



CHRISTOPHER B. DVORAK
REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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2021-2022 Annual Report

We are an advocate for education by providing positive leadership, coordinating and delivering Federal, State and local services and disseminating information for educators, school districts, and our community.

-Christopher Dvorak, Regional Superintendent

The Regional Office of Education for LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam counties provides high-quality resources and services for our communities and education stakeholders. Please contact us for any of your educational needs.

I am pleased to present the following Annual Report, which highlights many of the programs and services offered by the LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam Regional Office of Education over the past year. I want to thank the LaSalle County Board, Marshall County Board, Putnam County Board, Illinois State Board of Education, constituents, and Regional Office staff who have offered continual support, collaboration, and encouragement throughout the year. As Regional Superintendent of LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam counties, I hereby submit the Annual Report covering the activities of the office from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Christopher Dvorak

Regional Superintendent

LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam

Regional Office of Education #35

Educational Entities We Serve

Allen-Otter Creek #65, BMP Tri-County Special Education Co-op, Circuit Breaker School, Deer Park #82, Dimmick #175, Earlville #9, Grand Ridge #95, Henry-Senachwine #5, Holy Cross Elementary School, Holy Family School, Illinois Valley Community College, LaSalle Elementary #122, LaSalle-Peru High School #120, L.E.A.S.E., Leland #1, Lighted Way, Lostant #425, Marquette Academy, Marseilles #150, Mendota #289, Mendota High School #280, Midland #7, Miller #210, Oglesby #125, Ottawa Elementary #141, Ottawa High School #140, Peru Catholic School, Peru Elementary #124, Putnam County #535, Regional Safe School, Rutland #230, Seneca Elementary #170, Seneca High School #160, Serena Unit #2, SRAVTE, St. Michael the Archangel School, Streator Elementary #44, Streator High School #40, Tonica #79, Trinity Catholic Academy, Wallace #195, and Waltham #185

Safety • Support • Success

Our Purpose

Regional Offices of Education (ROE) are essential support offices partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education to support local school districts. ROEs provide educational leadership, impact public policy, and deliver educational services effectively for the benefit of the school districts.

Our Role

The Regional Superintendent of Schools is the chief administrative officer of a Regional Office of Education and the only elected education professional office in Illinois. The office of the Regional Superintendent performs regulatory functions as directed by the Illinois School Code. Specific duties of the Regional Superintendent are stated in Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/3. The work of the Regional Office can be summed up in three words: **Safety, Support, and Success.**

Educational Partners

County Board Members

LaSalle County:

Jill Bernal, Ronald Blue, Charles Borchsenius, Tina Busch, Lou Anne Carretto, Brian Dose, Craig Emmett, Allen Erbrederis, Thomas Green, Curtis Faber, Randy Freeman, Jerry Hicks, Don Jensen, Mike Kasap, Robert Lee, Joanne McNally, Jerry Myers, Joe Oscepiniski, Catherine Owens, Kindra Pottinger, Walter Roach, Joe Savitch, Gary Small, Douglas Stockley, David Torres, Douglas Trager, Tom Walsh, Elmer Walter, Joe Witczak, and Arrata Znaniecki

Marshall County:

Robert Bakewell, Charolette Balensiefen, Rebecca Donna, Henry (Hank) Gauwitz, Gary Kroeschen, Brad Lindstrom, David Leuders, Justin Meierkord, Travis McGlasson, Martin McLaughlin, David Minnick, and Andy Stash

Putnam County:

Luke Holly, Steven Malavolti, Charles Lenkaitis, Tony Rue Jr., BJ Holocker III

Regional Board of Trustees

Richard Bazyn (2023), John Glascock (2021), Vicky Garrison (2023), Dave Hagenbuch (2025), Kathy Reno (2021), Larry Walker (2023), Lloyd Vogel (2025)

State Representatives

Tom Demmer- 90th District, Ryan Spain-73rd District, David Welter-75th District, and Lance Yednock-76th District

State Senators

Jason Barickman-53rd District, Sue Rezin-38th District, Brian Stewart-45th District, and Win Stoller-37th District

Governor & Illinois State Board of Education

J.B. Pritzker- Governor, Dr. Carmen I. Ayala- State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Christine Benson, Dr. Donna Simpson Leak, Dr. David Lett, Susan Morrison, Dr. Nike Vielle, Rodger Eddy, Jamie Guzman, Dr. Steven Isoye

Professional Development

Focus Training

Our Professional Learning department continued to strive to assure that school personnel have the resources necessary to carry out their mission. The Professional Learning department offers workshops virtual and in person to support our educators.

