

## **Regional Office of Education Report**

**January 2022**

### **ROE Leadership**

As lifelong educators we are super excited for this new year. We have seen our teachers, administrators, students, and community accomplish amazing things during the last 21 months. 21 months ago nobody knew how to remote learn or remote teach, but our schools, students, and parents figured it out! 21 months ago we never thought that we still would have to be quarantining students and staff, but we are and our students and teachers continue to persevere. 2022 is exciting to us because if we can accomplish all we have accomplished during these crazy 21 months just imagine what we can accomplish in the next 21 months! We truly believe better days are on the horizon for all of us! We hope the coming year brings new hopes and new opportunities for all our students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and community members. Remember No lesson is too difficult once you start reading it, no goal is too difficult to accomplish once you start working hard..... All you need to do is take the first step.... May 2022 be the year you take all the first steps you missed or were unable to take in the last year. We wish you all a happy, fun, and productive New Year!

### **Professional Development**

The Office of Professional Learning continues to migrate as much training and support as possible to a digital distance format. School improvement meetings, teacher coaching, career pathway endorsement work, and transitional math & ELA work also continue on a virtual basis. We have provided opportunities for teachers to network, collaborate, and connect through Zoom. Sessions have been well received by educators, who appreciate the support and opportunity to come together.

Family Educators in the department maintain close contact with their at-risk preschool families in Rock Falls & Amboy. Family Educators have identified and communicated community resources during this uncertain time. They are also working to develop family engagement opportunities for families and young children using platforms such as Facebook and zoom.

The department's social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47

### **December Participants – 86**

Monday, December 1

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ 1:00 p.m.

Monday, December 6

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7

Librarians & School Library Media Specialist Networking Session @ 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8

Special Educators Community Cohort @ 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 9

Youth Mental Health First Aid @ 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 14

Ed Pathways Cohort 1 & 2 @ 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15

Illustrative Math Networking Session @ 3:30 p.m.

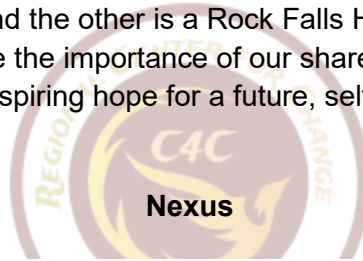
Thursday, December 16

Administrator Networking Session @ 9:00 a.m.

***Regional Center for Change***

We have wrapped up another great month at C4C and we are so close to the finish line with our first semester, which ends January 7th. One of the many achievements this semester is our high school graduates. For the first time ever we have 3 seniors graduating at semester! All 3 of these young ladies epitomize what it means to be a Phoenix! They have risen to the challenge and grabbed their future with both hands. Not only finishing high school, but finishing high

school a full semester early. They have shown that it doesn't matter if you get knocked down, it's how you get back up! We are so proud of all of our students and the successes we have seen this year, but these 3 truly symbolize "the flight of the Phoenix". Two of our graduates represent Sterling High School and the other is a Rock Falls High School student. Way to go C4C! Now more than ever we see the importance of our shared mission - dedicated to student achievement in school and life; inspiring hope for a future, self confidence now and resilience forever!



In the last six months, we created this program from the ground up. In July, we hit the ground running, hiring two additional staff, developing policies and procedures, training staff, getting into schools to meet administrative teams presenting our program to staff, getting schools onboarded to our referral system, and finally working with families. To date, our data is as follows:

**TOTAL: Families: 78**

- Families identified as Homeless: 27
- Families with at least one student who has an IEP: 24
- Families with at least one member coping with a mental illness: 28
- Families with at least one adult with a disability: 11
- Families affected by trauma: 44
  - Families with death in immediate family: 7
  - Families who experience domestic violence: 11
- Families severely affected by COVID: 15
- Adults: 117
- Children: 168
  - Children who are Youth in Care (Foster Care): 5

**Race/Ethnicity of Families:**

- Hispanic/White: 7
- Hispanic/American Indian: 1
- Hispanic/Multi-Racial: 1
- White: 43
- Black: 7
- American Indian:
- Multi-Racial:
- Unknown/Didn't Report: 19

**Languages Spoken by Families:**

- English: 73
- Spanish: 5

**Family Goals Met:**

- Family Goals Met: 175

**Lee County-** AFC 4 Families, Amboy 5 Families, Paw Paw 2 Families

**Ogle County-** Byron 3 Families, Oregon 11 Families, Polo 5 Families

**Whiteside County-** Rock Falls 39 (19 Riverdale only) Families, Morrison 2 Families, Montmorency 2 Families, Bi-County 1 Family, East Coloma 1 Family, PLT 1 Family, Erie 0 (\*just joined), 2 Families from outside partnering school districts.

### **Success Stories:**

- 1 Family into secured housing for the first time in years.
- 320 individuals provided food for Thanksgiving
- 229 individuals provided food for Christmas break
- 96 children received Christmas gifts
- Successfully linked a Family to YWCA for regular counseling services.
- Linked a Family to detox and recovery services.
- We are working with homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters to streamline services to serve two families better.

We utilized the ROE vehicle to help deliver the food and Christmas gifts to families in all three Counties this holiday season.



### **Parents as Teachers First Years/ Early Childhood News**

Referrals are welcome anytime. Enrollment has picked up since school has been back in session but we are always looking for more.

Referrals can be made directly to Lois at the ROE.

### ***In other Early Childhood news...***

IRIS and Early Childhood Expansion work continues. We hit another referral milestone in IRIS this week (200 referrals!), and as the expansion project progresses, more providers are interested in joining the planning committee.

### **Education Outreach Program**

The Education Outreach Program provides academic services to individuals aged 17-24 in Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside County to help them to earn their High School Equivalency Certificate (GED). In addition to the academic focus of the program, our students are provided opportunities for employment skills training, job shadowing, and paid work experience jobs to help prepare them for employment upon completion of the program.

Several students have participated in job shadowing and the work experience program this year. Sites have included the Sterling Park District, Rock Falls Library, IFH Group, and the Lee-Ogle Transportation System. We are thankful to these organizations for providing our students with these opportunities.

### **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program**

Additional grant funding has been received from the State for direct usage for serving our McKinney-Vento students. This grant is managed directly by the districts. We are assisting them in completing this task. The holidays are a joyous time for most, but for our McKinney-Vento students it can be a most trying time without the stability of schools. Efforts have been done to make these two weeks as smooth as possible. .

### **Truant Alternative Program**

The Truant Alternative Program provides prevention and intervention services to at-risk students, ages 6-17, who have accumulated 2 or more unexcused absences within the current school year. We collaborate with parents, students, and school officials to develop a service plan for each new and/or returning student with goals to specifically improve attendance and achieve academic success. This year we focused on ensuring a good transition of students back to in-person learning. We have had 480+ active students this school year alone. We are on track to have our second highest year of students in our program, our top year being 2020-2021 when accommodating for Remote Learning. Our At-Risk Team provides outreach services such as daily attendance monitoring with schools, parent meetings, regular student contact, phone/email/text contacts to families, and home visits. We also connect our families to multiple community resources with an on-going evaluation of needs throughout the school year. We have included additional student information to document on our referral forms, 'secondary factors', and are focusing services on social emotional evaluation and resolution.