



July 1, 2024

Dear Supporter,

After being elected in November 2022, I had the good fortune to have a six month transition with my predecessor into my new role as Regional Superintendent. There were many great things already happening at the Regional Office of Education, and I was able to hit the ground running with some new initiatives. Below is a list of highlights from my first year:

- ★ Teamed with Will County ROE to host the annual **Safety Summit** featuring Dr. Peter Langman, psychologist and expert on school shooters.
- ★ 41 school districts signed the **DuSMART** Intergovernmental Agreement, created with full support from State's Attorney, **Bob Berlin**, and DuPage OHSEM. The ROE distributed safety kits to all school districts, assisted in two full-scale Reunification training exercises, and tested the DuSMART call system.
- ★ Via a joint effort, secured an Illinois Department of Public Health grant (January through June) for ten school districts to pilot the **CARES Collaborative** - providing care navigation through Referral GPS for school families in need of mental health support. We are currently seeking funding to repeat the successful program.
- ★ In concert with DuPage Area Occupation Education System (DAOES) / Technology Center of DuPage (TCD), College of DuPage and GPS Ed, created a steering committee to grow the **DuPage Career Readiness and Work Based Learning Ecosystem Collaborative**. The continued collaboration with Choose DuPage, Worknet DuPage, Project Higher Ed, many local businesses and DuPage County, will create a regional approach to providing DuPage County youth multiple career pathways.
- ★ Hosted the first annual **AI Conference** in a joint effort with the Learning Technology Center and Addison District 4, including 14 vendor and higher education partnerships. Provided learning opportunities about drafting policies, ethical use of AI, and strategies to use AI efficiently and effectively in the school setting.
- ★ Collaborated with **international researchers**, school districts, and area ROEs to improve the systems of support for chronically truant students. Utilized grant funding to increase the truancy team, creating a more effective shared resource for provide training and assistance to the local districts.

- ★ Created a new community newsletter, **Education Matters**, to highlight ROE and district initiatives. [Winter 2024](#) / [Summer 2024](#)
- ★ Hosted the annual **Regional Spelling Bee**, sending 8th grader, Sean Gibbons of Elmhurst, to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC.

These highlights are in addition to the great work the ROE employees do on a daily basis to support students and educators across DuPage and beyond. Listed below are annual activity measures for the 2023-2024 school year:

- >13,000 teacher credentials issued, renewed or registered
- >3500 customers served at ROE
- 274 school and administration buildings inspected
- 1725 fingerprints and criminal background checks completed
- 631 families served through Truancy & Attendance services
- 828 GED documents issued and 425 verifications processed
- 2595 bus driver initial and refresher training
- >600 attendees at ROE professional development workshops and 181 TIDE graduate courses offered
- 44 student work permits issued

I appreciate your assistance so that I can continue to support the students in DuPage County!