



Lake County Regional Office of Education Annual Report 2023-2024

Letter From the Superintendent

Dear Lake County Education Stakeholders,

I am honored to present the Lake County Regional Office of Education's 2024 annual report. This report provides insight how the ROE supported education stakeholders during the 2023-2024 school year.

This report is an overview and is not inclusive of all the services and collaborative partnerships the Regional Office of Education provides as an educational leader for the benefit of the schools and citizens of Lake County.

This report uses information from end-of-year reports of our programs and services and from end-of-year school reports from the Illinois State Board of Education website to make this annual report as comprehensive as possible.

The mission of the Lake County Regional Office of Education is to serve as an advocate for education by providing effective leadership, performing regulatory functions in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education as directed by the school code of Illinois, coordinating and delivering state and local services, and disseminating information to educators, school districts and the community.

Not only are we determined that any Lake County citizen who has a need and a desire for an educational opportunity shall have it, we are firm in our belief that "every child should have an opportunity to be successful every day."

On behalf of the Regional Office of Education, I would like to say thank-you! Our best wishes to the students, administrators, and teachers in our 45 school districts, 3 special education cooperatives, the Lake County Technical campus and Lake County Charter schools for a continued success in the current school year and in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Karner

What's new at the ROE

- ▶ The Regional Office of Education is located at 300 Center Dr, Ste 100, Vernon Hills, IL 60061. All ROE divisions are now under one roof to better serve Lake County.
- ▶ The Regional Office of Education serves as the administrator of the Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy. It is the only approved public provider in the ISBE Virtual Course Catalog.
- ▶ The Regional Office of Education partnered with ReferralGPS, a web-based service designed to support mental health and substance use treatment.
- ▶ The Regional Office of Education honored over 140 Lake County Educators at the Third Annual Educator of the Year Ceremony.

ROE Divisions- Educational Services Division

- ▶ Provide a wide variety of professional learning opportunities that are action-oriented and focused on measurable results. We collaborate with educators and school leaders to implement research-based best practices in education that support the development of 21st century skills in students. Through partnerships with Lake County school districts, we develop and facilitate engaging workshops as well as on-site training that aligns to district goals. We are committed to providing high quality personalized professional development for our educators and administrators. We are continuously seeking opportunities to form new partnerships to support Lake County districts who are working towards continual school improvement.
- ▶ Illinois Teachers and Administrators are required to complete continuing professional development courses as part of their license renewal process. The Lake County Educational Services Division offers these courses to teachers and administrators at a reasonable cost. Lake County Professional Development Cooperative districts receive a discount on our workshops as well as in-district consultant assistance.

Educational Services Division

Number of Regional Administrator Academies and Workshops: 56

Number of Attendees: 801

COOP for in-district professional development by two coordinators: 7 Events

Number of Attendees: 2779

Sample Conferences/ Workshops Offered:

- ▶ Virtual Ditched Con 2024 – 79 participants
- ▶ Lake County Safety Conference - 403 participants
- ▶ Lake County February Institute Day – 2,217 participants
- ▶ AA #2000 Principal Evaluation Training for Pre-Qualified Principal Evaluators
- ▶ AA #3728 Disruptive Innovation: Unlock Your School's Potential
- ▶ Emotional Poverty Workshop
- ▶ 3D Printing for Educators

ROE Divisions- Attendance & Truancy

- ▶ The Attendance and Truancy Division is Lake County's truancy and dropout prevention program funded by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) since 1985 and administered by the Lake County Regional Office of Education.
- ▶ The division is an intervention tool that is available to all schools in Lake County. Intervention occurs when schools refer students for poor attendance/truancy. Attendance and Truancy staff complete an assessment of all students referred and, with input from both the school and family, develop an individualized service plan tailored to each student. The staff acts as referral agents and on-going liaisons between the schools, families, and community resources.

