

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



DeKalb County Regional Office of Education

2500 North Annie Glidden Road, Suite C

DeKalb, IL 60115

Amanda M. Christensen, Superintendent

Jeffrey E. Smith, Assistant Superintendent

Mission

According to statute, the Regional Superintendent of Schools shall 1) exercise supervision and control over all school districts in the region and 2) act as the official advisor and assistant of the school officers and teachers in the region. The DeKalb ROE is committed to providing high quality services for our communities and stakeholders. We strive to ensure that school personnel have the resources necessary to carry out their mission. We act collaboratively with the Illinois State Board of Education to advance safe, efficient, and effective schools. We perform our statutory duties to guarantee the best educational opportunities for Illinois families.

2017-2018 STAFF

Melissa Irick, Debbie Bible: Elementary Professional Development

Judy Stafstrom, Crystal Wash: Secondary Professional Development

Jasmine Hollins, Hamilton Williams, Scott Horsch: Truancy Outreach

Denise Curran, Liaison for Homeless Students

Cindy Baenziger, Donna Butler, Chris Turk, Amy Wendt: Testing Center

Josie Hyslop, Fingerprint Technician and Bookkeeping

Margaret Jankauskis, PD Coordinator

Ashley Davis, Inspections Clerical

Heather Hastings, Fingerprint Technician

Cindy Harness, Administrative Assistant

Debra Petrie, Bookkeeping

Barb Clark, Educator Licensure

DeKalb County Regional Office of Education #16

Amanda Christensen, Regional Superintendent



Staff Photo September 2018
Pictured from left, back row: Denise Curran, Melissa Irick, Judy Stafstrom, Deb Petrie, Scott Horsch, Jeff Clark, Jeff Smith
Pictured from left, front row: Cindy Baenziger, Chris Turk, Jasmine Hollins, Amanda Christensen, Elizabeth Jensen, Margaret Jankauskis, Barb Clark,
Not pictured: Hamilton Williams, Amy Wendt, Josie Hyslop, Debbie Bible

The Regional Superintendent of Schools is the chief administrative officer of a Regional Office of Education and is the only elected education professional in Illinois. Most of the duties and functions performed are at a level between that of the local school district and that of the Illinois State Board of Education. The Regional Superintendent and Assistant Regional Superintendent coordinate and deliver state and local news and act as educational advocates by providing positive leadership and proactive assistance to educators, school districts, and the public. The Regional Office of Education (ROE) spends considerable time assisting the Illinois State Board of Education in processing the great number of applications, reports, claims for reimbursement, etc., which are required in today's education world.

Our office policy mandates prompt and courteous attention to all requests coming to our office for information and assistance with educational issues. This is a year-round, daily service and constitutes one of the greatest demands on our collective time and energy.

Contact Information

2500 N. Annie Glidden Road, Suite C
 DeKalb, Illinois, 60115
 815-217-0460 (main phone)
 815-217-0467 (FAX)
 Hours Monday—Friday
 8:30 am—12:00 pm and 1:00 pm—4:30 pm

Web: www.dekalbcounty.org/ROE/roe.html
www.facebook.com/dekalbroe16
www.twitter.com/@dekalbroe16

Duties of the DeKalb County Regional Office of Education

Educational Administration

- Respond to legal questions from educators, boards of education, and other citizens
- Assist with applying, registering, renewing educator licenses
- Supervise and assist in transportation programs and other staff development programs
- Administer the IHSE testing programs and issue diplomas
- Conduct professional growth opportunities
- Approve school calendars, in-service days, workshops, and institutes
- Conduct hearings for School District reorganization
- Administer Truancy Intervention programs and Safe School Alternative Education programs

Cooperation Management

- Assist the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in the evaluation and recognition of public schools and private schools who ask to be recognized
- Maintain maps of all school districts
- Administer cooperative programs
- Monitor public schools during strikes
- Remove any member of a school board for failure to perform official duties
- Assist with cooperatives, special education programs, and vocational programs
- Serve as Ex-Officio secretary of the Regional Board of School Trustees

Financial

- Review budgets, audits, evidence of indebtedness, and annual financial reports
- Check bonding of school treasurers
- Disburse state and federal funds
- Act as administrative and/or fiscal agent for appropriate programs

Health and Life Safety

- Visit and inspect each public school annually
- Supervise school buildings for health and life safety and condemn buildings if necessary
- Provide courses in safety and first aid for bus drivers
- Approve and issue building permits and occupancy permits