Focus Training

- Technology Integration
- Mental Health
- Teacher Evaluation
- Differentiated Instruction
- Safety
- Early Childhood
- Literacy
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)



Professional Development Training

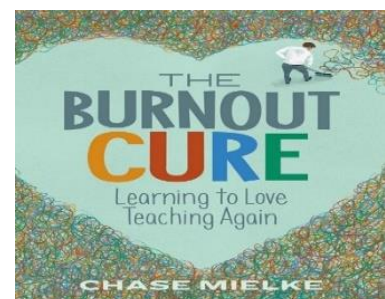
The following workshops and training sessions were offered by the LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam Regional Office of Education this past year:

2021-2022 Administrator Academies and Workshops			
Workshop Session	No. of Sessions	Participants	Training Session Descriptions
Administrator Academies	5	47	Student Growth Evaluation, Teacher Evaluation, Supporting and Evaluating Developmentally Appropriate Practices, Behavior Interventions in Schools, Forensic Interviewing, Illinois Performance Evaluation-Teacher Evaluation Training
Workshops	51	2029	Truancy, Homeless, SCAT, Technology, Tech Integration, Mental Health, Safety, Science, STEM, and Literacy, Differentiated Learning, New Teacher, Growth Mindset, Book Studies, School Improvement
TOTAL	55	2074	

Regional Institute: Teaching with a Growth Mindset

Trevor Ragan led 4 pre-recorded sessions that participants could interact with for six months. Teachers had access to topics such as growth mindset, resiliency, and how to create a learning environment with a growth mindset.

Virtual event	Participants
Registrations	1097
Reflections submitted	605



New Teacher Orientation

In early August of each year, the Regional Office of Education sponsors a New Teacher Orientation Seminar for educators new to teaching or new to our region. Due to the current COVID pandemic, we held this event virtually. Presentations included legal updates from Attorney Walt Zukowski and a presentation from Kassidi Guerrero, a Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor, on mental health awareness, in addition to information from the Regional Office of Education. Information was provided regarding licensure and renewal laws, ISBE legal updates, compliance issues, regulatory issues, and school improvement. Twenty nine teachers attended this event. This event was held on August 10, 2021.



School Bus Education 334 Training Courses



All school bus drivers in Illinois must complete an initial training course (first-time drivers) or a refresher course (renewals) prior to driving a school bus for Illinois schools. The LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam Regional Office of Education provides this training on a yearly basis at various locations in our counties. This year 64 individuals took the initial bus driver training course and 270 drivers took the refresher course for a total of 334 training courses.

45 HSE/GED Graduates

The Regional Office has been the authorized administrative office for the General Education Diploma Examinations, commonly known as G.E.D. tests. A change in the statute renamed the process high school equivalency testing (HSE). This program permits people who have dropped out of high school or others who have attained the age of 17 to secure the High School Equivalency Certificate (HSE). The testing of applicants is done by Illinois Valley Community College, in coordination with Cindy Lock, Assessment Center Coordinator. This year 45 participants passed.



Regional Work-Study Program

The Regional Work-Study program (RWS) has been offering students who have dropped out of area high schools an opportunity to earn a high school diploma since 2010. In the first nine years of the program, 172 students completed the requirements for their high school diploma. Classes are held Monday through Friday during the school year at Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota, as well as the IVCC Ottawa Center. Small classes with plenty of one on one assistance create an atmosphere that encourages success. Students can enter the program throughout the school year. LaSalle Peru High School, Mendota High School, Ottawa Township High School, Putnam County High School, and Serena High School all had at least one student earn a diploma through the RWS program.

