

## Regional Office of Education Report

December 2024

It is hard to believe but the end of first semester is approaching quickly. December provides our staff the opportunity to summarize all the work we have been doing so we can report our progress to the state and federal agencies that administer our grants. It also provides us with a few days to recharge while our school districts are on winter break. This will end up providing us some time to prepare to hit the ground running when the second semester starts. We will again combine our shortened January report with our normal February report. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year!

### Professional Learning & Educational Services

| Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services     |
|---|
| Induction & Mentoring   |
| Community Partnership Grant/IDPH Trauma Grant                                 |
| Education Pathway Endorsement   |
| Manufacturing, Health Science & Agriculture Endorsement Programs              |
| Elevating Special Educators   |
| School Improvement & Strategic Planning                                       |
| School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking) |
| Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A        |
| Early Childhood Professional Learning   |
| Family Education & Engagement   |

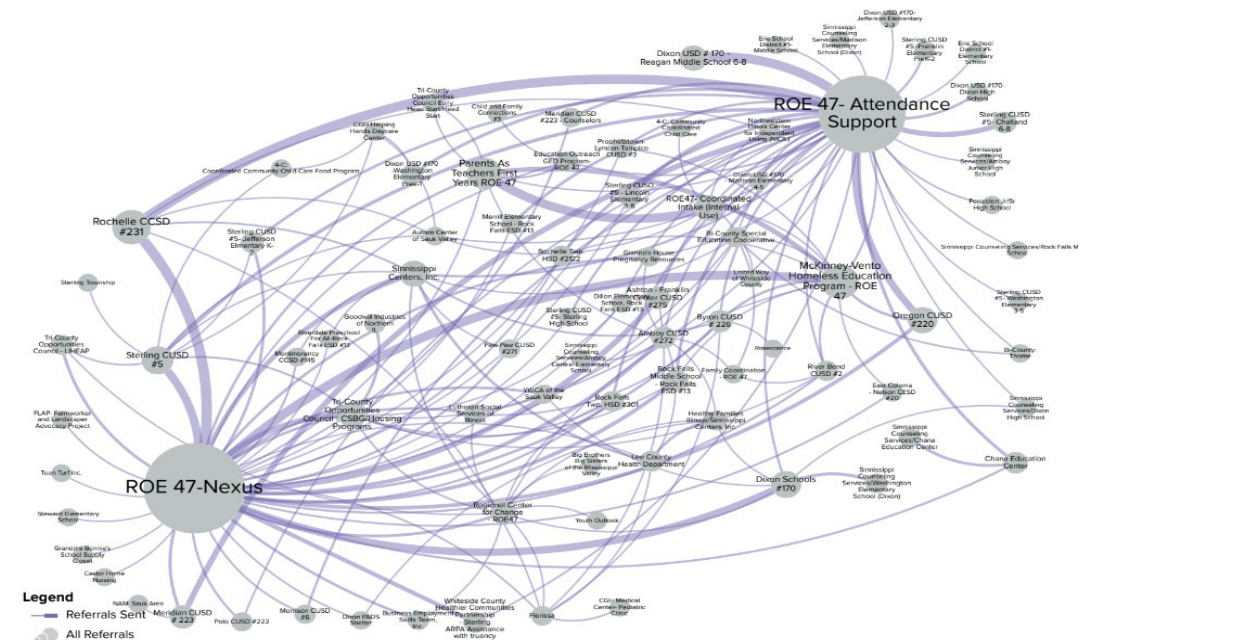
|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| NEXUS Family Support Services      |
| Student Attendance                 |
| Computer Science Capacity Building |
| Afterschool Program                |
| Preschool for ALL Expansion        |

