



REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION

Bi-County Brief

Monroe & Randolph Counties

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BE PROUD – DOING MORE WITH MORE

Educators have heard for over a decade that we need to do more with less. I believe we actually have been doing more with more. We have more educators involved with more. Yes, school administrators have been pulling their hair out, trying to fund our traditional and new programs and comply with state and federal mandates, but the resources that matter most are the people. More educators are involved with efforts that improve our schools and, most importantly, help our students. Bi-county schools are deep in professional teams for academic achievement, social & emotional development and support, curriculum development, assessment and professional growth.

Our office has worked very hard to facilitate that growth through initiatives such as Foundational Services that focus on English language arts and mathematics. This summer we expanded our Math Connections and Next Generation Science programs as Illinois recognized the exemplary efforts of Monroe and Randolph county teachers and reproduced much of our programming. We have focused on student growth, academically and behaviorally, which was supported through the RtI Network grant. Our Right Track Truancy Prevention Program continues to focus on providing help to those who help others, including problem-solving teams and social service providers in the region.

It is difficult to stop and celebrate the many commendable things you do and how far we have come in the age of doing more with less. It is difficult because we are still running forward and rarely take time to stop and look back. I hope this summer you were able to take at least one deep breath and reflect on the many amazing things you have accomplished.

NEW FACES AMONG US

The most exciting moments in my career remain the first days of school: a new class of students ready to be energized with the passion I had for my subject and the compassion I had for them. August remains an exciting time for new and returning students, administrators and support staff. We welcome all of you new to the profession and new to our region. The Regional Offices of Education at 107 East Mill Street, Waterloo, open 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and in the courthouse, #1 Taylor Street, Room 101, Chester, open 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., are here to help the educators of our region.

This year the ROE has had some staff changes to support our mission for helping all learners. Since July 1st Chris Diddlebock, former superintendent of the Chester school district, has been the Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools. Where is Mary Ann? Mary Ann Quivey is coordinating multiple math and science partnership grants that are being replicated statewide. She is coordinating these programs that were inspired by the work of our teachers in the region for Monroe and Randolph county schools and other ROEs in the area. She also serves as our Grants Coordinator for all things concerning professional learning. Marybeth McCormick, previously a teacher in the Sparta school district, has joined the office as our Professional Learning Specialist. Our support team for truant, dropout and at-risk students has been complemented with the addition of Patti Miles, former principal at the Career Center of Southern Illinois. Finally, at our Red Brick School we welcomed Morgan Van Buren, our new English and language arts teacher.

ILLINOIS' BUDGET IMPASSE STILL IMPACTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Even though appropriations were made for education, not all educational programs are being funded. Unfortunately, funds for the ROE's adult literacy and GED classes are nonexistent, and no grant funds have been made available. Sadly, because of this shortage and other grants that have been frozen during the budget impasse, the office is unable to provide GED classes for some adults. We have suspended until further notice our traditional classes for adults 22 years and older. The good news is that for those adults 22 years and under, we have an option to provide online Edgenuity classes in preparation for a GED. This opportunity comes from the cooperative Right Track Truancy Prevention Program and our ability to serve school-aged dropouts. We are still coordinating adult tutoring and appreciate the over 50 volunteers who dedicate themselves to helping others. Please call either of our offices for more information on any of these programs.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CORNER

Monroe-Randolph ROE has a series of multi-leveled workshops planned for the upcoming school year. *Level One* consists of Foundational Services. These will continue to be free. Topics will include Math, Science, ELA: Writing, Balanced Assessments and Teacher Evaluation. *Level Two* are our Local PD “In-Action” Workshops. If you are looking for ways to implement foundational topics into your classroom, then the *Level Two* workshops are for you! At \$70/session or \$180 for the series, it’s a bargain to sign up for all three and strongly encouraged. Lunch will be on your own.

Classrooms In-Action: How Can I Create a Student-Centered Classroom? October 19 and December 1, 2015 and March 21, 2016, Level 2

K-5 teachers, remember that a student-centered classroom does not happen overnight. Join us for this 3-day workshop that will help you create a classroom in which students are actively engaged in their own learning and you are truly the facilitator. Come to Room 123 at Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), Red Bud from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Assessments In-Action: I Have Data, So What’s Next? November 2, 2015 and February 8 and April 11, 2016 for K-8 Teachers; November 3, 2015 and February 10 and April 12, 2016 for High School Teachers, Level 2

Teachers, get prepared. Selecting assessments, collecting data and analyzing student growth are all important in the new evaluation system for teachers. These workshops over three days will help you gain practical knowledge to create a system for collecting, organizing and evaluating your assessment data, and you will leave with a variety of strategies to reach your diverse set of learners. Workshops are at SWIC, Red Bud, Room 123 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Math In-Action: What Does a Common Core Classroom Look and Sound Like? K-4 November 9 and December 9, 2015 and March 15, 2016; 5-8 November 10 and December 10, 2015 and March 16, 2016; 9-12 November 16 and December 11, 2015 and March 17, 2016, Level 2

Don’t miss this one. You know that the primary focus of the New Math Illinois Learning Standards is student engagement with real world math. Without effective classroom strategies, it is difficult to attain engagement. This 3-day workshop will provide experiences that help increase a teacher’s ability to implement the 8 Mathematical Practices, aligned tasks, math discourse and visual learning. These are again at SWIC, Red Bud in Room 123 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

* **Register for all ROE workshops at www.educationregistration.org/roe45 by one week prior to the event.** *

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 10, 2015	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC-Room 123	9:00 am - 11:00 am
September 22, 2015	TAOEP Mentor Training	World Shooting-Sparta	
October 19, 2015	Creating a Student-Centered Classroom (K-5)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
November 2, 2015	Assessments In-Action (K-8)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
November 3, 2015	Assessments In-Action (9-12)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
November 3, 2015	School Board Member Training	SWIC-Room 123	5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
November 6, 2015	Superintendents’ Meeting	SWIC-Conference Rm.	9:00 am - noon
November 9, 2015	Math In-Action: What does a Common Core Classroom Look and Sound Like? (K-4)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
November 10, 2015	Math In-Action: What Does a Common Core Classroom Look and Sound Like? (5-8)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
November 12, 2015	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC-Room 123	9:00 am - 11:00 am
November 13, 2015	Art du Jour	SWIC	8:00 am - 2:00 pm
November 16, 2015	Math In-Action: What Does a Common Core Classroom Look and Sound Like? (9-12)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm

RETIRED TEACHERS’ MEETINGS

Monroe County:	October 19, 2015	Monroe County Annex	11:00 am
Randolph County:	October 13, 2015	VFW, Chester	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.