



**WILL COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION**  
**QUARTERLY REPORT- JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2017**  
**Submitted by Dr. Shawn Walsh, Regional Superintendent**

## **WILL COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2017**

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/3-5, this is a quarterly summary of the activities of the Regional Office of Education from January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017. As Will County Regional Superintendent of Schools, I affirm this is an accurate account of the activities of Dr. Shawn Walsh and Frank Perucca (Assistant Superintendent) from January 1 through March 31, 2017.

### **School Visits and Business Meetings**

#### January 2017:

- 4: 3 Rivers IASBO meeting
- 5: IARSS meeting Springfield
- 6: Lincoln School Budget Meeting
- 10: Compliance Visit in Laraway District 70
- 10: Joliet Chamber of Commerce Education Committee
- 12: IARSS Conference Call
- 13: Meeting with Lincoln School Principal
- 13: University of St. Francis
- 19: PDA Governing Board Meeting at the PDA
- 24-27: Compliance Visit in Plainfield District 202
- 31: Health/Life Safety Meeting at ROE
- 31: Valley View student services meeting
- 31: Will County School Safety Advisory Task Force meeting

#### February 2017:

- 1: 3 Rivers IASBO meeting and 3 Rivers IPA meeting
- 2: Administrator Academy at the PDA & Joliet Chamber Teacher Recognition Banquet at Jacob Haley Mansion
- 3: Lincoln School Budget Meeting
- 3: Digital Threat Assessment seminar Chicago
- 7: Joliet Chamber of Commerce Education Committee meeting
- 8: Joliet West HS assembly
- 14: Area 1 Meeting at DuPage ROE
- 15: FEMA meeting Peotone HS

- 16: Learning Leaders Meeting in New Lenox and WILCO Board Meeting
- 16: FEMA planning meeting EMA
- 17: Will County Center for Economic Development meeting
- 21: School Breakfast/Lunch Waiver Hearings at ROE
- 22: Compliance Visit in Fairmont District 89
- 23: Girls Leadership Conference
- 23: Amazon Donation Program at Balmoral Elementary School in Crete-Monee District 201U & IARSS Conference Call
- 24: Meeting with Lincoln School Principal
- 27: Area 1 Conference Call
- 28: Health/Life Safety Meeting at ROE

March 2017:

- 1: 3 Rivers IASBO Meeting
- 3: Meeting with Lincoln School Principal
- 3: Guest reader at Wood View Elementary
- 3: IL Association of School Administrators meeting
- 7: Will County ROE Spelling Bee at Lockport East High School
- 7 & 8: IARSS meeting Springfield
- 8: Compliance Visit in Beecher District 200U
- 9: Ethics training WCOB
- 10: Lincoln School Budget Meeting
- 11: Illinois Reading Council Wilmington Jr. High
- 14 & 15: Compliance Visit in Mokena District 159
- 16: PDA Governing Board Meeting and Vista Learning Governing Board Meeting at PDA & IARSS Conference Call
- 17: Will County CED
- 21: WILCO Area Career Center Board meeting
- 23: TREES meeting
- 23: Joliet Central Mr. J interviews
- 23: Will County EMA training at WCOB
- 24: Grundy County ROE

- 27: Health/Life Safety walk-thru in Wilmington District 209 U
- 28: Compliance Visit in Peotone District 207U
- 30: Will County Administrators Organization meeting
- 30: IARSS Conference Call
- 31: Juvenile Justice Council meeting WCOB

### **Business Meetings**

The Regional Office of Education is also the fiscal agent for the Professional Development Alliance, Three Rivers Education for Employment System, WILCO, and the Area One McKinney-Vento Grant. The superintendent meets regularly with the executive of each organization.

### **Public Relations and Community Outreach**

- Communication is an important part of the educational mission. Various media are used.
- Activities of the ROE are also publicized on the Will County Regional Office of Education website and Facebook page to increase public awareness of the events and services.
- The Regional Office of Education sponsors annual events such as Will County Spelling Bee, STEM Fair, Girls and Boys Leadership Conferences and Will County Student Government Day.
- Between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2017, the office answered 11,903 phone calls, emails and walk-ins.

### **Lincoln School**

- Lincoln School is an alternative school operated by the Regional Office of Education.
- Lincoln School houses three different programs: Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP), Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP), and Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP).
- Between January 1 and March 31, 2017, Lincoln School had a total enrollment of 138 students, 23 in the middle school and 115 in high school.