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning & School Improvement**

- The Office Professional Learning & Educational Services is excited to announce that we have been awarded a Preschool for ALL Expansion grant through the Illinois State Board of Education. The grant proposed partnering with Dixon YMCA and Dreaming Tree preschool in Dixon to open four full day preschool classrooms serving 80 children ages 3-4.
- ROE 47 is partnering with the Illinois and National Science Teacher Association and the Illinois State Board of Education to provide statewide professional learning to support the implementation of the Illinois Science Standards in Fy 25.
- Active school with TRS-IA or RSSI plans to support trauma responsive schools include: Amboy Central Elementary, Amboy Jr High School, Amboy High School, Center for Change, Chana Educ Center, Southside School (Morrison), Polo High School, Rock Falls Middle School, Dillon Elementary (RF), Merrill Elementary (RF), Riverdale (RF), Lincoln Elementary (Sterling), Paw Paw Elementary & Jr High, Monroe Center, Sauk Valley Deanery.
- ROE 47 has launched a year-long social media campaign to raise awareness of trauma, reduce stigma, and promote resilience. Posts are available each Monday on Facebook.
  - *Childhood trauma leaves a lasting impact, affecting not only individuals but also generations to come. By raising awareness about the complexities of childhood trauma and promoting understanding, we can foster a more compassionate and supportive environment for children who have experienced these challenging events. Join us as we embark on a journey to create a resilient community where every child feels safe, seen, and heard. Together, we can break the cycle of trauma and empower individuals to heal and thrive.*

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Parent Engagement & Community Outreach**

- Over 20 families joined our November Parent University session on “Cracking the Code: Understanding Your Child’s Behavior”. Parent University sessions are held monthly on zoom at no cost to families.
- To date, ROE 47 has 142 partners on its IRIS referral platform. There have been 2,960 referrals and 1632 families served. IRIS is an Integrated Referral and Intake System that works to connect local agencies with one another to streamline online client referrals. IRIS supports warm hand-offs for families, closes the communication loop for referring organizations, tracks outcomes, and provides a clear data-driven picture of partner capacity to improve the process over time. The image below is called a kumu and demonstrates the interconnected nature of referrals made in the IRIS platform to date. ROE 47 is currently looking for sector champions (health care, childcare, etc.) and additional businesses to engage in a partnership pilot.



## Office of Professional Learning &amp; Ed Services: Social Media

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 Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube! We have an extensive library of 153 videos (and growing) in our collection!

## Upcoming Events



ROE 47 Presents

# 3RD ANNUAL TRANSITIONAL ENGLISH STATEWIDE SUMMIT

DECEMBER 13TH, 2024  
8:30 - 12:00 P.M.  
ZOOM

**Keynote**  
Keynote John Warner will provide strategies for developing writing habits of mind and rethinking the 5 paragraph essay.

**Breakout Sessions**  
Sessions on the Implementation of Transitional English, developing teacher leaders, support ELs and diverse learners, the Illinois Literacy Plan, and more!

**Strategic Planning**  
Learn about resources to help build partnerships, develop Transitional ELA courses, and enroll students!

To register, scan the QR Code or visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)

SCAN ME



## Battelle for Kids CCR Summit

## CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS IN AGRICULTURE



### Learn About:

- Why your FFA members are missing school again
- A year in the life of an Ag Teacher
- Partnerships for work-based learning opportunities
- Agriculture classes are more than electives
- And much more! View full agenda [Here](#)

### Chapter Showcase:

- Rochelle
- Geneseo
- Amboy
- West Carroll
- Fulton
- Polo
- Stillman Valley
- Scales Mound
- Oregon
- Sterling
- Kewanee
- Stark County
- Cambridge
- Eastland
- Forrester



### Date

February 28, 2025  
9:00am - 1:00pm

### Location

Tettens Grain  
1684 Nachusa Rd  
Dixon, IL

### RSVP Info

By February 21  
[Register Here](#)

## TEAM-BASED CHALLENGE DAY

Work with local industry partners in Manufacturing, Health Science, and Education to solve problems that people encounter in everyday professional practice.

Thursday, March 6th

8:30-2:30 at Sauk Valley Community College



REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!



