



REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION

Bi-County Brief

Monroe & Randolph Counties

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LICENSURE LAW CHANGING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

With new teacher licensure laws come new rules, and the clarity and timeliness of all these changes can be extremely frustrating for educators. The most recent law, PA-98-0610, revamps the entire professional development requirements for licensure renewal. While rules specifying details of the law are not expected to be finalized until late summer, there are some global changes important for educators to know. First, the changes do not go into effect until July 1, 2014. Anyone renewing this year has the same requirements as in the past if the renewal is completed prior to July 1. Second, the philosophy of professional development has changed to a more provider-intensive process that focuses on an educator's local needs. As a result there will be fewer providers able to issue CPDUs, and audits of the providers will focus on professional development quality. Finally, active teachers will be required to complete 120 hours of professional development per license cycle. Reductions in the requirements have been eliminated. The types of activities that qualify for professional development will be determined in rules but will focus on new knowledge and skills to improve student and teacher performance. Administrators will be required to complete 100 hours of professional development and an Administrator Academy each year. Teachers with a principal, general administrator or teacher leader endorsement who wish to retain the endorsement will need to complete one Academy per cycle. Again, these changes do not go into effect until July 1, 2014, and there are few details at this time until rules are created. The Regional Office will provide regional and school information sessions this spring.

SCHOOL SAFETY REMAINS PRIORITY

Though not the first of its type, the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999 heightened awareness of safety issues in schools. In the past year Illinois lawmakers have required law enforcement drills to include active shooter preparations. Area schools have taken a proactive role in implementing meaningful changes to policy and practice with active shooter drills. Practical research from these incidents has changed the recommended responses for schools and first responders. Several school districts, including Columbia and Waterloo, have implemented specific research-based practices in managing active shooter incidents. Also, this month public and private school safety teams from Randolph County will meet with first responders to review their respective crisis plans in light of current research and best practices. Additional supports are being provided by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's release of \$25million grant funds for public schools. Information is available at <https://eocfusionweb.iema.state.il.us/SchoolSafetyGrant/Help.aspx>. Central to all applications is the implementation of an Incident Command System in schools. The Regional Office of Education will provide additional training on the System on April 23, 2014 as an Administrator Academy.

SCHOOL SUPPORT NEEDED FOR DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES

Recent presentations by Monroe County Coroner Vicki Koerber and Randolph County Coroner Randy Dudenbostel have highlighted the growing issue of using and abusing heroin and other opiates, such as oxycodone, that result in overdoses. The increasing number of overdoses has been alarming, especially since many involve first-time users. Drug abuse is not isolated within a certain segment of the community but is prevalent across demographics and socio-economic levels. As both counties are beginning to work toward solutions to this epidemic problem that include policy changes and educational interventions, the Regional Office is requesting support from schools in helping to address these problems. For many years most schools implemented the Illinois Youth Survey to students between sixth and twelfth grades. The survey, administered every other year, provides vital information, so this year we are asking all schools to participate at <http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/>. Although individual school results are not identified outside the school, county and regional level data are available for analysis. This survey will help begin a journey toward drug-free communities.

TRANSITION FAIR PLANNED FOR MARCH 20TH

High school-aged special education students, their parents, junior high and high school teachers and recent special education graduates would benefit from attending the 9th Annual Monroe and Randolph Counties Transition Fair on Thursday, March 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Southwestern Illinois College-Red Bud Campus. Over forty agencies and organizations will be present to provide information regarding the services and community resources that are available to these students and their families. Highlights of the event include guest speakers, hands-on activities and mock interviews with the do's and don'ts of applying for jobs. Contact Crystal Deterding at the Perandoe Special Education District 282-6251, ext. 107 with questions.

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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CORNER

TEACHER TREATS

Target-based Assessments

Math teachers, join Judith McDermott and fellow educators to discuss recent shifts in the college application process. This Teacher Treat is Thursday, February 6 from 4:00–6:00 p.m. –but come as you can– in Room B213, Waterloo High School.

3 T's: Technology, Timesavers, and Teaching Writing for 6–12 English Language Arts Teachers

Sixth–12th grade ELA teachers are invited to come to a Teacher Treat led by Angela Huels. Come when you can, stay as long as you can and share your ideas. Meet in the Columbia High School library on Tuesday, February 11 from 4:00–6:00.

Remember sessions are free, but you must register at 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 with your name, a date and place approved by your administrator(s) and your chosen topic.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Engaging Students with Content Vocabulary, February 11th

How do you assess if students understand the academic vocabulary for a unit? One strategy is to give them six words from the unit on the first day and ask them to write a paragraph on that unit's topic, using those six words. Then instruct them to read the introduction to the unit to see how well they understood the words. This strategy, which allows a teacher to determine her students' initial grasp of vocabulary, and others will be shared at the *Content Vocabulary* workshop Tuesday, February 11 from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at SWIC-Red Bud, Room 152.

Formative Assessment in the Classroom: How Do I Know What They Know? February 24th

Ever tried “voting with your feet”? Students move to a part of the classroom designated for a particular response to a question; then each group must develop support for its position and defend it to the other groups. This is just one of the useful strategies that will be shared at the *Formative Assessment* workshop on Monday, February 24 from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. or on two Thursday evenings, February 20 and 27 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at SWIC-Red Bud, Room 123.

Engaging Students in Questioning, March 19th

Want another use for Post-its? Have students jot questions on them as they read an assignment. Then use those questions as the focus of the next day's discussion. Discussion thereby focuses on what students need to understand and the challenges they had as they read. Get other tips for developing questioning skills at the March 19th *Engaging Students* workshop, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at SWIC-Red Bud, Room 123.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 6, 2014	Teacher Treats (6–12 Math Teachers)	Waterloo High-Room B213	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Feb. 7, 2014	Art du Jour	SWIC Red Bud	8:00 am – 2:15 pm
Feb. 7, 2014	Perandoe Networking Meeting	Perandoe Sp. Ed. Conf. Rm.	9:00 am
Feb. 11, 2014	Teacher Treats (6–12 English Teachers)	Columbia HS Library	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Feb. 11, 2014	Engaging Students with Content Vocabulary	SWIC Red Bud-Room 152	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Feb. 12, 2014	School Safety Summit	Sparta Lincoln-Multi-purpose	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Feb. 19, 2014	Rube Goldberg Machine Contest	Red Bud High School	8:00 am
Feb. 19, 2014	School Counselors' Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 152	9:00 am – noon
Feb. 20, 2014	Formative Assessment in the Classroom	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Feb. 24, 2014	Formative Assessment in the Classroom	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Feb. 27, 2014	Formative Assessment in the Classroom	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Feb. 27, 2014	Principals' Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 11:00 am
March 6, 2014	Spelling Contest	St. John the Baptist-Red Bud	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
March 19, 2014	Engaging Students with Questions	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
March 20, 2014	Perandoe Transition Fair	SWIC Red Bud	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
March 27, 2014	Principals' Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 11:00 am
March 29, 2014	Young Authors' Conference	Valmeyer Elementary	8:30 am – 11:45 am

**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.**