Public Relations

- Respond to questions and concerns, including legal questions
- Promote and support educational programs and achievements of the schools and educators
- Hold public hearings on topics vital to education
- Serve as liaison between the state legislature, local school districts, and the ISBE

Visit iarss.org for additional information on Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Service Centers

Honoring Years of Service in 2017	
Denise Curran, 12 years	Deb Petrie, 3 years, December
Jeff Smith, 5 years, August	Jasmine Hollins, 3 years, December
Amanda Christensen, 5 years, November	Ashley Davis, 2 years, February
Chris Turk, 3 years, March	Cindy Harness, 2 years, August
Donna Butler, 3 years, July	Hamilton Williams, 1 year, August
Barb Clark, 3 years, September	Margaret Jankauskis, 1 year, Sept

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Community Outreach

ROE staff members serve as the educational representative on many of the professional and lay committees established throughout the County and Northern Illinois. The DeKalb ROE seeks ways to build a network of support for DeKalb County's youth.

In 2017-2018, the Regional Office had representation on or held membership in the following organizations:

1. Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS)
2. IARSS Committees: Educator Licensure, Student Services
3. Area II Regional Offices of Education
4. Youth Advisory Committee of the DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment (DCP-SAFE) and the Steering Committee
5. DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council: Education Committee, Executive Committee, Trauma-Informed Strategic Planning
6. Kishwaukee Education Consortium governing board
7. Truancy and Alternative Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Directors
8. The Kishwaukee College Adult Education Area Planning Council
9. Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Board
10. Children's Home + Aid (Healthy Families Illinois)
11. DeKalb County Youth Service Providers
12. Illinois Pupil Transportation Advisory Council
13. Secretary - Regional Board of School Trustees
14. Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA)
15. Illinois Principals' Association (IPA)
16. DeKalb County Department Heads
17. DeKalb Chamber of Commerce
18. DeKalb County Drug Overdose Prevention Program



Health / Life Safety and Inspection of Buildings

- Provides and interprets Life Safety Code information for school officials
- Inspects every public school every year (43+ buildings)
- Issues building permits, occupancy permits, and demolition permits
- Conducts walkthroughs of construction sites with architects in preparation of occupancy
- Maintains records of districts' 10-Year Surveys and Amendments
- Processes school maintenance grants and use of health-life safety funds
- Facilitates a county-wide committee of district facility managers and law enforcement to discuss and collaborate on issues of safety and security

Additional Community / School Services

- Collaborated with the DeKalb County Community Foundation on the Excellence in Education awards, the Community Resources for Youth Breakfast, and the Kindergarten Readiness Initiative
- Facilitated the DeKalb County educator job application consortium
- Attended NIU Career Fair in order to assist educators in obtaining credentials and recruit substitute teachers / paraprofessionals, February 2018
- Hosted a table and conducted a career survey at the Sandwich District Career Fair to encourage students to enter the field of education, February 2018
- Coordinated the DeKalb County Spelling Bee at Kishwaukee College (sponsored by Shaw Media), March 2018
- Volunteered at the IASB Conference, November 2017
- Volunteered at the Raising Student Achievement Conference, December 2018
- Presented to the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association

Professional Learning Activities

It is expected that the ROE staff will engage in continuous improvement. Both the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent are required to complete an average of 20 professional development hours per year in order to maintain their educator credentials. Just as importantly, the entire staff is encouraged to participate in relevant professional learning:

- State-wide meetings, area meetings, and legislative updates of Regional Superintendents of Schools
- School safety/security conferences, including ALICE
- Every Student Succeeds Act Conference
- PreK-K Conference
- Birth-Grade 3 Continuity Project
- Accelerating Our Progress (DeKalb County Basics)
- ICEARY conference (Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth)
- Poverty Summit
- Raising Student Achievement Conference
- Jim Knight Instructional Coaching Institute
- PearsonVUE testing center updating credentials
- Health / Life Safety building requirements
- Compliance workshops; Educator Licensure trainings
- Conferences for professional development providers
- Employment trainings such as cultural competency, fraud awareness, ethical conduct, mandated reporter status

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Services to Educators Regarding Licensure

The Regional Office of Education assists teachers seeking an Illinois Professional Educator License including applications, registrations, endorsements, and renewals. The ROE is the resource for local educators who have licensure questions or who need training on the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). According to the ELIS statistics report, 900 educators registered a total of 929 licenses, 443 new teacher licenses were issued, 81 new endorsements were issued, and 114 new paraprofessional licenses were issued in FY18. Credentials services are also related to compliance assistance services. Annually, the DeKalb ROE checks the credentials of employed teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals (assistants). ROE staff not only enforces credential requirements, but also assists districts and individual educators when there are licensure questions.