Year	Students	Credits Earned By Graduates	Graduates	Cost Per Student
2016-17	34	114.5	22	\$1,987
2017-18	33	192	17	\$2,417
2018-19	48	249	32	\$1,794
2019-20	49	207	28	\$1,448
2020-21	27	95.5	10	\$2,055
2021-22	43	254 total 187 Grads 67 Non-Grads	27	\$2443.67

Licensure

Educator Licensure

The LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam County Regional Office of Education Licensure Department serves teachers and administrators with all aspects of their credential needs. The office has worked to communicate changes from the State Board of Education by conducting individual and group training. The office provides guidance, documentation, and regularly assists constituents as questions arise. Licensure applications and renewals are now completed online. The Regional Office of Education has an available computer workstation that allows license holders to complete requirements. Staff members are available to assist as needed.

Year	Educators Registered	Licenses Registered	Sub Licenses Registered	Licenses Issued	Endorsements Issued	Para Licenses Issued
FY 18	500	514	123	279	95	73
FY 19	598	621	205	360	84	81
FY 20	456	471	169	298	67	67
FY 21	487	499	146	1154	143	99
FY 22	632	665	203	1554	190	144

Paraprofessional Training

Paraprofessionals may be considered licensed if they possess one of these options:

- Associate's degree or higher
- 60 semester hours of coursework
- High School Diploma or GED **and** a score of 460 or higher on the ETS Parapro
- High School Diploma or GED **and** the following scores on the ACT Workkeys:
 - Applied Mathematics/Applied Math (with a score of 4)
 - Reading for information/Workplace Documents (with a score of 4)
- Paraprofessional licenses are valid for 5 years, and may be renewed with the payment of registration fees.
- If you hold a Paraprofessional License and have a Bachelor's Degree on file, you are qualified to be a substitute teacher.

Directory

A Directory of the LaSalle, Marshall, & Putnam County Schools is prepared each year by our office. All school information submitted by the schools is compiled, entered, and finalized by our staff. Local business ads are placed in the directory to cover the cost of printing and the Excellence in Education banquet expenses. The directory includes a listing of all schools, administrators, teachers, support staff, and school board members of each school.



Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Attorney Darrell K. Seigler • BCA Architects • Bernabei, Balestri, & Fiocchi • Cantlin Law Firm • Deluxe Nails & Spa • Farm & Fleet • Fondita Mexican Grill • Hi-Way Restaurant • Hopkins Associates • Howard Roux Tree Service • Illinois Valley Contractors Association • Illinois Valley Construction Industry Labor Management • John's Service & Sales • Kmetz Architects, INC. • KOHL Wholesale • Laborer's International Union 393 • LaSalle County Extension Council • LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation • LaSalle State Bank • Lou Anne Carretto • Marco Technologies • Marquis Energy • Nucor Tubular Products • Ottawa YMCA • Partridge's Pit Stop & Towing • S & B Awards • Steak n Shake • The Glass Shop, INC. • Usharsi Koganti • Vactor Manufacturing • Vezzetti Capital Management, LLC • Walter Zukowski, Zukowski Law Offices

Honoring Excellence

Excellence in Education

The Excellence in Education celebration returned this year after a two-year hiatus. For the 34th annual event. The LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Regional Office of Education invited area educators and administrators to enjoy barbecue and live music at the Jordan Block in Ottawa. The event was relocated due to weather conditions. Additionally, the office gifted plaques to 31 retiring teachers, 30 retiring support staff, and 1 retiring board member. Three posthumous plaques were also provided to districts.

The Regional Office of Education also premiered a short documentary on the ROE 35 Presents Youtube channel. This documentary, All Hands on Deck, showcases the challenges educators and schools have faced during the national teacher shortage. Go to Youtube.com/ROE35Presents to view All Hands on Deck: Teaching in an Educator Shortage.



