As we enter the Holiday Season, we believe there is much to be thankful for at the Sangamon County Regional Office of Education. We are here to assist our districts and county residents with certification, truancy issues, professional development, school improvement, GED, and anything else that may be necessary to ensure the success of all of our students.

STATE, DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

On October 31, 2014 ISBE released the State, District and School Report Cards to the public. The ISBE is working with the U.S. Department of Education on multiple measures index (MMI) that will be used for accountability rather than Adequate Yearly Progress. This MMI focuses on growth and school climate rather than relying solely upon test scores (Koch, 2014).

PARCC

Illinois schools will administer new assessments created through the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in spring 2015. Third- through eighth-graders will take the PARCC in both English language arts and math. At the high school level, three PARCC tests will be available: Algebra II or Integrated Math III, and English Language Arts III. The PARCC replaces the state’s former tests, the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) [ISBE, 2014].

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

There are two new endorsements being offered to educators: Gifted Education Teacher and Gifted Education Specialist. A person who has completed the Gifted Seminar OR Gifted Institute, taken the Gifted test, and has four years of teaching may apply for either endorsement through his/her ELIS account. The cost of the application is $50.

Anyone currently qualified to teach gifted under the old provisions (completing Gifted Seminar or Gifted Institute and four years teaching experience) will always be qualified to teach gifted (grandfathering provision). The two new gifted endorsements are OPTIONAL endorsements for those previously qualified.

Per ISBE, the method of utilizing the Gifted Seminar/Institute is a “grandfathering” provision, and will
not be available after Feb 1, 2015. After Feb 1, 2015 educators will need to complete a Gifted Teacher/Gifted Specialist program. The Gifted Specialist is NOT available at this time as it is by approved program only and IL does not currently have any approved Gifted Specialist programs.

Requirements for Gifted teacher can be found in this doc: http://www.isbe.net/licensure/pdf/gifted-ed-endorsement.pdf.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

As the first quarter comes to a close in school districts across Illinois, parents and teachers are meeting to review students’ grades and classroom experiences.

“Parental engagement is critical to student success,” says State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch. “But often times, parents don’t know how to make the most of that precious 10 to 15 minutes together. We encourage parents to see the conference as just one of several opportunities to check-in during the school year as all parties work to ensure student learning and success.”

As educators know, research shows that children with involved parents have better school attendance; increased motivation; better self-esteem; lower suspension rates; decreased drug and alcohol use; fewer instances of violent behavior; and overall higher grades, test scores and graduation rates (ISBE, 2014).

Partners in Education

Sangamon Auditorium is working with Springfield Public Schools to make effective use of the district’s new early dismissal policy and offer a series of one-hour sessions that can be attended by teachers remotely. Teachers from Springfield Public Schools will gather in one location to participate. Teachers from other schools are invited to attend with them if possible, although additional remote sites will most likely be acceptable as well. To participate, teachers must connect to the workshop online IN REAL TIME. After registering, you will be sent detailed instructions for how to join the sessions.

TO RECEIVE THE FULL CONTENT, YOU MUST ATTEND ALL FOUR SESSIONS

2:45 - 3:45 PM EACH DAY — 4 CREDIT HOURS

• MARCH 4 • MARCH 11 • MARCH 18 • APRIL 15

COST: $15 PER PERSON, OR $10 PER PERSON IF TWO OR MORE TEACHERS FROM THE SAME SCHOOL REGISTER.

Professional Development Workshop

READING PORTRAITS AS BIOGRAPHIES: OBSERVE. INFER. INQUIRE.

There’s more to a portrait than you might think. Portraits are often viewed as a mere depiction of a person when in actuality they can be read as biographies that communicate significant information about a person’s life. Join Melanie Rick, arts integration consultant and certified reading specialist, for this workshop that examines ways to teach students to view portraits as a visual text filled with meaningful symbolism in order to make the study of people and biographies more engaging. Reading portraits helps students activate and build background knowledge of, construct understanding of, and reflect on historical and literary figures across the curriculum.

For teachers of grades 1-5; teams of teachers are encouraged, especially visual art specialists combined with classroom teachers from their building.

Workshop Leader: Melanie Rick, a National Board Certified Teacher, certified Reading Specialist and arts integration consultant, designs and leads workshops, in-depth courses, and summer institutes focused on arts integration, specifically how to integrate visual art and poetry throughout the K-8 curriculum. She works in museums, schools, and arts centers across the country and is a course leader and coach for the Kennedy Center’s Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program in Washington, D.C. Melanie served as the CETA program as consultant, working with teaching artists to develop and evaluate workshops presented at the Kennedy Center, and was an elementary classroom teacher, middle school special ed teacher, and arts integration resource teacher before becoming a national consultant with Focus 5, Inc.