Attendance & Truancy

Total Referrals: 237

Attendance Improvement
Average per student 76.51%

New Services started for Lake County Students in need

- Varsity Tutoring
- IVSA (Illinois Virtual School & Academy)
- Paper Tutor
- E-Therapy
- CLC Courses for both Student and Parents \ Guardians
 - Behavior Choice
 - Substance Abuse

- ▶ Referrals are unable to be processed for a variety of reasons –did not meet criteria of school code, school did not give required documentation to legitimize/prove unexcused absences, schools were unable to differentiate between unexcused and excused absences, previously submitted students, moved out of district or state, etc.
- ▶ ATD continues to work with families who request our services over the summer –i.e. attendance support, connecting families with outside agencies, etc.

ROE Divisions- Regional Safe School

The Regional Safe School Program of Lake County serves disruptive students in grades 6 – 12 who have received multiple suspensions, are eligible for expulsion, or have been expelled from school in Lake County, Illinois. The students we serve often face long-term issues such as domestic violence, poverty, and drug and alcohol abuse, which influence their behavior in the classroom.

Our goal is to provide students with techniques to improve their decision-making skills that affect their:

- ▶ School, home, and community life
- ▶ School attendance and academic performance
- ▶ Ability to transition successfully to a traditional school, work, or other positive environment

ROE Divisions- BASE Program

The BASE Program provides students with techniques to improve decision making skills related to school, home, and community. These techniques could help improve student compliance with school & district discipline codes, school attendance, academic performance, and transfer successfully between working environments.

- ▶ This program is for students in grades 6-12 who are on out-of-school suspension ranging 4-10 days.
- ▶ Support systems are in place to ensure a positive transition back to the student's home school including social skills instruction, work ethic behavior and academic study skills and strategies.

Who We Serve

Schools/Buildings

- ▶ 216 public Schools
- ▶ 29 Non-public Schools
- ▶ 25 Stand Alone Administration Buildings
- ▶ 4 Charter Schools
- ▶ 1 Regional Safe School
- ▶ 1 Technology Campus

Students

- ▶ 120910 Students enrolled

Professionals

- ▶ 8426 Teachers
- ▶ 1193 Substitutes
- ▶ 984 Administrators
- ▶ 2431 Paraprofessionals
- ▶ 3706 Service Personnel
(Social Workers, Psychologists, School Nurses,
Speech Language Pathologists, School
Counselors)

[Elementary School District Boundary Map](#)

[High School/Community District Boundary Map](#)

What We Accomplish Through The Year

ROE – Health Life Safety

All public Schools in Lake County are inspected annually

Compliance Visits 2023-2024

Compliance audits are conducted in rotation on four-year cycles.

Districts visited for compliance 2023-2024

Beach Park District #3

Gavin District #37

Libertyville District #70

Township High School District #113

Fox Lake District #114

Lake Forest District #115

Round Lake District #116

Community High School District #117

Mundelein High School District #120

Warren High School District #121

Grant High School District #124

Grayslake High School District #127

Construction

The ROE issues building permits for all school building projects subject to the requirements of Administrative Code. The ROE architect reviews the plans, communicates with the district and the Health/Life Safety team.

Total Building Permits Issued	180
New Construction	9
Major Renovations/Additions	26
Miscellaneous Projects	145

What We Accomplish Through The Year

Experienced drivers must take a 2-hour refresher course annually, while all new drivers must take an 8-hour course in school bus driver safety and first aid, prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education and administered by the Regional Office of Education.

The Regional Office of Education held classes for 2,688 drivers in 2023-2024

- ▶ In February of 2024, we began holding First Division Classes. These are classes that will cover vehicles designed/certified by the manufacturer to carry 10 passengers or less including the driver.

Bus Driver Training Classes

- ▶ Total Initial Division 1 Classes: 3
19 Drivers Passed
- ▶ Total Initial Division 2 Classes: 19
423 Drivers Passed
- ▶ Total Refresher Classes: 68
2251 Drivers Completed their 2-hour annual refresher

What We Accomplish Through The Year

High School Equivalency (GED)

▶ Illinois law requires the Regional Superintendent of Schools to administer the High School Equivalency (HSE) testing program. The Lake County office does this in coordination with the Illinois Community College Board and the College of Lake County. GED testing can be done in person at CLC, or tests can be taken online via GED.com

- ▶ 318 People completed their HSE tests for the first time. There are 4 testing areas: mathematical reasoning, reasoning through language arts, social studies, and science. The passing of the Constitution Test is also required to receive a High School Equivalency Certificate.
- ▶ 266 People requested their certificate/transcript in person at the ROE
- ▶ 251 People requested documents be mailed either to their home address or directly to a university for continued education, or for new job opportunities.

