by the National Alternative Education Association (NAEA) as part of the first Exemplary Practice Program cohort
- Staff presented and attended the Illinois Coalition for Educating At Risk Youth (I.C.E.A.R.Y.) conference, where Summit student Danielle Tomlinson received the State Outstanding Student Award
- Development of Professional Learning Communities for staff
- Partnered with Lockwood Park (Rockford Park District) for their Equine Assisted Learning Program
- Unanimous Election by our 13 District Superintendents of Executive Director, Meghan Hawkinson





# School Support Services

**Autumn Czizek | Senior Director | [aczizek@roe4.org](mailto:aczizek@roe4.org)**

## Workshops

We provide timely and relevant professional development through in-person and online workshops. Our offerings feature research-based resources designed to address critical issues facing educators. Our goal is to empower our educators to make immediate and lasting impact.

## Administrators' Academies

We offer Administrative Academies to meet mandated training requirements for school administrators across the state, providing a regionally-based option for high-quality professional development for our administrators. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.53)

**Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent**

"The partnership between our school district and ROE4 is truly invaluable. From audit support to professional development, programming opportunities, and networking, their collaboration has been instrumental in our recent growth as a district."

**Harlem SD #122**



## By the numbers

**5,214**

**Educators Served**

**580**

**Professional  
Development Events**

**25**

**Administrative  
Academies**

**10**

**Professional  
Networks**

### School Improvement Planning

ROE 4's School Improvement Directors support area schools by providing coaching, leadership, and assistance in building customized school improvement plans and designing tailored professional development for School Improvement (SIP) days.

### Professional Networks & Learning Cohorts

ROE4's Co-teaching Collaborative provides support to local co-teaching efforts. We also partner with the Illinois SLD Support Project to support literacy teaching through the LETRs Cohort.

The following role-specific networks allow professionals to collaborate, share best practices, and address common challenges in their fields:

- Instructional Coaches
- School Counselors
- School Administrators
- School Psychologists
- School Social Workers
- HR Advisory
- EdTech Roundtable
- World Languages
- Women in Leadership
- Teacher Leaders

### Anytime Learning Library

In FY25, we transitioned from our previous Learning Management System (LMS) to the new Anytime Learning Library. Launched at the beginning of the school year, this platform significantly expanded our offerings by providing 11 new, asynchronous courses to our region.



## Safety Audits

In FY25, our Director of School Safety completed specialized training needed certified to provide comprehensive facility security assessments for school buildings and grounds. This systematic audit utilizes a specialized mobile application designed for education agencies, allowing personnel to thoroughly examine physical features, traffic flow, parking lots, landscaping, and lighting to assess safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness. The assessment results provide detailed recommendations for facility improvements, essential information to share with first responders, and relevant resources on education, facility, and preparedness topics.

## 16 Safety Audits

### Behavioral Threat Assessment Training

In FY25, ROE4 offered two sessions of the "Before the Crisis," a Behavioral Threat Assessment Training to regional school leaders, fulfilling the new legal requirement for establishing threat assessment teams. This workshop provides comprehensive training based on nationally recognized best practices, equipping participants to assess threat severity, analyze student and staff safety, and develop actionable protection plans.

(105 ILCS 128/45)

"[This training] provided practical and tangible steps to take with our school for enhanced safety... Often, I attend safety seminars, and the "answer" is always a big expense or shift in budget that I am unable to make happen. This provided steps to take and processes to implement that should be relatively accessible."

— Rockford Christian Elementary School

## Reunification Trainings

ROE4 hosted two Reunification Training events during FY25. These trainings brought together local educators, safety teams, and first responders to establish a unified approach for safely and effectively reuniting students with families during and after an emergency.



Reunification Training held at Harlem High School on June 16, 2026.

Matt Nyberg, Principal



## Area 2 SEL Hub

ROE4 serves as the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Hub for Area II, supporting the sixteen-county northwestern region of Illinois with SEL-specific coaching, training, and collaboration.

For over four years the Area 2 SEL Hub has worked with schools across the region to develop and implement action plans aligned with mental health and climate goals. SEL Specialists have provided on-site support and trainings to educators using tools like the Trauma Responsive Schools Implementation Assessment (TRSI-A) and more.

*\*data taken from 7/1/24-11/30/25*

**11,510 Total Event Attendees\***

A few signature events we hosted this year included:

**HEART Summit** – A virtual day of learning

**Poverty Simulation** – an immersive learning experience designed to help individuals understand the realities of living in poverty

**Summer Symposium: A Celebration of Resilience** – Our largest event of the year, hosted at the Embassy Suites in Downtown Rockford (pictured above).