*These workshops were developed in association with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and are partially underwritten by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Committee for the Performing Arts.
Administrators’ Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) Instructions

All previous educator certificates have been converted over to educator licenses in the new Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). The new system is “user friendly” and is easier to navigate than the previous system. Important and useful information for educators, ROEs, and ISBE is readily available in ELIS. Follow the instructions below to access your personal ELIS account:

- Go to www.isbe.net
- On the top of the page, click on ELIS/Educator Credentials
- Educator Access; click here to login to your ELIS account
- Two sections will appear. If you have never logged on to ELIS, click on “Former ECS Users Click Here For First Time Access To The ELIS System”
- Answer the listed questions and create your login and password
- Once inside your electronic file (your name will appear in the upper left-hand side of the home page) you will have access to an array of information including following:
  - Enter Professional Development
  - Apply for an Endorsement
  - Apply for Approval
  - Etc.

If you have any questions, contact Barron Robinson at 217-585-8090 or brobinson@roe51sdc.org.

Awarding Credit for Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Credit for all Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities completed on or before June 30, 2014, must be entered into your personal ELIS account as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2014.

Credit for all Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities beginning January 1, 2015, are to be entered into your personal ELIS account within 60 days of the completion date of the activity.

Professional Development Providers

Administrators may participate in professional development activities offered by providers approved under the old Certificate Renewal System through December 31, 2014, provided that the professional development aligns to the standards. Providers approved under the current License Renewal System will be identified before January 1, 2015. Examples of approved providers as of now include ROEs, Illinois public school districts, and Illinois universities/colleges.

Note: It is anticipated that not all of the providers that were approved under the old Certificate Renewal System will be eligible to be approved under the current License Renewal System; therefore, a licensee should check the State Board’s website for an updated list of approved providers after January 1, 2015.

The responsibility for professional development is being transferred from educators to the approved providers. In other words, if an approved provider offers an activity, the educator will receive credit. If, in the audit of providers, it is determined that the activities are not appropriate, the provider will face consequences, but the educator will not lose the credit awarded.

Administrators Professional Development Documentation

Administrators are reminded to maintain proper documentation of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities. (Those administrators retiring at the end of this fiscal year need to maintain the proper documentation for their “active years”.) If you are audited, you must be able to produce documentation for all of the professional development activities you are claiming.

For professional development activities, you need two types
of documentation – generally, this would include an agenda (listing the name of the activity, topics to be covered, the date of the activity, and the hours of the activity) and an Evidence of Completion sheet or a copy of the sign-in sheet. When attending a workshop, conference or seminar, make sure that the sponsoring entity provides you with an “Evidence of Completion” document or a copy of the sign-in sheet.

**Licensure Renewal/ Submitting a Statement of Assurance**

PLEASE NOTE: ELIS will automatically send an email to educators when their licenses are due to be renewed and registered. It is imperative that educators maintain a valid working email address in their ELIS profile.

Once Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity hours have been acquired and documented, and the required Academies are completed for all years in the cycle, and starting with April 1 of the school year (and no later than June 30th of that school year) in which the license expires, you must apply for renewal of your educator license through ELIS.

In order to start the process of renewing your license through ELIS, click on the “Renew or Register Your Credentials” notification on your educator home page, then click on the “Renew License” link. Follow all provided instructions.

**Note:** the “Renew or Register Your Credentials” link will appear on the home page of those educators whose licenses are up for renewal by April 1, 2015.

Once the ROE has approved your Statement of Assurance and submitted it to ISBE, log back into your ELIS account and click on “Register Your License”. The renewal/registration process is completed once you have followed all instructions, answered all of the questions and paid your renewal fee ($52.00) online with a credit or debit card.

**Educators Holding Administrative Endorsements, but Not Working as Administrators**

One Administrators’ Academy course must be taken during the 5-year renewal cycle for individuals who hold an administrative endorsement, but are not working in an administrative position that requires the endorsement. This begins during the first full 5-year renewal cycle in which the endorsement was held for at least one year.

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**Bullying Prevention and Conflict Management Workshop**

*Bullying prevention and conflict management* will be key topics presented at a workshop on December 5, 2014 at the ROE Staff Development Center.

This workshop, presented by the Illinois Masonic Foundation for Children, is nationally recognized as offering excellent ideas for developing a school-wide approach to creating a caring community.

The workshop, specifically designed for educators, offers a basic framework for understanding effective prevention and intervention skills that deal with bullying and conflict.

If substitutes are required, the district will be reimbursed $75 per individual.