What We Accomplish Through The Year

Licensure Department

- ▶ Our licensure department assists the districts and educators with licensure and compliance questions to insure properly licensed educators are in the classroom. We assist teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and substitute teachers with registration and renewal each year.
 - ▶ New licenses Issued:
 - ▶ Teachers: 9715 Substitutes: 1458 Administrators: 1088 Paraprofessionals: 1559
Service Personnel (Social Workers, Psychologists, School Nurses, Speech Language Pathologists, School Counselors): 4657
 - ▶ Teachers and Paraprofessionals Registered: 4032
 - ▶ Substitute Teachers Registered: 1458
 - ▶ Our office also conducts fingerprinting appointments for new substitute teachers in Lake County. Fingerprint results are kept on file for 5 years and any Lake County Public School District can request these print results.
 - ▶ New fingerprint appointments: 251

What We Accomplish Through The Year

Work Permits

► [Full act \(820 ILCS 205/\) Child Labor Law.](#)

For a minor child (ages 0-15 years of age) to be able to work in Illinois, he or she must be issued a work permit. Work permits are valid for 1 year and for 1 employer. During the school year, all permits can be issued through the school district where the child resides. Please contact your child's school district office for a list of their issuing officers.

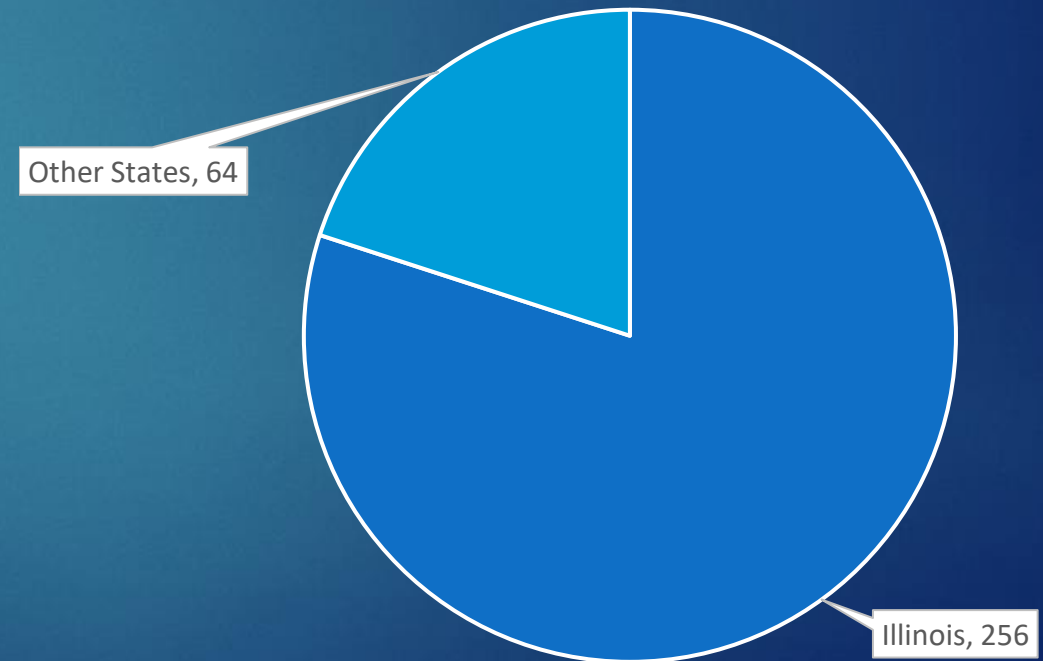
► [Effective 1/1/2020 Public Act 101-0526](#)

Sec. 12.5. Child performers; trust fund.

