



REGIONAL OFFICE of EDUCATION

Bi-County Brief

Monroe & Randolph Counties

KELTON DAVIS
REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

MARY ANN QUIVEY
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS



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ILLINOIS EDUCATION REFORM IN OUR HANDS

Implementing significant reform requires vision, skills, incentives, resources and action planning. Illinois' leadership has defined a path for our schools with the adoption of updated standards, innovative instructional approaches and using assessments to define achievement of standards and growth for both students and educators. We have been amazed, but not surprised, at the incredible commitment and effort by our educators to improve upon the achievement of our students academically, socially and emotionally. While we continue to move forward in leaps and bounds, there are implementation aspects that remain on shaky ground while "kinks" are worked out. The standardized assessment for the college and career readiness computer-based implementation, PARCC, is challenging us all. Our initial hope was that this assessment and its implementation would provide us timely data that would help us identify the growth of our students. While that remains the goal, the transition period to this new assessment has been extremely frustrating for everyone.

Where we are most proud is that, in spite of these issues, we have remained focused on those practices that do make a difference and are defining local curriculum aligned to the standards, enhancing our instructional methods with research-based practices and using local assessments to identify individual student growth. Regardless of the frustrations from the lack of resources we have been provided for the complex reform changes, we have maintained focus on local efforts that make a difference. This again affirms the exceptional quality of our educators, and we all should celebrate our successes, even though we tend to focus on our infinite challenges. So "KNOW" that you are making a difference. The work you "DO" does matter. "BELIEVE" that our progress to improve education has been dependent on you and that you have done amazing things in a short amount of time.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER CREDIT NOT A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) no longer exist. *Does this mean we do the same things, and we are just calling it Professional Development Hours?* No, this is not just a name change but a complete process change. Starting July 1, 2014 CPDUs and the activity charts defining them no longer existed. Starting January 1, 2015 only certain providers of professional development in Illinois (<http://goo.gl/gyV7VP>) may issue the new hours. *Does this mean your old CPDUs are no longer valid?* Those issued prior to July 1, 2014 are still acceptable, but all new hours must be issued by an approved provider, so if you do not have a form from a provider issuing the credit, the activity will not be creditable. *What if you are attending out-of-state conferences or even an out-of-state university?* An Illinois-approved provider will have to issue you hours of credit for those activities. *Do you earn credit if you serve on a school improvement team or present at a workshop?* That is up to a provider to issue credit. The focus of the licensure renewal process is provider quality. Annually providers will be reporting to ISBE the credit issued by event and presenter: evaluation results, alignment to Illinois Standards, alignment to the Professional Learning Standards, the outcomes for teacher and student growth based on the event and how that was measured. The Illinois State Board has not determined how this will be collected, but reporting will begin June, 2015. Providers not demonstrating quality professional development risk losing the ability to issue credit. On February 26th the Regional Office of Education will be conducting training for providers (school districts) at SWIC in Red Bud. Information is being sent to superintendents and principals regarding this event. *So what should you be doing now?* Continue to participate in professional development opportunities. If you have attended or completed an activity from a provider that is not Illinois approved, keep all records of attendance and participation. Your district may consider issuing credit for the activity; otherwise another provider may determine if it will issue credit. The Regional Office of Education is working on a process to assist with this but has been delayed while awaiting guidance from ISBE on data collection. *What if you renew this year?* Remember that your creditable activities prior to July 1, 2014 are still valid and that for this cycle only your professional development renewal requirements remain unchanged.

TENTH ANNUAL TRANSITION FAIR NEXT MONTH

High school-aged special education students, their parents, junior high and high school teachers and recent special education graduates will benefit from attending the Tenth Annual Transition Fair from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25 at SWIC, Red Bud Campus. Over 40 agencies/organizations will be there to provide information regarding the services that are available to the students. Infinitec will also have two hands-on trainings that will help students manipulate Google Chrome extensions and applications for studying, from the research, planning and structuring stage to the written/spoken product. Anyone with questions should contact Crystal Deterding at 282-6251, extension 107.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CORNER

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

PARCC Assessment Primer: Helping Parents Understand the PARCC Assessment, February 18, 2015, Foundational Services. Choose Morning Session from 8:30–11:30 or Afternoon Session from 12:30–3:30 at SWIC Red Bud, Room 123.