See the workshop section for Registration information.
The Power of Mapping for Illinois Classrooms

The Illinois Virtual School, ConnectEd and the mapping software company Esri, have partnered to bring the power of mapping and analysis to Illinois schools. Two products are available, ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Desktop. ArcGIS software gives teachers and students the ability to add their own data to maps, insert map layers and even perform spatial analysis. Students may learn more about their own communities, region and the world by creating their own maps or searching through the maps of others.

- On the desktop – Windows only
  The Illinois K-12 site license, managed by Illinois Virtual School, provides access to the same powerful mapping tools used by government and industry to all students, teachers and school districts in Illinois.

- In the cloud - Mac, Windows or Tablet
  Teachers may sign up for a free ArcGIS Online account through the ConnectEd Esri Initiative, http://connected.esri.com/. ArcGIS Online users may publish their maps for the world to see, or make them available only within their own classrooms. As the students create compelling maps that tell a story, they are also developing essential skills for college and careers.

How to get started – Visit the Illinois Education Mapping portal at https://illinoised.maps.arcgis.com/home/ and click on “Illinois K-12 Site License Information”

For more information - Please contact Jenni Dahl, jdahl@roe51sd.org.

News from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Wildlife in the Classroom

The “Wildlife in the Classroom” publication from the IDNR has been revised to reflect changes in the Wildlife Code. You can access this publication at http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/wildlifeintheclassrm08142014.pdf. Educators often come into contact with wildlife or wildlife parts and should be aware of the relevant laws. Wildlife in the Classroom is recommended reading for all educators.

News from Illinois Computing Educators

TECH 2015 Students for the Information Age

Since 1990, students and teachers have set up demonstration tables at the Capitol building in Springfield, Illinois to show elected officials, business leaders, and the general public how technology is being used in schools. All schools throughout Illinois are invited to apply to participate in TECH 2015. Applications will be accepted through February 3, 2015. School teams will be selected in mid-February to represent a balanced distribution between legislative districts, grade levels and curricular areas. Preference will be given to those projects that demonstrate improved teaching and learning through the use of technology.

I’ve been thinking about how we express gratitude. One of the primary complaints I hear from teachers is, “I just don’t feel appreciated” (echoed often also by principals and other administrators in our school system). So many of those working in our schools don’t feel appreciated -- and one luncheon or certificate per year just doesn’t cut it.

The daily demands are so intense and taxing that we all need more acknowledgement of our hard work in order to manage some of the stress we’re under: The acknowledgements help us feel seen, help us focus on what we need to do more of, and help us feel as if we’re having an impact -- which is what all educators in schools want. These feelings build our emotional resilience helping us manage stress and rebound from setbacks.

Suggestions for increasing appreciation in your work life:

1. If you don’t feel appreciated appreciate someone else. Yes, you read that right! Go out of your classroom or office and find someone else in your school whom you appreciate: perhaps the custodian who keeps your room so clean, or the administrative assistant who answers the phone and greets parents all day long, or a veteran teacher who’s knowledge and understanding of the community you work in has been helpful to you. Find someone and just express a few words of gratitude -- in person or perhaps in a note. A simple, “Thank you for what you do,” will suffice! And while you do this, notice the feelings that come up as you genuinely appreciate another for his or her contribution to your school.

2. If you don’t feel appreciated by your principal, say this to him or her: “One of the things that’s hard for me is seeing the full impact that I have on our school. It would be tremendously helpful to me if you could share some of your appreciations for me more often. I’d really like to hear what you think I contribute to our community.” Your principal may be very grateful to you for expressing your needs.

3. And then, appreciate your principal for something: “I’d like to share, right now, that I appreciate you having this conversation with me. I appreciate that you’re open to feedback. I appreciate so many things that you do for our school and I recognize you may not get a ton of appreciation either.” Your principal will definitely appreciate this!

4. Consider the range of people you can appreciate for their contributions to your work life: colleagues, supervisors, former teachers, students, their parents, and so on. Send them a mental appreciation naming the things you’re grateful for.

5. Then appreciate yourself. If you are so inclined (you could even do this right now!) Close your eyes and acknowledge everything you do in the service of children. Talk to yourself, name what you appreciate about yourself, feel these appreciations sinking into your body, feel how you feel appreciating yourself. Say what you wish others would say to you. Try doing this at the end of every day for a week and see how your feelings shift.

Go Forth!

Expressing appreciations is perhaps even more important than receiving them: It’s good for our brains, our hearts, and our perception of our world. Try it. Just for a few days or a week and see how you feel.
Workshop Pre-registration Procedures

Advanced registration is required for all Sangamon ROE-SDC programs. Sangamon ROE-SDC reserves the right to cancel any program due to lack of enrollment.

