



January 23, 2026

Dear Supporter,

After being elected in November 2022, I had the good fortune as the Assistant Regional Superintendent to have a six month transition with my predecessor into my 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 utilizing my past experience as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, assistant principal and principal, to enhance resources for the 41 public school districts, as well as the non-public schools.

The ROE provides required services, as well as “value-added” services created to lift the burden from local school districts. Below is a list of highlights from my first term:

School Safety

- ★ Created the annual DuPage ROE **Safety Summit** featuring
 - Keynote speakers:
 - Dr. Peter Langman, psychologist and expert on school shooters
 - Lichen Rodger, mother of Elliot Rodger, who committed a mass shooting in Isla Vista, California, in 2014
 - John Garcia, ABC 7 Eyewitness Channel Reporter
 - Key partners:
 - Bob Berlin, DuPage State’s Attorney
 - John Heiderscheidt, DuPage ROE
 - John Mondeli, COD HSTI
 - Fred Cadena, NISSAA President, Steering Committee School Safety Network
 - Dr. Kim Lohse, Illinois Fire Institute SSAVEIM Trainer, Steering Committee School Safety Network
 - BeSMART
 - INSPRA
- ★ Provide ongoing **Threat Assessment Training** to schools
- ★ Conduct training tailored for school support staff at County-Wide Institute Day
- ★ 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.

Quality Teachers

- ★ Organize the **County-Wide Institute Day** to provide learning opportunities for all educators in DuPage (and beyond).
- ★ Hosted **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.
- ★ Facilitate job-alike **network** meetings for educators to collaborate at no cost to school districts
- ★ Provide fingerprint & background checks, as well as licensing assistance for educators and offer ongoing Short-Term Substitute Training
- ★ Host a **Job Fair** to assist with staff shortages

Coordinated Resources

- ★ In concert with DuPage Area Occupation Education System (DAOES) / Technology Center of DuPage (TCD), WorkNet DuPage, College of DuPage, GPS Ed, and Choose DuPage, created a steering committee to grow the **DuPage College & Career Readiness Ecosystem**. Helped coordinate Work Based Learning Workshops for DuPage high schools. The continued collaboration with many local businesses is a regional approach to providing DuPage County youth awareness and experiences for **multiple career pathways**.
- ★ Collaborate with **international researchers**, school districts, and area ROEs to improve **chronic absenteeism** and the systems of support for chronically truant students. Utilized grant funding to increase the truancy team, creating a more effective shared resource for training and assistance. Piloting a community approach with two school districts funded in part through a competitive state grant.
- ★ Produce quarterly newsletter, **Education Matters**, to highlight positive ROE and district initiatives
- ★ Host the annual **Regional Spelling Bee**, sending yearly winners to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC
- ★ Via a joint effort, secured an Illinois Department of Public Health grant for ten school districts to pilot the **CARES Collaborative** - providing care navigation through Referral GPS for school families in need of **mental health** support.

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 2024-2025 school year:

- 160 students completed internships through **DuPage College and Career Readiness** programs
- 278 student **work permits** issued
- 864 families served through **Truancy & Attendance** services
- 183 students educated at the **Center for Student Success**, the Regional Safe School and Alternative Learning Opportunity Program

- 265 personalized prenatal doula visits from the **Parents as Teachers / Doula Services Program**
- >14,000 **teacher credentials** issued, renewed or registered
- 293 school and administration **buildings inspected**; 172 **building permits** issued
- 1695 **fingerprints and criminal background checks** completed
- 2319 **School Bus Driver** initial and refresher trainings
- >8500 attendees at ROE **professional development** workshops and 1535 **TIDE graduate courses** presented, saving educators money

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Quirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" at the beginning.