(B) In addition to the requirements of Section 12, the person authorized to issue employment certificates must determine that a trust account, established by the child performer's parent or guardian, that meets the requirements of subsection (c) has been established designating the minor as the beneficiary of the trust account before an employment certificate for work as a child performer may be issued for a minor under the age of 16 years.

Total number of work permits issued, including renewals and new permits: 320

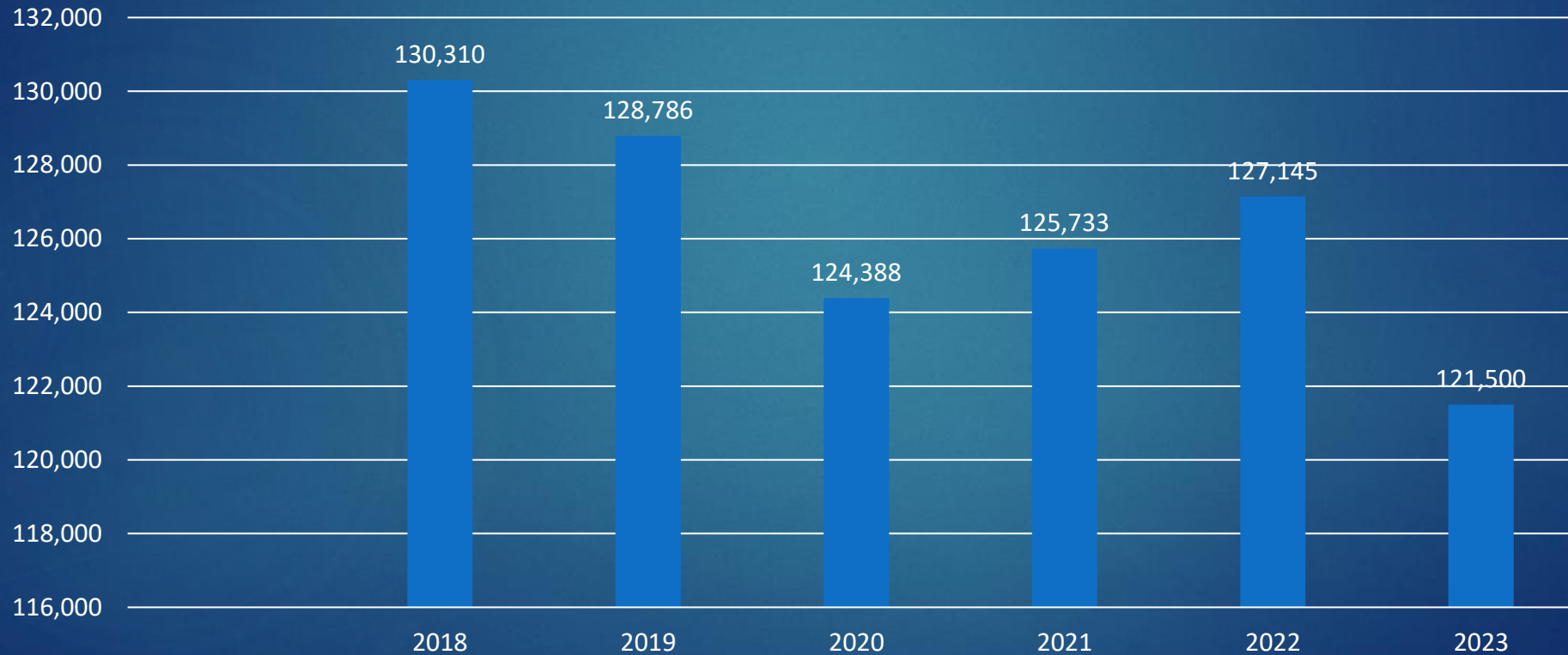
Permits Issued by minor's resident state



Sixth Day Enrollment Figures

For detailed enrollment numbers per district and school, please visit our [website](#).

September 2018 – September 2023



Regional Board of School Trustees

The Lake County Regional Board of School Trustees is an elected board comprised of seven members. This elected board hears petitions for annexations, detachments, and changes in school district boundaries. The Regional Superintendent acts as the Ex-Officio Secretary to the Board. The Regional Office maintains all records of petitions filled in the region.

