



**BOONE-WINNEBAGO
REGIONAL OFFICE
OF EDUCATION #4**

**ANNUAL REPORT
FY21**

**300 HEART BOULEVARD
LOVES PARK, IL 61111**

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

With Covid mandates in place and a set plan for students to return to in-person learning, FY21 looked hopeful for Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education and the districts we serve. Following the unprecedented challenges we saw in FY20, the Regional Office spent the summer of 2020 putting systems in place for every scenario imaginable. We streamlined an aggressive plan to support schools, educators, and students upon their return to the classroom at the start of the school year.

Our ROE 4 team has been determined to see opportunities to serve and support through the beginning of the pandemic and into FY21. At-Risk Student Services used every resource to clear barriers that kept students from being in school, often volunteering to distribute food and personal items to families in need. ROE 4+ Professional Learning created necessary coursework and goals customized to new teaching situations. Summit Academy opened its doors to nearly 200 middle and high school students at its new Machesney Park campus. The Central Office staff continued to respond to an abnormally high volume of questions and appointment requests, all while adhering to strict safety guidelines.

As we reflect, we can say we are proud of the Regional Office staff and how we all rose to the ever-changing challenges presented on an almost daily basis. We were creative and innovative in our response to the needs of our districts. We pulled together to navigate the uncharted territory.

We're excited for FY22. As schools and the community watched our FY21 response, they began reaching out for even more support, trusting our processes. As things slowly transition back to a more normal way of doing things, we will not sit back and pause. We are looking at continued growth in our office. We've been selected as a large area "hub" for a new statewide social-emotional initiative. We're hiring quality staff to support our increased requests for service. We're determined to use what we've learned throughout the past year as a launching point to be an even larger, more responsive, and people-invested office. Boone-Winnebago ROE remains ready to advocate, educate, and serve in the districts and communities the Regional Office calls home.



Scott Bloomquist
Regional Superintendent of Schools



Allison Pierson
Assistant Regional Superintendent

CENTRAL OFFICE

TESTING CENTER

- 1,926 Pearson Vue Tests
- 498 GED Tests
- 54 Parapro Tests
- 0 IL Constitution Tests - On Hold

GED

- 212 Diplomas Issued

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER CLASSES

- 2 Online Refresher Classes
- 40 In-Person Refresher Classes
- 17 Initial Classes
- 93 Drivers Certified
- 790 Drivers Re-Certified

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- 85 New Regional Substitutes

FINGERPRINT SERVICES

- 1,402 Individuals Fingerprinted

HOME SCHOOLING

- 19 Families Registered
- 39 Students

IL MINOR WORK PERMITS

- 239 Permits Issued



Front Office Staff (L-R): Mary Wilson, Denise Rux, Stephanie Putzstuck, Jamie Watts, Brittany Bauer



(Pictured L-R): Maria Diestelmeier, Director of Human Resources and Rachele Blich, Director of Finance



ROE #4

BY THE NUMBERS



51,868

of K-12 Public School Students We Serve

4,956

of K-12 Non-Public School Students We Serve

801

of Square Miles We Serve

95

of Attendance Centers We Serve

13

of School Districts We Serve

1

of Alternative Schools We Serve

ROE 4+ PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

ANNUAL OVERVIEW & OUTCOMES



Having spent the spring and early summer of 2020 transitioning all professional learning opportunities to a remote format due to the pandemic, ROE 4+ was well-versed in accommodating requests for professional learning support for education staff in our districts. They contracted to provide custom learning for 11 schools and one district office during FY21. Six of those 11 schools focused on equity work during their partnership with the Regional Office.

With the implementation of remote offerings on the small scale, Professional Learning took the show on the road and teamed up once again with another area ROE to offer its annual law conference in hybrid fashion. Update on School Law 2020 was successfully delivered to a smaller group of in-person administrators synchronously with a large group of administrators who attended the event via Zoom.

The PL Department also saw growth with impactful learning opportunities and implementation of Effective Teams. As a direct result, one local high school raised its "ninth grade on track to graduate" rate during the '20-21 school year from lowest in its large district to highest.