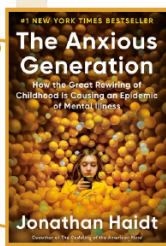
The Pathway Team at ROE 47 has developed a team-based challenge day for your health science, education, and manufacturing students. Tenth-grade to twelfth-grade students who are working on earning an endorsement in these areas are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided.

This event will allow students to complete one of their required team-based challenges. Pre-work may be required.

Childhood was rewired between 2010-2015.

Our kids are capable of doing more.

Social media harms girls more than boys.



Reengage boys in REAL LIFE!

Ban phones in schools.

Play-based childhood - not phone-based.

## BOOK STUDY DETAILS

### 10 Weeks

Starts: January 13, 2025  
Ends: March 21, 2025

### Zoom Meetings

Tues., January 21, 3:30-4:30 PM  
Wed., February 19, 3:30-4:30 PM  
Wed., March 19, 3:30-4:30 PM



**"Experience, not information, is the key to emotional development."**

Join us for a thought-provoking book study of Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*. This groundbreaking work explores the factors contributing to the epidemic of teen anxiety and depression, providing insights into the profound impact of technology on childhood development.

In this book study, we will:

- **Delve into the research:** Understand the science behind the decline in youth mental health.
- **Explore the causes:** Discuss the role of social media, smartphones, and other factors.
- **Discover solutions:** Learn practical strategies to promote well-being and resilience in students.
- **Engage in discussion:** Share insights, experiences, and ideas with fellow educators.

Whether you're a teacher, counselor, or simply concerned about the future of our youth, this book study offers a valuable opportunity to learn, connect, and make a difference.

Questions, contact Grace Heimerdingen-Baile at [gheimerdingenbaile@roe47.org](mailto:gheimerdingenbaile@roe47.org)



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47

2214 E 4th Street, Suite 8 | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495



[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)



[roegondoc47](https://www.facebook.com/roegondoc47)



[@roegondoc47](https://twitter.com/roegondoc47)



[roe47](https://www.linkedin.com/company/roe47)



## ROE 47 Computer Science Teacher Leader Program



### Session One

The training emphasizes building a strong foundation in computer science education, covering topics like computational thinking, algorithms, programming, and integrating CS into different content areas. Participants will explore resources for teaching CS concepts and collaborative practices like pair programming and debugging.



### Session Two

The training delves deeper into integrating computer science (CS) across the curriculum. Participants will explore connections between CS and various content areas for both K-5 and 6-12 grade levels. Practical application will be emphasized through hands-on experience with microbits for grades 6-12. The K-5 session will feature participants designing cross-curricular lessons incorporating unplugged, plugged, and robotic activities for K-5 students.



### Session Three

The training deepens CS integration, focusing on physical computing, project-based learning, and AI connections for middle and high schoolers. Elementary teachers will explore microbit basics and designed cross-curricular lessons.



### Session Four

This final year 1 session will focus on reflecting on the learning journey and developing actionable plans for integrating computer science into classrooms. Participants will share their experiences, challenges, and successes. We will collaboratively develop strategies for overcoming obstacles and sustaining CS initiatives. Participants will leave equipped with a personalized action plan to implement in their classrooms.

### Session Dates

Session One:  
MS/HS: September 26  
K-5: September 27

Session Two:  
MS/HS: January 30  
K-5: January 31

Session Three:  
MS/HS: March 13  
K-5: March 14

Session Four:  
MS/HS: June 16  
K-5: June 17

### Benefits of Participation

- ISTE membership access
- Comprehensive LTC training aligned with new IL CS standards
- Comprehensive 2-year program
- Scholarships for technology conferences
- Access to ROE 47 technology lending library
- Ready-to-use classroom resources and lesson plans
- Networking opportunities with fellow educators
- Professional learning hours
- Support for building an IT pathway endorsement program
- Access to student engagement events (e.g., hackathons)
- And more!

To register, visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)  
Space is limited in K-5 and 6-12 programs.