**624 Events**



# Special Events

## **You Go, Young Picasso! Art Exposition** July 2024



Our Second Annual "You Go, Young Picasso!" Art Showcase celebrated six local high school artists and their "Pulse of the Campus" graphic design submissions at a gallery walk and reception on July 12th. The event, was attended by family, art teachers, and ROE4 staff and allowed attendees to enjoy the students' artwork which is proudly displayed in ROE4's central office.

## **First day back at Summit! August 2024**





## ROE4 Leaders Present at AESA December 2024

In December, several ROE4 leaders attended and presented at the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) National Conference in Orlando.

Director of School Improvement Carrie Brockway presented on leveraging literacy initiatives and community partnerships to drive academic success. Regional Superintendent Scott Bloomquist co-presented with Summit Academy's Co-Executive Directors Meghan Hawkinson and Chris Collins on "Improving Student Engagement through Empowerment," sharing successful Summit strategies like restorative community circles and daily staff huddles.



## Regional Spelling Bee March 2025

On March 19, ROE4 held the 41st Annual Regional Spelling Bee at Harlem High School for grades 5–8. Julia Kurien of the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall School won and advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., where she placed 202nd nationally.





# Financial Report

## Funding Overview

The majority of funding for ROE4's nearly twelve million dollar operating budget comes from competitive private, state, and federal grants as well as fees charged for alternative education, professional services, student services, and professional development. In addition, the salaries for the Regional and Assistant Regional Superintendents are paid by the State of Illinois.

## County Budget Summary

A portion of the operating funds of ROE4 is provided by Boone and Winnebago County governments. The following figures represent the portion provided by Winnebago and Boone counties and are based on Winnebago county's fiscal year, which runs from October 1 through September 30.

### ROE4 COUNTY BUDGET | FY 2024 and FY 2025

Line Item	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	\$225,269	\$196,835	-13%
Professional Services	152,085	236,000	55%
Rent & Maintenance	52,845	55,520	5%
Other Operating Expenses	16,200	21,900	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$446,399</b>	<b>\$510,255</b>	<b>14%</b>

---

## Institute Fund Report

The Teacher Institute Fund exists to account for fees collected by ROE4 for the registration and renewal of teaching licenses. These fees (and any accumulated fund balance) are restricted for use as described therein, including the following:

- to defray expenses associated with the work of the regional professional development review committees to advise the regional superintendent, upon his or her request, and to hear appeals relating to the renewal of teaching licenses;
- to defray expenses connected with improving the technology necessary for the efficient processing of licenses;
- to defray all costs associated with the administration of teaching licenses;
- to defray expenses incidental to teachers' institutes, workshops or meetings of a professional nature that are designed to promote the professional growth of teachers; or
- for the purpose of defraying the expense of any general or special meeting of teachers or school personnel of the region, which has been approved by the regional superintendent.

### TEACHER INSTITUTE FUND | FY 2024-2025 (Unaudited)

<b>Balance at June 30, 2024</b>		<b>\$832,696</b>
Adjustments to Fund Balance		11,829
<b>Cash Receipts</b>		
License Registration Fees	\$96,734	
Interest Income	32,545	
Subtotal	<u>129,279</u>	
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>		
Payroll & Related Expenses	(94,958)	
Software & Related Training Expenses	(8,073)	
Other Administrative Costs	(28)	
Subtotal	<u>(103,059)</u>	
<b>Balance at June 30, 2025</b>		<b><u>\$870,745</u></b>

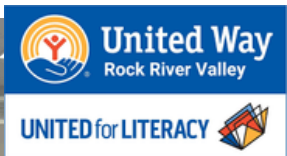
(105 ILCS 5/3-12)





**\$1 MILLION  
Local Grant  
Funding**

Supporting work  
completed in FY 2025





# Associations



**ILLINOIS PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION**



**AESA**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Illinois Chapter of the  
National School Public Relations Association  
**INS *PR* A**

# Partnerships







# Contact Us

---

## ROE4 Office


 300 Heart Boulevard  
Loves Park, IL 61111


 (815) 636-3060

 Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

## Summit Academy

 1102 Evans Avenue  
Machesney Park, IL 61115

 (779) 771-6392

 *While school is in session*  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

# Follow Us!

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 Facebook: **RegionalOfficeofEducation4**

 Instagram: **BWROE4**

 LinkedIn: **ROE4**

 Youtube: **BWROE4**



**Scott Bloomquist**  
Regional  
Superintendent  
[sbloomquist@roe4.org](mailto:sbloomquist@roe4.org)



**Allison Pierson**  
Assistant Regional  
Superintendent  
[apierson@roe4.org](mailto:apierson@roe4.org)

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