Monroe-Randolph ROE is offering this half-day workshop to familiarize school administrators and teacher leaders with the PARCC Primer materials and process. The Primer is designed to help schools host an informal, welcoming event at which parents can become informed about the PARCC assessments this spring.

Balanced Assessment, February 24, 2015, Foundational Services

This brand new workshop will help you recognize the purposes of assessment and how assessments, including assessments for student growth, fit together in a balanced educational system. Be one of the first to get this helpful information from Rosie Gardner and Deb Greaney on Tuesday, February 24 from 8:30–3:30 at SWIC Red Bud, Room 123.

Unit Eval. & Modification for ELA CC Shifts Using the EQuIP Rubric, June 4, 9, 16 & 23, 2015, Foundational Services

- “Please offer again and stress the importance for all subject areas.”
- “PLEASE do the EQuIP Rubric session AGAIN this summer and save me a seat!”

Someone who wants to take a workshop again? Right, because this workshop clarifies the shifts in instruction that are part of the ELA Common Core. Each participant brings one unit of study that he/she currently teaches. By the end of the four days, he/she is able to self-assess the unit with the rubric and identify instructional gaps that exist . . . and it’s free!

Aligning Local Assessments to the PARCC Evidence Tables, June 11, 2015, Foundational Services

Just one of the benefits of this workshop will be to design or modify assessments focused on specific learner outcomes from the PARCC ELA/Math Evidence Tables. Take advantage of Rosie Gardner and Deb Greaney’s experience in presenting PARCC workshops by attending this one on Thursday, June 11 at SWIC Red Bud, Room 123 from 8:30–3:30.

Designing Quality PERA Aligned Assessments Investigating Types I, II, & III, June 15, 2015

Linda Brissenden, Professional Development Consultant, and Jennifer Garrison, Sandoval District Superintendent, lead this high quality workshop to help teachers and administrators understand the role of assessment in the classroom. Register now for this Area V workshop at the World Shooting Complex in Sparta, Monday, June 15 from 8:30–3:30.

Making the Shift: Close Reading and Test Complexity, June 18, 2015, Foundational Services

- “The workshop was excellent. It was very informative and practical and helpful. Keep presenting it just the way you did!”

Back by popular demand, this workshop provides skills to develop students’ close reading abilities and time to search for materials that will complement and enhance your current resources. Don’t miss it on Thursday, June 18, 8:30 at SWIC!

Classroom Questioning for the Common Core, June 25, 2015, Foundational Services

- “Good materials to go back and use in the classroom.”
- “Relevant to what we are working on in the Danielson Model.”
- “All of the activities and discussion were completely relevant”

There you have it: you won’t waste your time in a workshop presented by Rosie Gardner and Deb Greaney, so sign up to participate on Thursday, June 25 from 8:30–3:30 at SWIC. You’ll learn to develop students’ abilities to ask questions!

* **Register for all ROE workshops at www.educationregistration.org/roe45. Foundational Services workshops are free. ***

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 18, 2015	PARCC Assessment Primer	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	8:30 am - 11:30 am
Feb. 18, 2015	PARCC Assessment Primer	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Feb. 24, 2015	Balanced Assessment	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Feb. 25, 2015	RtI Networking Meeting	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Feb. 26, 2015	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	8:30 am - 11:30 am
March 6, 2015	Agencies Networking Meeting	Perandoe, Red Bud	9:00 am
March 10, 2015	CCSI/OKAW Board of Control	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	9:00 am - 11:00 am
March 20, 2015	Superintendent Council Meeting	Perandoe, Red Bud	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
March 25, 2015	Perandoe Tenth Transition Fair	SWIC	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
March 26, 2015	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	8:30 am - 11:30 am
April 14, 2015	CCSI/OKAW Board of Control	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	9:00 am - 11:00 am
April 23, 2015	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	8:30 am - 11:30 am
April 29, 2015	RtI Networking Meeting	SWIC Room 123, Red Bud	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**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.**