Please contact Anji Garza ([agarza@roe47.org](mailto:agarza@roe47.org)) with questions or for more information.



**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR CHILDREN**

**SEL CAPACITY BUILDERS**

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #B47  
2014 S 4th Street, Suite B | Portland, IL | (815) 525-1499  
@selcapacitybuilders f selcapacitybuilders @selcapacitybuilders selcapacitybuilders

SEPTEMBER 30TH 4PM - 6PM  
NOVEMBER 16TH 4PM - 6PM  
FEBRUARY 07TH 4PM - 6PM  
MARCH 21ST 4PM - 6PM  
JUNE 05TH 4PM - 6PM

SEL Capacity Builders is dedicated to fostering a strong network of **educators, caregivers, and community leaders** committed to enhancing children's emotional well-being. By providing practical tools and expert knowledge on trauma, attachment, behavior, and more, you will walk away with strategies to use in your classroom, your home, and your workplace to promote resilience.

**SCAN ME**

**Sep Trauma & Attachment**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Understand how trauma and attachment affect child development and behavior.  
*Presented by The Knowledge Center at Chaddock.*

**Nov Youth Mental Health First-Aid**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Learn to recognize and respond to mental health issues in youth. This session has a pre-work component.

**Feb The School of Hope**  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Learn how the science of hope can improve academic outcomes, decrease anxiety, and change your life. Presented by Cathleen Beachboard.

**Mar SEL Summit**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Dive into a transformative summit, designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to build vibrant, inclusive communities within your schools. Keynote by Tom Tony.

**Jun Building a Tool-Kit**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Build a toolkit of strategies to support children's behavior regulation and resilience and explore the importance of self-care. Presented by Jamie Stuart Taylor, LCSW

Please contact Grace Heimerdinger-Boake at gheimerdingerboake@roe47.org with any questions.

# COUNSELOR & SOCIAL WORKER NETWORKING

Connect with colleagues to stay informed about state updates, share best practices, and find support within our professional community.

## SESSION DETAILS

**September 5**

**November 7**

**January 9**

**April 3**

**ROE 47**  
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B, Sterling

**8:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[@regionoffice47](https://twitter.com/regionoffice47)
[/regionoffice47](https://facebook.com/regionoffice47)
[@LOWROE47](https://www.instagram.com/regionoffice47)
[/ROE4731](https://www.linkedin.com/company/regionoffice47)



## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT NETWORKING

Calling all educators in instructional support roles (instructional coaches, interventionists, etc.). These networking sessions are designed to explore data, reflect on current systems and practices, understand evidence-based practices, and consider systems development and refinement through a continuous improvement approach to support all learners, and your loved ones.

### Session Dates

- ✓ **August 28**
- ✓ **October 30**
- ✓ **January 29**
- ✓ **April 30**

### More Information

**ROE 47**  
2214 E. 4th St., Suite B, Sterling

**8:30 – 11:30 AM**



**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[f @regionaloffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionaloffice47)
[@roec47](https://www.instagram.com/roec47)
[@ROE473](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC473)



**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[f @regionaloffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionaloffice47)
[@roec47](https://www.instagram.com/roec47)
[@ROE473](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC473)



# NEW TEACHER CADRE

If you are a new teacher, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, or a teacher in a new teaching area, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, we have several options of support designed to help you grow professionally and network with other teachers to share ideas, support and build a network both in your district and outside with other schools to share strategies--instructional, classroom management, remote learning, special education and SEL.

For questions, please contact Gail Wright at [gwright@roe47.org](mailto:gwright@roe47.org)

| Date               | Format  | Time         |
|--------------------|---------|--------------|
| Tue., September 24 | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., October 22   | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., November 19  | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., December 17  | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., January 28   | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., February 18  | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., March 11     | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., April 29     | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |
| Tue., May 13       | Virtual | 3:30-4:30 PM |

SCAN TO REGISTER







### 7th Annual Social Emotional Learning Summit

# Tug of War

## The Power of Pulling Together





**Tom Toney**  
Keynote Speaker


Are you feeling pulled in a million directions? Overwhelmed by the demands of education? As educators, we often find ourselves in a constant battle, striving to create the best possible learning environments for our students. But the pressures can be immense, leaving us feeling exhausted and defeated.