Spelling Bee

The national office is running your SNSB regional bee program for the 2022-2023 year! Here is how it works:

1. Enroll your school in the Bee by 12/31/22 at spellingbee.com. The fee is \$175 per school.
2. Declare your **school spelling bee champion** by 01/31/23.
3. Register your **school champion** by 01/31/23 by logging into spellingbee.com. and selecting School Champion Registration.
4. **Your school champion must take the Regional Qualifier Test** (a 50-item spelling and word meaning test) between February 10 and February 17, 2023.
5. **The top finishers on the Qualifier Test will advance to the SNSB Regional Bee for Illinois in March 2023.**

Student Excellence

Each month from October through May, the Regional Office of Education in cooperation with the LaSalle County Board recognizes students from two schools chosen for the Student Excellence Award. Schools are selected on a rotating basis. Students are selected by the schools based on the following criteria:

- Must have demonstrated and/or contributed community service in their respective school district.
- Should portray an image of social and civic responsibility within their school community
- Should possess an attitude conducive for a good work ethic and representative of an image the school district finds commendable

The student, parents, and administrators from the school are invited to the monthly LaSalle County board meeting where the student is presented with a plaque and information about that student's achievements is read to all in attendance. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students received a copy of the write-up read during the county board meeting and a plaque honoring their achievements, but were not present in person for the board meeting.

2021-2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

October

Scott Brandt, Earlville CUSD #9
Nora Groesback, Streator Twp. HSD #40

November

Cody Taylor, Allen-Otter Creek CCSD #65
Shea Rathburn, LaSalle-Peru Twp. HSD #120

January

Zoe Morris, Tonica CCSD #79
Ethen Smith, Ottawa Twp. HSD #140

February

Emma Smith, Seneca Twp. HSD #160

March

Elizabeth Schillinger, Mendota Twp. HSD #280

April

Addyson Champlin, Peru ESD #124

May

No awardees

Scholarships

Over \$2 Million Awarded Since Inception

\$65,500 Awarded in 2021-2022

Students may apply for several scholarships offered through the Regional Office of Education. Approximately \$65,500 from the Joseph J. Hohner trust provided 64 scholarships with grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 for students from Ottawa area Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications are screened by the Regional Superintendent and scholarship committee members as outlined in the will of Dr. Joseph J. Hohner. To date, more than \$2,000,000.00 has been awarded in scholarships. Other scholarship applications are available from the Regional Office of Education at our website www.roe35.org.

Food Cooperative

11% Savings in Food Costs

The LaSalle County Area Purchasing Cooperative was created during the 1989-90 school year. Eighteen school districts originally joined the cooperative, which bids and orders food and supplies for district-operated school cafeterias. Today, 72 school districts representing LaSalle, Bureau, Champaign, Clark, DeKalb, Grundy, Iroquois, Kendall, Knox, Lee, Livingston, Macoupin, Marshall, McLean, Ogle, Peoria, Putnam, Sangamon, Vermillion, Warren, and Woodford counties are members of the co-op. The current total annual expenditures for the cooperative are estimated at 5.5 million dollars. The Regional Office of Education serves as the administrative agent for this successful program which employs one full-time employee. The cooperative is totally self-supporting from a minimal fee charged to member districts. The benefits of belonging to the cooperative are:

- Distributor bidding is done for you
- Financial savings
- Networking among fellow members
- Updates on training opportunities
- Access to Kohl Wholesale Dietitian / Menus
- Regular communication on food program requirements
- Assistance complying with requirements

During the COVID pandemic, the Area Purchasing Cooperative is essential in making sure that our schools have nutritious food to provide at a time when many students may go hungry without the support of their school's food service staff.

LaSalle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education (L.E.A.S.E)

The Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 1407 in 1965, which mandated special education for children with disabilities. Implementation of this legislation became effective July 1, 1969. Prior to July 1, 1969, this Regional Office submitted a plan to meet the requirements of this legislation. Many committees of school administrators and lay citizens aided in formulating the plan, which was approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. Our cooperative, known as L.E.A.S.E., serves 29 school districts, 28 from LaSalle County, and Putnam County District #535.