Registration – To register, please fill out the registration form completely and mail with your registration check or purchase order to ROE-SDC Registrations, 2201 Toronto Rd., Ste. A, Springfield, IL 62712-3803. Only Administrators’ Academy program registrations will be accepted by phone. A confirmation card will be mailed upon receipt of your registration. Please call our office (585-8090) if you do not receive confirmation. Your canceled check is your receipt.

Purchase Orders – If your school district sends a purchase order to cover registration fees, include registration forms with the purchase orders. ROE-SDC will return any purchase order that is not accompanied by completed registration forms.

New Policy on Refunds – Refunds will be issued ONLY for registration fees over $10 and to participants who call the ROE-SDC office at least five days prior to the beginning of the program. If the ROE-SDC cancels the program due to lack of enrollment, all refunds will automatically be made.

Sangamon ROE-SDC Workshop Pre-Registration Form
ONE REGISTRANT PER FORM PLEASE

First Name __________________________________ MI ___________ Last Name _____________________________

Home Address ______________________________________ City ____________________________, IL Zip _____________

Home Phone (_____)______________________________ School District ________________________________

School Name __________________________________________ Address ________________________________

School City ____________________________________________, IL Zip _____________ E-mail ________________________________

School Phone (_____)______________________________ School County ________________________________

( ) Teacher-grade/subject________________________________ ( ) Administrator-position__________________________

Workshop Title __________________________________________ Class No. ________ Date ________ Fee ________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Total $ Enclosed ________

For Office Use Only

Date Paid ____________ PO/Dist/Pers Ck # __________ Fee Amt __________ Ck Amt __________
**The Power of Intervention: Addressing Anti-Gay and Anti Transgender Violence in Illinois Schools (#1476)**

Participants will understand the Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA), Marriage Equality and other Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues. One in 12 adolescents attempts suicide. The rate is higher among LGBT youth. ALL students are affected by teasing and bullying about LGBT issues, and most students who are bullied about being gay are not. The tension brought on by this particular kind of bullying creates a hostile learning environment, harms all students and lowers academic achievement. The goals of this workshop are to:

1. increase understanding of child and adolescent development and the effect of homophobia and heterosexism on youth;
2. increase awareness of violence toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in schools, and the effect on learning;
3. provide tools to school personnel for the safety and support of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth as well as other students affected by homophobia and heterosexism.

**ROE Contact Person:** J. Barron Robinson/Angie Durall

- **$135 in County; $150 Out of Area**
- **Materials, lunch & refreshments provided**
- **December 2, 2014 – 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**
- **Sangamon ROE Staff Development Center, Activity Room A, 2nd floor**
- **2201 Toronto Rd (Exit #90 off I-55), Springfield**

**Presenter:** Jennifer Hixon, David Fischer

**Registration Deadline is 11/18/2014**

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**Masonic Model Student Assistance Training Program (#810)**

During this highly interactive training program, participants will examine their school’s existing intervention program against a research-based model currently in use in fourteen states. Specifically aimed at the “Targeted Interventions” component of the RTI model, administrators in attendance will leave training with a set of skills allowing them to modify and/or enhance their current program.

**ROE Contact Person:** J. Barron Robinson/Angie Durall

- **$135 in County; $150 Out of Area**
- **Materials, lunch & refreshments provided**
- **December 4, 2014 – 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**
- **Sangamon ROE Staff Development Center, Activity Room A, 2nd floor**
- **2201 Toronto Rd (Exit #90 off I-55), Springfield**

**Presenter:** Larry Newman

**Registration Deadline is 11/24/2014**

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**Bullying Prevention and Conflict Management**

Bullying prevention and conflict management will be the key topics presented at this workshop by the Illinois Masonic Foundation for Children. The workshop is specifically designed for educators and offers a basic framework for understanding effective prevention and intervention skills that deal with bullying and conflict.

Participants will:

- Learn skills to help schools prevent bullying
- Learn skills to stop the cycle of harassment and bullying
- Conduct conflict and anger self-assessments
- Examine the conditions for harassment, bullying and violence.

If a substitute is required, the district will be reimbursed $75 per individual.

**ROE Contact Person:** Mary Loken/Angie Durall

- **$25**
- **Materials, lunch & refreshments provided**
- **December 5, 2014 – 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**
- **Sangamon ROE Staff Development Center, Activity Room A, 2nd floor**
- **2201 Toronto Rd (Exit #90 off I-55), Springfield**

**Presenter:** Larry Newman

**Registration Deadline is 11/25/2014**

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To register, mail form and check to ROE-SDC Registration, 2201 Toronto Rd., Ste. A, Springfield, IL 62712-3803

Make check payable to Sangamon ROE-SDC