*It's time to change the game.*

In this summit, we will explore the concept of Tug of War and how it relates to our daily experiences as educators. We'll delve into the energy-sapping habits that can hinder our progress and discover strategies to overcome these challenges.




**Understanding the Tug-of-War Mentality:** Recognize the common patterns that can lead to feelings of exhaustion and frustration.



**Building Positive Relationships:** Learn how to foster collaboration and cooperation with colleagues, students, and parents.



**Cultivating Resilience:** Develop strategies to cope with stress and maintain a positive outlook.




**Embracing the Power of Teamwork:** Discover how to harness the collective strength of your team to achieve common goals.


**Friday, March 21, 2025**

**8:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

**Sauk Valley Community College**


Scan QR Code





**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[f @regionaloffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionaloffice47)
[@roec47](https://www.instagram.com/roec47)
[@ROE473](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC473)







## Administrator Academy

**Literacies of the Digital World: Teaching Technology Skills for Success in the 21st Century**

This workshop aims to educate participants on the significance of computer literacy, digital literacy, and digital citizenship for student success in school and life. Attendees will learn to differentiate between these concepts, identify essential skills for each, and understand the appropriate timing for student exposure. Ultimately, participants will create an actionable plan for implementation in their school or district.



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18**  
**8:30 – 2:30 P.M.**  
**SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**173 IL RTE 2; DIXON**



To register, scan code or visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)



# Be Bold

Student Leadership Summit  
Step Up.  
Stand Out.



**Tom Toney**  
Keynote Speaker

Are you ready to break free from the ordinary and make a difference?

Join us for the Student Leadership Summit and discover the power of boldness.

*Don't let your dreams stay just dreams.  
Join us and ignite your leadership spark.*



**Step outside your comfort zone:** Embrace change and unlock your full potential.



**Discover your unique strengths:** Identify your talents and use them to make a positive impact.



**Develop essential leadership skills:** Learn the habits and attitudes that drive successful leaders.



**Set Clear Goals & Achieve Them:** Create a roadmap to success and overcome obstacles along the way.



Thursday, March 20, 2025



9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



McCormick Event Center,  
Rock Falls

## Questions

Contact Michelle Sanders  
at [msanders@roe47.org](mailto:msanders@roe47.org)



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
224 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/roe47) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/roe47) [linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/roe47) [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0K678)

# NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY

## A COUNTDOWN FOR FAMILIES!

Join us for kids activities, a photo op, snacks, and sparkling grape juice!

**TUESDAY, DEC. 31**  
**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Elevate Youth Center  
505 W Lynn Blvd, Sterling, IL

In partnership with



Help us get a head count, RSVP today!  
Scan the QR code  
Text (815) 764-1194  
Email [gheimderingerbaakesroe47.org](mailto:gheimderingerbaakesroe47.org)



**Balloon Drop**  
right at noon!

# Money Matters

A Family Finance Workshop

## A Parent University Event

Learn practical strategies to strengthen your family's financial well-being and teach your children about money to set them up for financial success.

**THURS. JANUARY 9**

**7:00-8:30 PM**

**VIRTUAL**



Scan the QR code to register  
or text/call (815) 764-1194

## KEY TOPICS

- Money Smart Kids:** Teach kids about money at their age level.
- Budgeting Basics:** Learn to save and spend wisely.
- Saving and Investing:** Build a strong financial future.
- Family Financial Goals:** Work together to achieve your family's money goals.



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
224 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/roe47) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/roe47) [linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/roe47) [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0K678)

## A Parent University Event

# Parenting Beyond the Screen



**Learn to Navigate the Digital World**  
Gain insights into the potential risks and benefits of social media.

**Protect Your Child's Mental Health**  
Discover strategies to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, and the negative impact of social media on mental health.