The Special Education Committee employed Ms. Kathy Fox as its Executive Director of Special Education to oversee operations of the cooperative. The special education programs grew quickly to meet the needs of students with physical and mental disabilities, as well as a variety of other types of disabilities, in LaSalle & Putnam Counties. L.E.A.S.E. works in conjunction with many other agencies in the county to ensure the success of the programs offered.

Health/Life-Safety

Duties

- Visit and inspect each public school annually
- Supervise school buildings for health and safety

District Compliance

The Regional Offices of Education are entrusted with assessing compliance of local school districts and recognized non-public schools in the state of Illinois. This process consists of a systematic review of district documentation and recording compliance with state and federal laws and the Illinois School Code. The resulting designation is reported on the state website and as part of the Illinois Report Card. The compliance process is seen as an opportunity to improve operations and support the programs that deliver quality educational experiences to students.

The Regional Office of Education makes recommendations for the improvement of each school district. Compliance visits for the 2021-2022 school year include: LaSalle Elementary #122, LaSalle Elementary #122, Mendota Elementary #289, Miller Township #210, Ottawa Township HS #140, Peru Elementary #124, and Streator Elementary #44.



Finances

Distribution of Funds

The Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act became a law on August 31, 2017. This law enacts evidence-based funding (EBF) and comprehensively changes the way school districts receive the bulk of state funds. EBF sends more resources to Illinois' most under-resourced students. EBF takes the necessary first steps toward ensuring all schools have the resources they need to provide a safe, rigorous, and well-rounded learning environment for all students. EBF demonstrates new mindsets for understanding the relationship between equity, adequacy, and student outcomes.

In fiscal year 2023, \$7.79B was allocated to EBF. Per Public Act 102-0699, in FY 2023 there is an appropriation of \$300 million of new funding for tier distribution to all organizational units. In addition, all organizational units and specially funded units will continue to receive their Base Funding Minimum. The FY 2023 Base Funding Minimum for organizational units is equal to the FY 2022 Base Funding Minimum and Property Tax Relief Grant funds (for applicable districts).

DISTRICT	TOTAL FY20	TOTAL FY21	TOTAL FY22	TOTAL FY23	% ADEQUECY	TIER
Safe School- LaSalle ROE	\$346,891.26	\$346,891.26	\$370,109.95	\$376,154.20	78%	2
Leland CCUS #1	\$345,310.74	\$345,310.74	\$351,640.53	\$352,300.68	105%	4
Community USD #2	\$868,171.96	\$868,171.96	\$868,800.21	\$869,414.56	125%	4
Earlville CCUS #9	\$1,381,721.00	\$1,381,721.00	\$1,393,462.98	\$1,402,395.80	94%	3
Streator Twp HSD #40	\$5,092,260.67	\$5,092,260.67	\$5,192,697.57	\$5,331,175.00	74%	2
Streator ESD #44	\$10,039,617.96	\$10,039,617.96	\$10,323,720.19	\$10,789,007.31	70%	1
Allen Otter Creek CCSD #65	\$62,564.20	\$62,564.20	\$62,641.82	\$62,728.33	108%	4
Tonica CCSD #79	\$605,157.59	\$605,157.59	\$605,289.14	\$605,377.62	124%	4
Deer Park #82	\$102,523.31	\$102,523.31	\$102,578.76	\$102,628.61	158%	4
Grand Ridge CCSD #95	\$247,503.00	\$247,503.00	\$247,687.60	\$247,866.48	109%	4
LaSalle-Peru Twp HSD #120	\$2,250,845.64	\$2,250,845.64	\$2,400,501.71	\$2,571,056.82	75%	2
LaSalle ESD #122	\$5,881,392.74	\$5,881,392.74	\$6,327,235.83	\$6,804,115.71	66%	1
Peru ESD #124	\$1,768,679.42	\$1,768,679.42	\$1,821,346.53	\$1,907,782.12	73%	1