The ROE operates a digital fingerprinting system that allows a quick return of criminal background information to the local school districts at a cost of \$55.00 per employee, substitute, or student teacher. The ROE also provides this service to local bus drivers, healthcare workers, school and community agency volunteers. The office conducted a total of 1348 fingerprints and criminal history records checks in FY18.

Certification of Bus Drivers / Transportation

The Regional Office offers the initial 8-hour training required for all new school bus drivers prior to getting a bus permit. The ROE also offers the annual 2-hour refresher workshop required in the 12-month period prior to renewal. This is prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education and enforced by the ROE.

Four initial courses were held at the ROE, and were taught by Carolyn Amerman, Charlene Bridges, and Jason Calloway. Thirty-five drivers were trained at these sessions. There were also fourteen refresher courses provided mostly on location at school districts. A total of 372 drivers attended these trainings. The Assistant Superintendent facilitated four Transportation Directors' meetings and one Instructors' Meeting.

Regional Board of School Trustees

The Regional Superintendent acts as ex-officio secretary for the Regional Board of School Trustees. The Board hears district consolidation cases and cases in which individuals wish to detach from one district and annex to another district. There was no such petition filed in 2017-2018. Members of the Board are elected for six-year staggered terms by countywide elections.

MEMBER	TOWNSHIP	TERM EXPIRES
Marshall Hayes, Pres.	DeKalb	2023
Thomas Burski	Afton	2019
Larry Forsberg	South Grove	2023
John Horn	Cortland	2021
Charles Rose	Sycamore	2019
Jamie Willrett, VP	Malta	2021
Vacancy		

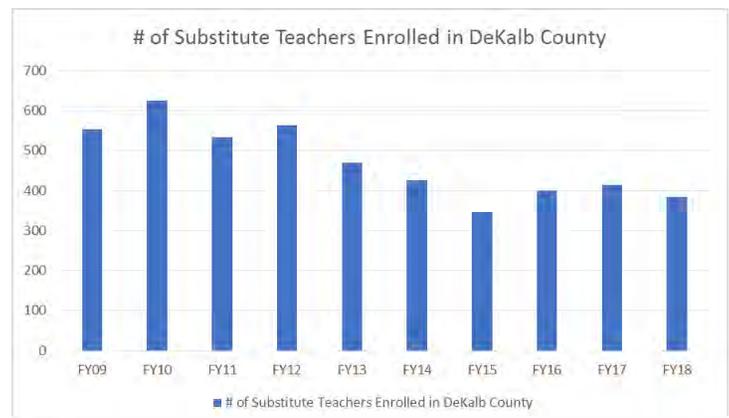
Recognition of Schools

The DeKalb County ROE issued, in conjunction with the Illinois State Board of Education, the status of Recognition to each of the eight public school districts in DeKalb County. The Regional Office conducted a full state recognition compliance visit to four school districts: Genoa-Kingston CUSD 424, Indian Creek CUSD 425, Hiawatha CUSD 426, and Somonauk CUSD 432, during the 2017-18 school year.

Compliance items cover a broad range, including: personnel files and properly credentialed employees, student records, school improvement plans, special education services, board policy, website requirements, treatment of homeless students, staff evaluation methods and procedure, and mandatory staff trainings.

Services for Substitute Teachers

The ROE maintains the records for substitutes such as their blood-borne pathogens training, physical exams and TB results, mandated reporter acknowledgement, criminal background results, and licensure. Substitute teachers enrolled with the DeKalb ROE can guest teach in all of the school districts and private schools in DeKalb County. During FY18, 385 substitute teachers used this service. A recruiting event was held on January 22, 2018. On August 10, 2017, the ROE provided a workshop to prepare substitutes on topics such as student safety, classroom management, instructional strategies, and social emotional learning. As the chart below illustrates, DeKalb County schools are still experiencing a substitute shortage. Interested individuals should call Barb Clark 815-217-0468.