**Foster Open Communication**  
Learn how to have open and honest conversations with your child about social media and online safety.

**TUES. FEBRUARY 4**

**7:00-8:30 PM**

**VIRTUAL**



Scan the QR code to register  
or text/call (815) 764-1194



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
224 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/roe47) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/roe47) [linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/roe47) [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0K678)

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events

November 2024 Participants - 166



Wednesday, November 6

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training @ SVCC

Thursday, November 7

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ ROE 47

Monday, November 11

Amplify ELA Networking Session @ 3:15 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12

LETRS Cohort 2 @ 3:30 p.m.

Pathway Quarterly Cohort Networking @ 3:15 p.m.

Friday, November 15

Early Childhood Summit @ SVCC

Tuesday, November 19

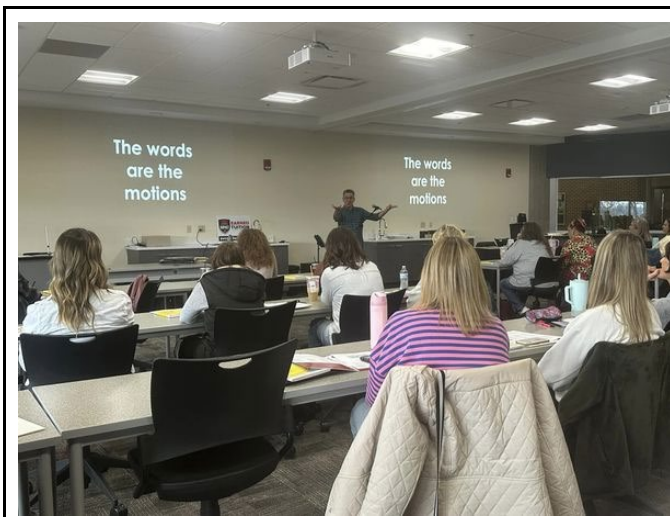
Math for ALL Cohort @ ROE #47

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21

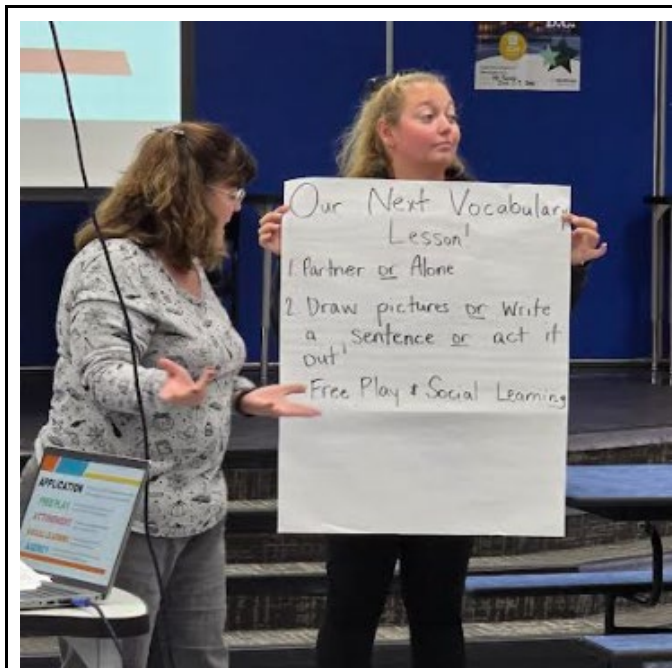
Administrator Networking Session @ 9:00 a.m.

**November 2024 in Photos:**









### Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

Our Nexus team has been working hard, this month, to get all of our families connected to support for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, as those holidays are quickly approaching and the need in our area can be overwhelming.





REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

## ***HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT***

Nexus Program

November 2024 - FY25

**140**

Families Supported

**348**

Children Supported

**51**

McKinney Vinto

**508**

Goals Met

**4,745**

Family Contacts

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Student Attendance Support**



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

## ***HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT***

Attendance Program

November 2024 - FY25

**97**

Families Supported

**199**

Children Supported

**13**

McKinney Vinto

**147**

Goals Met

**3,376**

Family Contacts

**Parents as Teachers First Years**

November brought news of an upcoming monitoring visit from our funder, the Illinois State Board of Education. Although this is an opportunity for growth, staff are always somewhat stressed by their visits. Part of the visit includes videotapes of home visits that the monitors then evaluate and recommend areas for improvement. The hardest part (besides staff worrying that everything has to be perfect) is convincing families to be willing to tape a home visit. Families often share very personal information and family stressors during their visits that they may not feel comfortable having on a videotape. We appreciate the family volunteers who are willing to let us videotape a visit so that we can use them as a tool to improve our services.

The program coordinator, Lois Meisenheimer, has been selected to serve on the Illinois Parents as Teachers State Office Advisory Council, which comprises 12 advisory board members from across the state. Members included 4 representatives from the state office, a representative from each of the two home-visiting funding agencies (the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services), and 6 program supervisors. The inaugural meeting was held in November. Data was shared with the advisory board about statewide PAT affiliate programs which were quite notable. Across Illinois, 7,749 families were served by PAT programs last year, including 8,988 children. The Illinois state PAT office also provides more training annually than the PAT National office does, and overall, Illinois PAT programs meet quality standards and have more blue ribbon affiliates at a higher percentage rate than PAT programs nationally. The representative from IDHS was also impressed with the family retention rate and longevity of the families enrolled in PAT programs across the state which speaks volumes to the strength of relationships that are being developed and the opportunities for change and strengthening of families enrolled in PAT programs. We are thrilled to be able to represent this section of the state on this council and also to be part of such an impressive network of programs that are supporting families in this state.

## **Education Outreach Program**



As November comes to an end and we prepare for the Winter season, the Education Outreach Program wants to take this time to be thankful for what we have and have worked hard for. For many of our students, they are setting and achieving their goals by coming to class regularly! We can officially say that we have consistent attendance and participation from our students. Due to this, testing is at an all time high. We had 5 students pass GED tests in November and already have 5 more scheduled for the first week of December! The students' are meeting their academic and personal goals, and our program is fulfilling grant requirements.



Also with the colder season ahead, the Education Outreach Program and the supportive staff have developed "Giving Trees" for our classrooms in Sterling and Oregon. We have had generous donations of hygiene supplies and hats so far and they are absolutely needed and used! It is a wonderful time of the year and we want to make sure all of our students get to feel cheerful and supported.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

November is the National McKinney Vento Homeless Conference. It was held in Orlando and attended by over 2000 people. Great wealth of information and other State experiences makes this a great opportunity to learn more about this program and steps that others take to reach and support the children in their educational travels. I feel very fortunate that I was able to attend this year. Resources will be shared with our districts to help them better understand and serve our children.

## **Center For Change**

## December

As we close out the year and move into the winter months, we are excited to reflect on the progress we've made and share our plans for continued growth and engagement into the second semester.

This semester has been one of growth, connection, and success. Our October outing to Selmi's Pumpkin Patch was a wonderful experience for our students, providing them with an opportunity to connect with the community while enjoying hands-on, seasonal activities. The event was well-received by students and staff, reinforcing the importance of providing opportunities outside the classroom that promote social and emotional learning.

As we prepare for the second semester, we are introducing *monthly themes* centered on student growth and performance. These themes will focus on essential values such as:

- **Rewards for Attendance:** Encouraging consistent participation and recognizing students for their commitment to learning.
- **Showing Respect:** Reinforcing positive interactions and respect towards peers, staff, and the community.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Promoting compassion and teamwork within our school and beyond.

These monthly themes will help us build a stronger culture of achievement and positivity while recognizing and celebrating individual student successes.

Thank you for your continued support of the Center for Change. Together, we are fostering an environment where students can thrive both academically and personally.