DISTRICT	TOTAL FY20	TOTAL FY21	TOTAL FY22	TOTAL FY23	% ADEQUECY	TIER
Oglesby ESD #125	\$2,275,351.17	\$2,275,351.17	\$2,315,471.24	\$2,361,109.41	76%	2
Ottawa Twp HSD #140	\$2,559,240.35	\$2,559,240.35	\$2,612,744.14	\$2,675,769.60	83%	2
Ottawa ESD #141	\$6,824,510.66	\$6,824,510.66	\$6,987,767.43	\$7,224,484.18	76%	2
Marseilles ESD #150	\$2,933,359.76	\$2,933,359.76	\$2,978,166.13	\$3,025,189.08	76%	2
Seneca Twp HSD #160	\$304,378.67	\$304,378.67	\$304,803.46	\$305,213.33	236%	4
Seneca CCSD #170	\$437,499.54	\$437,499.54	\$437,921.20	\$438,332.08	157%	4
Dimmick CCSD #175	\$213,917.63	\$213,917.63	\$214,066.22	\$214,214.17	124%	4
Waltham CCSD #185	\$165,769.34	\$165,769.34	\$165,949.09	\$166,315.06	109%	4
Wallace CCSD #195	\$333,687.32	\$333,687.32	\$344,672.88	\$355,868.29	85%	2
Miller TWP CCSD #210	\$201,087.39	\$201,087.39	\$205,077.36	\$208,803.56	98%	3
Rutland CCSD #230	\$72,608.01	\$72,608.01	\$72,672.36	\$72,740.73	164%	4
Mendota Twp HSD #280	\$1,791,505.37	\$1,791,505.37	\$1,840,687.46	\$1,891,418.28	78%	2
Mendota CCSD #289	\$3,740,371.62	\$3,740,371.62	\$3,816,859.99	\$3,895,940.97	76%	2
Lostant CCSD #425	\$178,508.54	\$178,508.54	\$178,601.87	\$178,692.72	149%	4
Henry-Senachwine CUSD #5	\$684,701.63	\$684,701.63	\$696,964.22	\$698,265.04	103%	4
Midland CUD #7	\$1,176,806.63	\$1,176,806.63	\$1,205,201.24	\$1,244,971.25	73%	2
Putnam County CUSD #535	\$900,211.98	\$900,211.98	\$900,935.74	\$902,335.38	129%	4

Department of Student Services

800 Students Referred for Services

In our efforts to best serve the students of LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam counties, ROE 35 has combined all direct service areas under the banner of STUDENT SERVICES. Our team, composed of Tyler Amm, Sam Halm, Zach Shaw, Trevor Witek, David Lawson and Ginna Campbell, is available to assist with matters related to truancy, registration and compliance assistance, homeless assistance, and homeschool resources. The primary focus of the program is to provide intervention and remediation services to truants, chronic truants, potential dropouts, dropouts, and McKinney-Vento identified students in grades K-12, to increase attendance and academic achievement with a long-term objective of high school graduation. Each school year approximately 800 students are referred for services. Chronic truants are offered a truancy prevention hearing with the Regional Superintendent acting as hearing officer. A contract for attendance, academics, and, oftentimes, counseling is entered into by all parties involved with the student. Chronic truants and/or their parents in need of county court intervention may be referred to county ordinance, juvenile, or criminal court.

Mental Health Services

Kassidi Guerrero, Deputy Director of Student Services, holds an M.S. in social work and is certified to teach Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Facilitation of Mental Health First Aid was interrupted due to COVID19 restrictions. However, Ms. Guerrero was able to facilitate two Mental Health First Aid trainings during the 2020-2021 school year.

Additionally, Ms. Guerrero facilitates the Regional Office of Education's Early Intervention Drug & Alcohol program. Eight students participated in this program during the 2020-2021 school year.

Grants

The Regional Office of Education was awarded a competitive TAOEP (Truants Alternative and Optional Education Program) grant for the 2021-2022 school year. We will receive funding for this grant for three years. The TAOEP grant assists with funding the Optional Education Classrooms and helps the ROE to provide services to truants, chronic truants, potential dropouts and dropouts. Over 800 students were referred during the 2020-2021 school year.