- ▶ The main responsibilities of the Regional Board of School Trustees are:
 - ▶ Hearing and disposal of petitions for change of school district boundaries
 - ▶ Hearing and disposal of petitions by school districts to withdraw from Joint Agreements/Cooperatives
 - ▶ Appointment of appraisers and approval of final settlements in the division of assets when new districts are formed

Regional Board of School Trustees meetings are held quarterly in January, April, July, and October - special meetings are scheduled as necessary. We appreciate the service of the following individuals who are currently serving.

Trustee	Congressional Township	Service Began	Current Term Expires
Alison Baker Packer Frank	43-12 West Deerfield	1992	2025
Phillip DeRuntz	45-11 Warren	2019	2027
James C. Mitchell Jr.	46-10 Antioch	2023	2025
Renita Davis	46-10 Avon	2023	2025
Julie Gonka	46-12 Zion Benton	2007	2025
Larry McShane	45-12 Waukegan	1997	2027
Vacancy			

Fiscal Responsibility

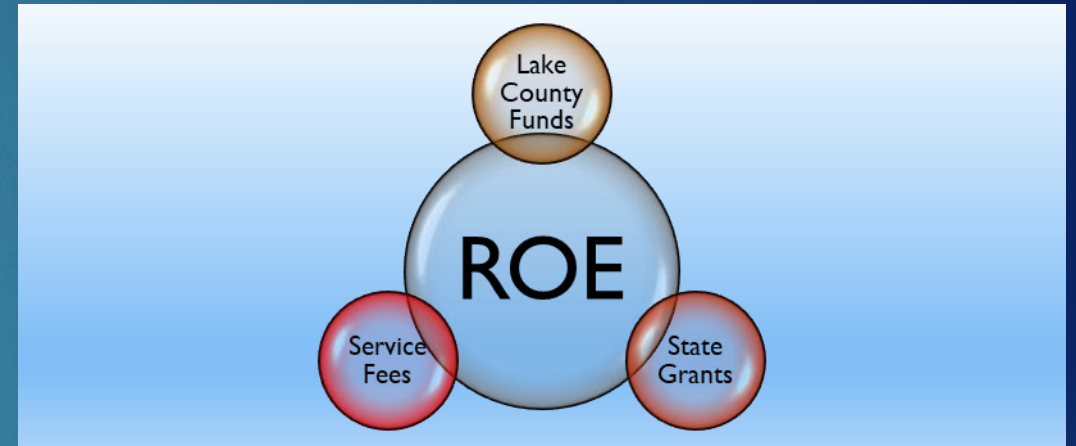
The Teacher Institute Fund is a restricted fund to support educator licensure and professional development opportunities for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement. (Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/3 – 12).

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE (UNAUDITED)	
1-Jul-23	1,170,795.28
Revenue	
Certification	249,922.41
Interest	555.13
<i>Total Revenue (+)</i>	250,477.54
Expenditures	
Salaries & Benefits	36,144.04
Purchased Services	95,228.69
Supplies and Materials	1,818.74
Dues & Fees	660.00
Refunds	14.65
Non-Capitalized Outlay / Transfers	31,313.70
<i>Total Expenditures (-)</i>	165,179.82
ENDING FUND BALANCE (UNAUDITED)	
30-Jun-24	1,256,093.00

ROE Finance

The ROE is funded by the following revenue resources:

- ▶ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.17a – Requires the Auditor General to audit as of June 30th each year the financial statements.
- ▶ ROE's contract with an independent accounting firm to prepare their financial statements. These statements must be available no later than August 31st.
- ▶ Per the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) it is required the following documents to be submitted through the GATA portal:
 - ▶ Financial Statements
 - ▶ Independent Auditor's Report
 - ▶ Consolidated Year-End Financial Report w/in Relation to Opinion.
 - ▶ Audit Firm's Peer Review Letter.
 - ▶ Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings (200.511(b)), if applicable.
 - ▶ Corrective Action Plan (200.511(c)), if applicable.
 - ▶ Management Letters and any other communications from the auditor required by AU325, if applicable.



ROE Organizational Chart



For a detailed staff directory, please visit our [website](#).