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Professional Development for Educators

Effective July 1, 2017, the DeKalb ROE withdrew from the professional development consortium, Kishwaukee Intermediate Delivery System (KIDS), in order to build its own professional development (PD) team and be more flexible and responsive to the needs of DeKalb County educators. ROE PD consultants provide imbedded and sustained professional learning tailored to meet the evolving needs of our educational community. The consultants have experience across all grade levels from early learning through high school. Visit dkroeedteam.com for the mission, contact information, and upcoming events.

From July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018, the ROE PD consultants delivered internal workshop events including:

- Substitute Teacher Workshop (August 2017)
- Becoming Trauma Informed 3-Part Series (Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2017)
- Setting Goals Using MAP Data (Jan. 2018)
- Foundations of Mentoring (Feb. 2018)
- Establishing a Culture for High Achievement (Feb. 2018)
- Elementary Social Emotional Learning Institute (June 2018)
- Secondary Social Emotional Learning Institute (June 2018)
- Partnered with DeKalb County Farm Bureau to deliver Summer Ag Institute (June 2018)
- Partnered with DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF) to deliver Early Learning Summit (June 2018)

In FY18, ISBE discontinued a grant for New Teacher Induction and the DeKalb ROE absorbed the costs for one year in order to provide services for Hiawatha CUSD 426, Sandwich CUSD 430, and Kishwaukee Education Consortium. The New Teacher Induction program includes training for new mentors, new teacher professional development and ongoing mentor support forums.

ROE PD consultants delivered workshops at three districts' institute days, facilitated instructional coaching cycles with teachers in four school districts, and assisted with curriculum implementation in three districts. The ROE also offered and hosted eleven workshops delivered by external professional learning experts on topics such as Google, social justice, science, de-escalation, brain-compatible classrooms, early learning and development, and whole brain teaching. Additionally, the ROE coordinated and facilitated eight Superintendents' workshops and six Principal workshops. One of the most successful events of the year was *Boston Basics* presented by nationally recognized Dr. Ronald Ferguson in June, 2018. The ROE has partnered with DeKalb County Community Foundation to continue Dr. Ferguson's impactful early childhood development work.

ISBE continued to financially support the initiative of Foundational Services in the areas of language arts, math, balanced assessment, teacher evaluation, family engagement, and continuous improvement planning. In FY18, ISBE expanded the potential topics to include social studies, poverty, restorative justice, physical education, trauma, instructional strategies, social emotional learning, English language learning, classroom management, and integrating technology. In FY18, DeKalb ROE had 1,110 participants in 62 sessions. Despite the enormous success and positive impact on educators, this system of PD delivery was discontinued by the State of Illinois for FY19.

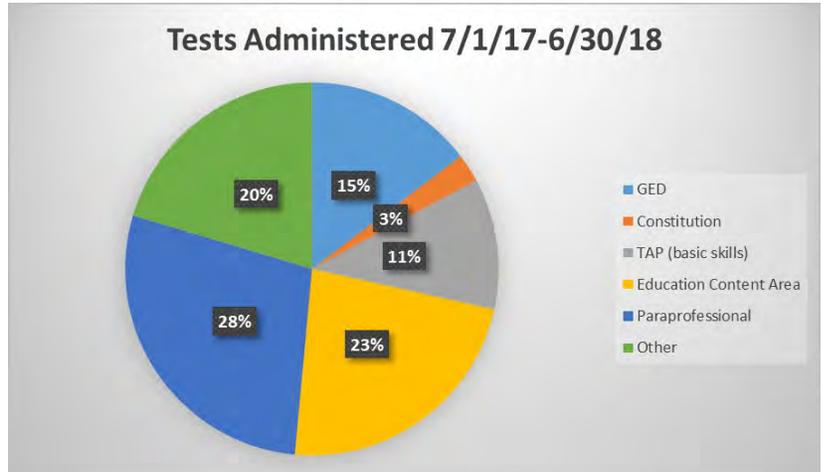
The DeKalb ROE facilitated its 2nd biennial County Institute Day on October 6, 2017. Kishwaukee College hosted the event. Six school districts and KEC comprised of over 800 educators participated along with over 60 presenters. The day of professional development was planned by a committee representative of the school districts. The keynote speaker was Jim Burgett who delivered "Denting the Universe." This keynote outlined the fundamental basics of teaching, discussed life-changing priorities, and shared simple research that drives effective learning. The featured speaker was Laurie Guest who got everyone laughing with her "Life in the Espresso Lane" presentation. In addition, 130 breakout sessions were offered ranging in topic from mindfulness, student engagement, content area support, instructional strategies, special education, and social emotional learning. The next County Institute Day is currently being planned for October 11, 2019.