- Regional Safe School Program (RSSP)**-RSSP is an alternative school program for disruptive youth in grades 6-12 within Will County. Lincoln School operates the Safe School Program pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/13A of the Illinois School Code. The purpose of the Regional Safe School Program is to serve students in grades 6-12 who have been removed from their traditional home school due to one or more disciplinary issues. Students remain part of their home school, but attend the RSSP as a serving school. Students are referred to the program under these guidelines: multiple suspensions, in lieu of expulsion, or expelled. The RSSP offers students a second chance for their education. Students are referred to the RSSP and remain with the program for a specified period of time determined by the home school district.
  - Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP)**-The purpose of ALOP is to provide students in grades 9-12 a learning alternative to the traditional setting. Students who are referred to and attend the ALOP have demonstrated the need for more intensive academic/social/emotional interventions. Students may attend the ALOP for a variety of reasons. Some include, but are not limited to: students seeking a GED, credit recovery, failing all courses, truancy concerns, potential dropout status, etc. ALOP is a choice program that the parent and the student must agree and consent to attend. Students remain part of their home school, but attend the ALOP as a serving school. Students in ALOP are referred for a specified period of time (one year on average) that may be extended or shortened based upon input from Lincoln School staff, home school staff and from student(s)/guardian(s).
  - Truants Alternative and Optional Educational Program (TAOEP)**-The purpose of TAOEP is to provide students in grades 6-12 an alternative academic setting that helps promote student attendance. Students who attend TAOEP are labeled chronic truants—students who are well below 90% attendance rates. Students are referred to TAOEP after all other truancy interventions have been exhausted within their home school. Students remain part of their home school, but attend the TAOEP as a serving school. The TAOEP staff work with students to improve attendance rates by creating strategies and counseling services to resolve personal conflicts/issues that prevent regular attendance. Students in TAOEP are referred for a specified period of time (one year on average) that may be extended or shortened based upon input from Lincoln School staff, home school staff and from student and parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Truancy/School Resource Officer**
- The School Resource Officer takes an approach to truancy aimed at preventing attendance problems by connecting with students and motivating them to attend.

- From January 1 through March 31, 2017, the School Resource Officer made 100 home visits, conducted 18 truancy hearings, held 85 school conferences with students and or parents, sent 22 warning letters, trained and assisted both TAOEP truant officers, attended monthly community meetings, and various meetings with schools to provide truancy support.

#### **High School Equivalency Testing Program**

- Joliet Junior College offers a computer based GED Test at the main campus.
- In order to qualify for the Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate, Illinois Residents in addition to passing the GED test must pass or present proof of passing the Federal and Illinois Constitution Test.
- Between January 1 and March 31, 2017, 283 Will County residents have taken the GED test. Ninety-two Will County residents have completed the four test batteries, but failed to meet all requirements. Sixty-three Will County residents have certified and qualified for their High School Equivalency Certificates.

#### **Life Safety Inspections**

- Between January 1 and March 31, 2017, two building permits were issued, 4 occupancy permits were issued and 56 school buildings were inspected.

#### **Transportation**

- Initial classes for new school bus drivers and refresher training for experienced bus drivers are offered regularly throughout the year.
- Between January 1 and March 31, 2017, four initial bus training classes and 7 refresher bus classes servicing 286 drivers were held.

### **Professional Development Alliance**

- The Professional Development Alliance has offered programs that allow administrators and teachers to fulfill their professional development requirements.
- Between January 1 and March 31, 2017, eighty-six trainings in educational fields were offered and overall were attended by 1514 educators at various times.

### **Criminal Background Check**

- Effective August 12, 2004, school districts are required to perform a fingerprint-based criminal history records check for all certified and non-certified applicants for employment.
- Any individual that has applied for employment with a school district after August 12, 2004, must undergo a national fingerprint history check before the individual begins employment with the district. The criminal history check must be initiated prior to employment, but the individual may be hired, and begin employment pending the outcome of the background check.
- The Will County Regional Office of Education (ROE) is an approved "Live Scan Agency".
- Between January 1 and March 31, 2017, 625 criminal background checks have been conducted.

### **Teacher Licensure**

Between January 1 and March 31, 2017, 343 licenses registered, 218 substitute teacher licenses were registered, 586 new licenses were issued, 61 endorsements were issued, and 79 para professional licensures were issued.

- In order to simplify the credential environment, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recently converted 60 types of educator certificates and endorsements to three types of licenses: Professional Educator License (PEL), Educator License with Stipulations (ELS), and Substitute License.
- All Illinois teaching, administrative, and school service personnel certificates have been converted to a corresponding license. Educators did not lose any of their credentials or endorsements in this transition. It is possible for an individual educator to hold multiple licenses, as different certificates held at the time of the exchange were converted to endorsements on different licenses.

Educators will not receive paper copies of their license but may print the Credentials page of their Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) account if they wish to have a printed version of their credentials.

- Effective January 6, 2017, Senate Bill 2912 changed the application fee for a substitute teaching license to \$50. Substitute teaching license may be renewed after 5 years without evidence of passing a test of basic skills (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ESenateBill2912.aspx>).