PL offered a book study with one school on co-teaching with "30 Days to the Co-Taught Classroom" where the author participated in a live Zoom event. A second book study, open to all area educators, was also completed. The popular author, Jennifer Serravallo, connected with participants via Zoom to discuss her book "Connecting with Students Online".

ROE 4+ also received a tremendous response to its new virtual networks, including a Curriculum Leaders network, a Women in Leadership network, and a network for local school healthcare providers headed up by Dr. Sandra Martell of the Winnebago County Health Department.

With 160 professional learning events completed during FY21, there were a wide range of topics offered for educators, administrators, and staff in every grade band. Participants were quick to register for the mostly remote classes, resulting in a full 40% increase in attendance over the prior year.

ROE 4+ is excited for big additions for FY22. The PL Department will welcome the Area 2 SEL Hub (one of only six hubs in the State of Illinois), a new PL facilitator, an additional school improvement director, and increased partnership requests from area districts, who now look first to the experienced Regional Office PL Team for their staff support.

141 Professional Learning Events

- 2,339 Participants
- Up from 1,447 in FY20

19 Administrators' Academies

- 408 Participants
- Down from 516 in FY20

At-Risk Student Services

BY THE NUMBERS FY21

Open Court Cases	394
Closed Court Cases	283
Districts Served	12
Total Interventionists	5



394 Open Truancy Intervention Cases

283 Closed Truancy Intervention Cases

1,738 Children Identified as Homeless Under McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



FY21 came with many changes for the At-Risk Student Services Department. While navigating through the pandemic both professionally and personally, the department changed the location of their office from the Safford Rd building to the ROE 4 office in Loves Park. In addition, Meghan Hawkinson was hired as the new director along with two new interventionists for a total of five. The new team hit the ground running and has not slowed down since.

The year started with team building and the development of common goals and objectives for the year. The focus of the At-Risk Student Services Department is always to work together with families, students, schools, and the court system to increase student attendance in school by getting to the root cause of any underlying issue. Truancy is a symptom of a greater ailment, and it is the department's charge to diagnose the ailment so that interventions can be put into place and change can occur.

Remote learning during the early pandemic proved to be a challenge for many of our region's students and families. The department went out of their way to partner with the schools and help them provide the resources needed to increase the success of its students. The At-Risk Student Services Department was often seen delivering Chromebooks and hotspots, passing out lunches, and providing essential items for families in addition to regular duties.

At-Risk Student Services continues to strive to remove barriers and improve the educational journey of students in our districts and communities.

Open Court Cases By Grade

K - 6	4 - 32	8 - 32	12 - 32
1 - 25	5 - 47	9 - 47	
2 - 37	6 - 35	10 - 35	
3 - 40	7 - 27	11 - 27	



By Gender

Female	179
Male	215



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM OPTIONS

REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOL PROGRAM (RSSP)

- GRADES 6-12
- STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPELLED OR ARE CONSIDERED EXPULSION-ELIGIBLE

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMS (ALOP)

- GRADES 9-12
- STUDENTS WITH LACK OF PROGRESS IN HOME SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

TRUANCY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (TAOEP)

- AGES 17-21
- STUDENTS W/ ATTENDANCE ISSUES
- ADMINISTERED SAT

• VISIT THE NEW
SUMMIT ACADEMY WEBSITE:
 • www.saeagles.org •

NEW YEAR, NEW NAME, NEW CAMPUS

The area's only regional alternative school re-opened its doors in August 2020 with a new name at a new campus. Summit Academy welcomed nearly 200 middle and high school students to 1102 Evans Avenue, in the heart of Winnebago County. Administrators and staff balanced both hybrid (in-person instruction x2 days and remote instruction x3 days per week) students, as well as students who attended remotely full-time.

Total enrollment for the fall quarter was 197 students (grade 6-12+) with a steady increase in those numbers on a weekly basis. Summit Academy continued to receive approximately 2-4 new referrals per week throughout the school year.

