



REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION

## *Bi-County Brief*

*Monroe & Randolph Counties*

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Volume 2, Issue No. 8

April 2014

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?**

To enter or not to enter, that is the question! The Educator License Information System (ELIS) is still not functioning properly, so we recommend that you do *not* enter professional development activities into the system unless you are due to renew your license this year, July 2014. Unlike previous years, there are no wizards to guide your entry of professional development activities and submission of a Statement of Assurance. When entering your activities, you will need to know the details of the activity, including provider information. You will also need to enter the “purpose” of the activity, which is one or more of the following: “A”-Knowledge and Skills of Teaching or Content, “B”-State Priorities of Technology, Math, Reading, Special Education, or Standards, “C”-Knowledge and Skills Related to Local SIP, “D”-Knowledge and Skills for Additional Content Area and/or “E”-Special Education. We do recommend everyone log into ELIS and update contact information. If you need more information on CPDUs and values, visit [www.roe45.net/licensure](http://www.roe45.net/licensure).

### **PENSION REFORM: FIND OUT WHAT IT SPECIFICALLY MEANS TO YOU**

On April 9 Rich Frankenfeld, Outreach Director from Illinois Teachers’ Retirement Service, will provide a detailed review of the new law that impacts every Illinois educator. The session is being held at Southwestern Illinois College-Red Bud Campus in the Performing Arts room from 4:00-6:00 p.m. We encourage at least one educator from each school to attend. Please reserve your seating and handouts by registering at [www.educationregistration.org/roe45](http://www.educationregistration.org/roe45).

### **SPELLERS STRUT THEIR STUFF**

Seventeen schools participated in the 2014 Spelling Bee sponsored by the Regional Office of Education and hosted by St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Red Bud. Congratulations to all participants and special recognition of first-third place finishers: **Fifth Grade**-1) Emma Stutsman, Gardner, 2) Ava Schwartzkopf, Steeleville and 3) James Ramette, Immaculate Conception, **Sixth Grade**-1) Bastian Kraus, St. Mark’s Lutheran, 2) Ryan Braun, Chester Grade and 3) Hannah Sochowski, Trinity Lutheran, **Seventh Grade**-1) Seth Becker, Evansville Attendance, 2) Isaiah Koeninger, Ss. Peter & Paul and 3) tied Christian Braun, Steeleville and Michael Ratcliff, St. John’s Lutheran, Red Bud and **Eighth Grade**-1) Sara Stehlik, Columbia Middle, 2) Dustin Newton, St. Mark’s Lutheran and 3) Cody Schremp, Prairie du Rocher.

### **TECHNOLOGY AIDS FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION**

It is a lesson that everyone needs to learn: how to manage money, and technology provides ways for teachers to help students understand complicated financial topics. Practical Money Skills, a site that works to help students learn the essentials of personal finance, offers game-based learning. OnGuardOnline, a federal government site, offers educational resources and games to teach teens how to keep personal information safe and secure online. On Budget Challenge students learn how to manage a checkbook and maintain a budget. Then on a smartphone—one of the best tech tools and one most students already have—an app like RedLaser teaches comparison shopping. Users scan a product’s bar code and instantly receive information on prices of the same product at nearby stores and on the Web.

### **COMMON CORE ONLINE RESOURCES**

[www.isbestandardsbasedreporting.com](http://www.isbestandardsbasedreporting.com) Seven reasons for standards-based grading • Becoming a standards-based district • Helpful video links • Presentation handouts

[http://www.isbe.net/asx/2014/PARCC\\_Imp\\_Student\\_Assess\\_022814.asx](http://www.isbe.net/asx/2014/PARCC_Imp_Student_Assess_022814.asx) Video takes a look at the PARCC assessments and the new IL Standards. “Improving Student Assessments” explains the keys to PARCC’s success, which includes employing innovation and measuring students’ higher-level thinking abilities.

<http://www.opened.io> The largest collection of K-12 Common Core videos, games and assessments.

<http://www.achieve.org> Career technical education and CCSS • English language learners and CCSS • Students with disabilities and CCSS • PP presentations, fact sheets, relevant research • Resources, parent guides to student success, Next Gen Science, etc.

