



REGIONAL OFFICE of EDUCATION

## *Bi-County Brief*

*Monroe & Randolph Counties*

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### **CARA FILLER HELPS AREA PARENTS AND YOUTH**

ROE staff were enthusiastic and proud to be affiliated with the Monroe County Coalition for Drug-Free Communities in presenting its Spring Drug Forum: *Empowering the Positive with Hope, Awareness and Action* at Hope Christian Church this past week. The forum, which featured motivational and prevention speaker Cara Filler and the PhotoVoice Gallery Walk, was well attended and well received. Parents and youth heard how adults can communicate effectively with their teens in an honest, realistic and relevant way while actively participating in their lives, and community members learned how to provide the support young people need to stay safe, make smart decisions and succeed in school and life. *Congratulations!* to Ronda Tannous, Waterloo High School student, who won the PhotoVoice contest with her photo of a boy holding a white rose at the cemetery, a tear running down his cheek, and the poem that went with it.

### **GED®, HISET® AND TASC® SOON AVAILABLE**

For decades the term “GED®” was synonymous with high school equivalency exams and was the standard test administered in almost all states to determine high school equivalency. In fact, in Illinois the term was even written into state law. In 2011 the administrator of the GED®, the American Council on Education, entered into a joint venture with Pearson VUE, a private testing company. That led to many states’ seeking alternative providers. Beginning this year Illinois moved from offering the GED® as the only accepted high school equivalency exam to offering two other options—the HiSET® and the TASC®. While these test names may not be as familiar as GED®, both are offered by firms well known in the education community. The HiSET® (High School Equivalency Test) was developed by Educational Testing Service and the TASC® (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) by CTB/McGraw Hill. The Regional Office is in the process of qualifying to give both the HiSET and the TASC at its Waterloo and Chester offices and on both computer and paper to make all three tests more available to those students who need them. Stay tuned for more details.

### **ROE OFFICES ARE ALSO PEARSON VUE TESTING CENTERS**

To accommodate GED® test takers when the GED® became computer-based only in 2014, the Regional Office of Education’s Waterloo and Chester offices became Pearson VUE testing centers. This has also benefitted area educators who need to test for professional purposes. The ROE would like to remind everyone that by checking on the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) website, teachers and administrators can sign up for tests they need and then come into either ROE office to take such tests as the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) and content area exams.

### **MONROE COUNTY SECOND-GRADERS CAN NAME EAGLES**

Monroe County second-graders can contribute to the county’s bicentennial celebration by helping to name a pair of nesting bald eagles and their offspring. They should submit their names for an adult male, an adult female and two eaglets **by Tuesday, March 22** to [geshom@roe45.org](mailto:geshom@roe45.org) at the Regional Office of Education. The Monroe County Bicentennial Committee will choose the winning group of names, and the winning class will be treated to a field trip to spot the eagles from Miles Cemetery with lunch included.

### **PERANDOE TO HOLD 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRANSITION FAIR**

Junior high and high school special education teachers, high school special education students, recent graduates and their parents will benefit from attending the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Fair coordinated by Perandoe at SWIC Red Bud from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30. Larger every year, this year’s Fair will feature over fifty agencies and functional hands-on stations. Creative Touch Cosmetology will bring some of its students and Lincoln’s Challenge some of its cadets to speak with prospective enrollees. Also, SWIC’s Technical Ed & Apprenticeships will have equipment on display that students actually use. For more information contact Perandoe’s Crystal Deterding at [cdeterding@perandoe.org](mailto:cdeterding@perandoe.org) or 282-6251, ext. 107.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CORNER

### 5-12 Teachers and Administrators: The New Social Studies Standards In Action: How Can I Engage Students with Informational Sources? Thursday, March 10, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 9:00-3:00 with follow-up on Tuesday, June 21

How can educators assess the critical reading demands found in the New Illinois Social Studies Standards? This workshop introduces educators to how to develop assessment systems and assessments that evaluate students' acquisition of these skills. Teachers also get an opportunity to work with examples of student work that use FREE primary sources from the Library of Congress. Specific attention will be given to free resources and ways to design flexible learning environments that support positive learning. Teachers will also be introduced to the media literacy skills found in the New Illinois Social Studies Standards with activities, materials and assessments that support them in the classroom.

### K-12 Teachers and Administrators: Implementing the New Physical Fitness Assessments as Part of a Balanced Assessment Framework, Thursday, March 31, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Foundational Services\*

Learn more about the new physical education standards and the role of the new fitness assessments in a balanced assessment framework. Acquire strategies for implementing the new P.E. assessments required for the 2016-17 school year, and plan to brainstorm ways to show student growth in accord with their student learning objectives.

For *In Action* workshops register at [www.educationregistration.org/roe45](http://www.educationregistration.org/roe45). For *Foundational Services\** workshops, which are FREE, register at <http://tinyurl.com/ROE45FoundationalServices>. See workshop flyers at [www.roe45.net](http://www.roe45.net) under Professional Development > Workshops and Events.

### Elementary Administrators: Illinois KIDS Half-day Administrator Training, Thursday, April 7, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 9:00-noon

Don't forget the KIDS meeting from 9:00 a.m.-noon at SWIC, where you'll get information about the requirements for implementing the Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey. Register at [www.illinoiskids.org](http://www.illinoiskids.org).

### K-5 Writing to Read, Thursday, April 21, SWIC Red Bud, Room 152, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### 6-12 Writing to Read, Tuesday, April 26, SWIC Red Bud, Room 152, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

During this resource-rich professional development training, participants will use the Writing to Read research to identify writing practices that improve students' reading. These practices support the implementation of the new Illinois Learning Standards for ELA/literacy. A culminating activity will be to design a classroom task and connect it to PARCC.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10, 2016	The New Social Studies Standards In Action (5-12)	SWIC-Room 123	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
March 15, 2016	Math In Action (K-4) Day 3	Red Bud Regional	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
March 16, 2016	Math In Action (5-8) Day 3	Waterloo Annex	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
March 17, 2016	Regional Superintendent Education Update Go To Mtg.		3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
March 19, 2016	Young Authors' Conference	Columbia Middle	8:30 am - 12:00 pm
March 31, 2016	Implementing the New Physical Fitness Assessments*	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 11:30 am
March 31, 2016	Spelling Contest	Gardner Elem.	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
April 5, 2016	Art Festival	Waterloo Jr. High	5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
April 7, 2016	Illinois KIDS Half-day Administrator Training	SWIC-Room 123	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
April 11, 2016	Assessments In Action (K-8) Day 3	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
April 13, 2016	Introduction to the New IL Learning Standards (NGSS)	Sparta Lincoln	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
April 15, 2016	Superintendents' Meeting	SWIC Conf. Room	9:00 am - noon
April 19, 2016	Curriculum Planning In Action (K-8) Day 2	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
April 20, 2016	Curriculum Planning In Action (9-12) Day 2	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
April 21, 2016	Principals' Meeting	SWIC-Room 123	9:00 am - 11:00 am
April 21, 2016	Writing to Read (K-5)	SWIC-Room 152	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
April 26, 2016	Writing to Read (6-12)	SWIC-Room 152	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
April 28, 2016	Creating a Student-Centered Classroom (K-5) Day 3	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
May 19, 2016	Regional Superintendent Education Update Go To Mtg.		3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
June 16, 2016	Regional Superintendent Education Update Go To Mtg.		3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

#### RETIRED TEACHERS' MEETINGS

Monroe County: April 18, 2016  
Randolph County: April 12, 2016

Monroe County Annex 11:00 am  
World Shooting Complex, 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.**