In order to accommodate the increased demand of remote learning, an \$83,000 grant was awarded through ISBE to provide 45 laptop and 164 Chromebook devices for Summit students.

Sadly, in November of 2020, Summit Academy was devastated by the unexpected news of the passing of Middle School English and Social Studies teacher, Mr. Michael Padron, a staff and student favorite for 7 years. He left behind his wife, Nikki, an RPS teacher.

This tragic event added to the challenges already brought about by Covid. School counselors stepped up for students and staff during this trying time.

Summit Academy staff spent the remainder of the school year onboarding new students, updating their education programs and processes to accommodate the everchanging teaching guidelines, and optimizing Student Success Plans for those continuing in the program or looking to transition back to their home school or on to graduation.

Spring semester ended on a high note as administrators prepared for Summit's very first graduating class along with upcoming summer school classes.

HAPPY GRADUATION DAY, SUMMIT ACADEMY!



Summit Academy began the 2020-2021 school year with all the difficulties a Covid pandemic had to offer. The great news is that the challenging school year culminated with Summit Academy's inaugural high school graduation on May 21, 2021.

Family, friends, classmates, school staff and administrators celebrated 19 proud graduates who received a Regional Office of Education high school diploma. Another 20 students were recognized and honored with a certificate of completion and later returned to their home schools to receive their diploma with their graduating class.



HEALTH/LIFE SAFETY

The purpose of the health/life safety provision is to establish minimum standards for public school facilities which will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the pupils, school personnel, and others who use them.

112

Buildings Inspected

44

Building Permits Issued

UPDATES FOR 2020-2021



FY21 proved to be a busy year for Don Keigher, ROE 4 Director of Health/Life Safety. A former Illinois administrator and educator, Mr. Keigher oversees all facility inspections, compliance reporting, and issuing of building permits for the 13 districts in Boone and Winnebago counties served by the Regional Office.

Each local school board operates and maintains compliance for its facilities. Inspections of each facility are conducted annually under the authority of the Regional Superintendent.

With no new schools or buildings completed within our districts since the prior year, the number of buildings inspected remained steady at 112 for FY21.

The pandemic most likely played a role in a much lower number of new building permits issued for FY21. That number decreased 47% from FY20.

The HLS Department begins facility inspections at the beginning of each fiscal term and typically concludes around mid November. Mr. Keigher coordinates facility inspections with local fire departments to ensure strict adherence to all codes and standards. He is also assisted by several ROE 4 employees who have successfully completed Illinois State Board of Education health/life safety compliance training.

The annual inspection results of each building are available at the Regional Office of Education (ROE), and a summary report is filed with the Illinois State Board of Education as required by law.

WHO WE SERVE

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

- 8 - Unit Districts (K-12)
- 4 - Elementary Districts
- 1 - High School District

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS:

- 61 - Elementary Schools
- 17 - Jr. High/Middle School
- 15 - High Schools
- 15 - Other Buildings

STUDENT ENROLLMENT:

- 13 Public Schools – 51,868
 - 7,540 Belvidere CUSD #100
 - 541 Durand CUSD #322
 - 6,378 Harlem UD #122
 - 1,967 Hononegah CHD #207
 - 1,692 Kinnikinnick CCSD #131
 - 1501 North Boone CUSD #200
 - 886 Pecatonica CUSD #321
 - 737 Prairie Hill CCSD #133
 - 1,539 Rockton SD #140
 - 26,768 Rockford SD #205
 - 92 Shirland CCSD #134
 - 938 South Beloit #320
 - 1,289 Winnebago CUSD #323
- 25 Non-Public Schools – 4,956

- **TOTAL ENROLLMENT – 56,824**

District Report Cards Click Here



Regional Board of School Trustees

TERM EXPIRES

Robert Phelps President - Rockton	2023
Annetta "Nettie" Parker, Vice President - Loves Park	2023
Nathan Danielson - Belvidere	2023
Todd France - Rockford	2027
Chuck Johnson - Cherry Valley	2025
Char Remer - Winnebago	2023
Bob Walberg - Belvidere	2025

Contact Us

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