<http://writingfix.com> and [http://writingfix.com/RICA/constructed\\_response.htm](http://writingfix.com/RICA/constructed_response.htm) Writing about reading and constructed responses.

<http://commoncore.learnmoregofurther.org> Get the facts on Common Core.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CORNER

### TEACHER TREATS

#### Next Generation Science Standards

**Middle school science teachers**, join Teresa Fehrenz to compare notes on your understanding of NGSS. This Teacher Treat is Tuesday, April 29 anytime from 4:00–6:00 p.m. in Room E207, Columbia Middle School. Bring ideas to share.

**High school science teachers**, come to a Teacher Treat on NGSS led by Lisa Tiedemann between 4:00–6:00 p.m., stay as long as you can and share your ideas. Meet in Waterloo High School Room D203 on Wednesday, April 30.

**Although sessions are free**, register at [www.educationregistration.org](http://www.educationregistration.org); click on ROE45. Also, if you are interested in hosting a Teacher Treat session and have a topic you would like to discuss with fellow educators, contact Rosie Gardner at [rgardner@roe45.org](mailto:rgardner@roe45.org) with your name, a date and place approved by your administrator(s) and your chosen topic.

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Find ROE workshops listed at [www.roe45.net/calendars/workshops-events](http://www.roe45.net/calendars/workshops-events). Register at [www.educationregistration.org/roe45](http://www.educationregistration.org/roe45).

#### Transitioning to Performance Assessments, April 10<sup>th</sup>

Do you have valid and reliable rubrics for evaluating student work? Can you see yourself using this checklist?

- Address only relevant content and performance objectives.
- Keep it short and simple.
- Each criterion should focus on a different skill or content piece **that was taught**.
- Evaluate only measurable criteria and **do not give points for criteria not attempted**.
- Descriptors should be brief statements or phrases.
- Make it easy to understand. Students should be able to use it to self-evaluate before, during and after their work.
- Descriptors are clear enough that multiple educators will interpret them the same.
- Place high range of descriptors in the far left column (counting down 4, 3, 2, 1).
- Use an even number of descriptors: 4 is better than 5 or 3.
- Ideally the rubric should fit on one sheet of paper.

Attend this *Performance Assessment* workshop on Thursday, April 10 from 8:30 to 3:30 at SWIC-Red Bud, Room 123.

#### Exploring Differentiation Strategies in the Classroom, April 30<sup>th</sup>

Have you ever used a student interest inventory? Or a simple learning style inventory? These are just two ways of getting to know and understand your students that will be discussed at the *Differentiation Strategies* workshop Wednesday, April 30 from 8:30 to 3:30 at SWIC-Red Bud, Room 123. Check out <http://www.formativedifferentiated.com/learning-profile-and-interest-inventories.html> and <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/inventory/>.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 7 & 8, 2014	Perandoe Low Vision Clinic	Perandoe Sp. Ed. Conf. Rm.	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
April 9, 2014	TRS Update & Pension Reform	SWIC Red Bud-Perf. Arts	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
April 10, 2014	RtI Networking Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
April 10, 2014	Transitioning to Perf. Assessment	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
April 10, 2014	Art Festival	Red Bud Elementary	5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
April 23, 2014	Critical Incident Response Team	World Shooting Complex	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
April 24, 2014	Teacher Treats-Middle & Jr. High ELA	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
April 29, 2014	Principals' Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 11:00 am
April 29, 2014	RtI Networking Meeting	IL Heartland Library-Edwardsville	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
April 29, 2014	Teacher Treats-MS Science Teachers	Columbia Middle School	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
April 30, 2014	Exploring Differentiation Strategies	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
April 30, 2014	Area V Homeless Liaison Workshop	SWIC Red Bud-Room 152	10:00 am – 12:30 pm
April 30, 2014	Teacher Treats-HS Science Teachers	Waterloo High-Room D203	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Monroe County Retired Teachers: **Monday, April 21 Monroe County Annex 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Randolph County Retired Teachers: **Tuesday, April 8 Rice & Fries, Sparta noon**

THE MONROE-RANDOLPH ROE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU. CONTACT THE WATERLOO OFFICE AT 618-939-5650 OR  
THE CHESTER OFFICE AT 618-826-5471.