ROE 35 also received McKinney/Vento funding for the 2021-2022 school year. This grant provided assistance to homeless students. School Districts apply to the ROE for funding. Once the request is approved, the school district spends the approved dollars and is then reimbursed for those expenses through the ROE. Requests may include school supplies, tutoring, excess transportation, clothing, gas cards, food, shoes and other services. We also keep backpacks on hands to distribute to students. The backpacks contain school supplies and personal hygiene items. As of this date 223 students have been identified as homeless in the three counties. We anticipate that this number will rise by the end of the year, since last year there were 274 identified homeless children.



LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam Regional Safe School Program (RSSP)

Student Eligibility

Students who are in the Safe School Program must meet the following criteria:

- Suspended at least twice for a period of 4-10 days for gross misconduct
- Expelled or eligible for expulsion
- Arrested by the police and/or remanded to the courts for acts related to school activities
- Involved in misconduct that can be demonstrated as serious, repetitive, and/or cumulative

Students who are in Optional Education Program must meet the following criteria:

- Students in grades 6-12 who are truants, chronic truants, and potential dropouts
- Students must be enrolled in their Home School District
- Referred by truancy caseworker in conjunction with the HSD's truancy liaison/school team

Social Work Service

Our program provided a full-time social worker during the 2021-2022 school year that served students daily with character support intervention.

2021-2022 Statistics

- LMP Regional Safe School served 40 students from 19 schools (15 junior high; 25 high school)
- TAOEP Program served 55 students from 18 schools (31 junior high; 24 high school) There were 97 total students enrolled for the year; 6 referrals for expulsion; 14 students graduated 8th grade & 6 students graduated high school
- 2021-2022 attendance for SAFE School and TAOEP: 65.4%; junior high: 63.2%; and high school: 68.5%
- We will start the 2021-2022 school year with 8 Safe School high school students, 7 Safe School junior high students, and 5 TAOEP high school students, 6 TAOEP junior high students
- Since 1997, we have served 1,872 students

College/Career Development

7 students participated in Career Tech Education; 4 students actively worked.

Business Employment Skills Team (B.E.S.T) presented remotely. Team members presented information on career exploration, goal setting, job searching, and professional responsibilities in addition to bringing in a career panel.

Thank You COVIA!

The Regional Office of Education would like to thank Covia for their generous snack and Christmas gift donations to the Safe School during the COVID-19 pandemic!



**“WE’RE MORE THAN JUST A COMPANY;
WE’RE A PART OF OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR COVIA FAMILY TAKES PRIDE IN THAT CONNECTION.”**

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT



Chris Dvorak
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Ryan Myers
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Tyler Amm
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Lindsey Anderson
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Lindsey Bienemann
RSSP Jr. High
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Dr. Sandra Blanco
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Jack Brown
RWS Teacher



Ginna Campbell
Grants/Stud. Services/ Comm.
Partnership Coordinator
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Jim Carlson
RWS Director
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Paula Corbin
RSSP Coordinator



Krissy Darm
Director of
Professional Learning
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Hannah DeBernardi
School Services
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Jennifer Ferguson
ROE 35 Academy
Principal
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Ken Funfsinn
RWS Teacher



Lizzie Gonzalo
Social Work Intern
Office Assistant



David Greer
RSSP High School
Teacher



Samantha Halm
Student Services Coord.
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Jessica Haywood
Food Service Purchasing
Co-op Director
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Brittani Holland
Paraprofessional



Alaina Iverson
SEL Specialists and Coach
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Justin Johnson
RSSP High School
Teacher



John Karasti
RWS Teacher



Sara Koziol
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David Lawson
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Brenda Martinez
RSSP
Paraprofessional



Dave Mathis
Health/Life-Safety
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Ashton Miller
Office/Classroom
Assistant



Jeff Olson
RSSP Truancy
Teacher



Martha Small
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Zach Shaw
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Allison Warren
RSSP High School
Teacher



Angie Wipfler
RSSP Secretary



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“The work of ROE#35 gives us great examples of how local student engagement/attendance/truancy policies and programs help schools identify and reach out to student in need of great support.”

*- Dr. Carmen Ayala
State Superintendent
April 7, 2020 ISBE Newsletter*