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Testing Center

Thanks to DeKalb County making available a computer lab, the DeKalb ROE continues to be a PearsonVUE authorized testing center on Tuesdays 9am—4pm. Registrations are done online through PearsonVUE. In FY18, 453 different candidates tested on a total of 579 tests. There were 50 regularly scheduled testing days, averaging 11.5 candidates per day. Two additional days were scheduled to serve testers who required accommodations such as extended time or adaptive equipment. In order to register for the ETS Paraprofessional Assessment, individuals need to go to dekalbroe.org and register and pay online. FY17 was our biggest year for number of tests administered (593); FY18 is down only slightly. The TAP test and GED decreased in demand; whereas the Paraprofessional test increased in demand.

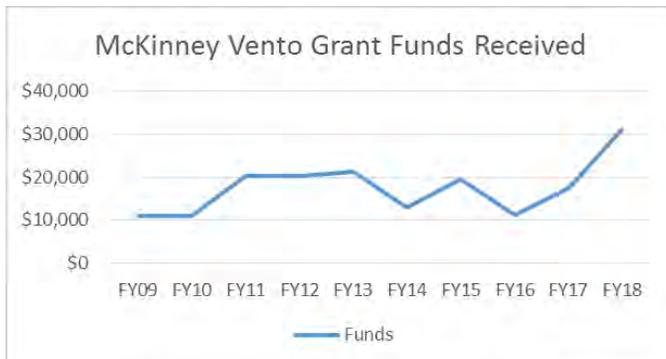
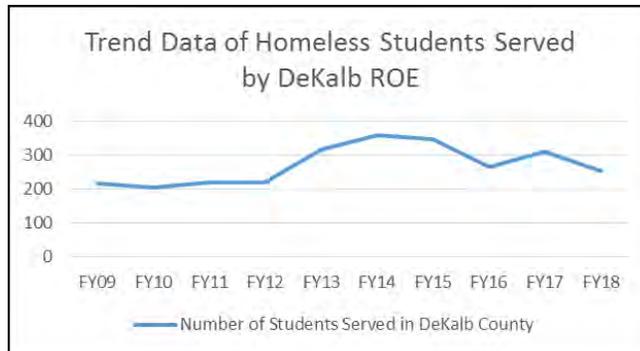


Type of Test	# of Tests Administered
GED	85
Constitution	14
TAP (basic skills)	66
Education Content Area	133
Paraprofessional	163
Other	118
TOTAL FY18	579

Illinois High School Equivalency Testing and Issuance

The General Educational Development (GED) is a battery of high school equivalency tests. Individuals may register at www.ged.com and choose DeKalb County ROE as the testing site. Upon completing requirements, the individual may request a copy of their transcript and/or certificate for \$10 each. During 2017-18, 48 IHSE certificates and 86 IHSE transcripts were requested and issued, allowing individuals to move forward with their educational or career plans. The Constitution Test for IHSE continues to be available at no cost to the candidate and appointments are made by calling the ROE.

School Year	Students Identified
2008-2009	217
2009-2010	206
2010-2011	222
2011-2012	221
2012-2013	319
2013-2014	359
2014-2015	349
2015-2016	267
2016-2017	313
2017-2018	253



School Year	Funds
2008-2009	\$11,000
2009-2010	\$11,000
2010-2011	\$20,179
2011-2012	\$20,179
2012-2013	\$21,329
2013-2014	\$13,010
2014-2015	\$19,510
2015-2016	\$11,193
2016-2017	\$17,400
2017-2018	\$31,000

Services for Homeless Students and Their Families

The McKinney-Vento Act, signed into law in Illinois on January 24, 1995 ensures that students who are considered homeless maintain consistent school attendance with minimal disruption. During the 2017-2018 school year, 253 homeless youth were identified in DeKalb County (our lowest since FY12). Denise Curran served as the DeKalb County Liaison for Homeless Students, training school district personnel in identifying homeless children and those in housing crises and providing the supports necessary to ensure consistent school attendance with minimal disruption. Services include transportation assistance, clothes, hygiene products, food, tutoring, and doctors' visits. The DeKalb ROE appreciates Hope Haven and Safe Passage for their support of students in living transitions. Funding increased in FY18 based off FY17 numbers and to cover costs of training at the NAEHCY conference.

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Truancy Supervision

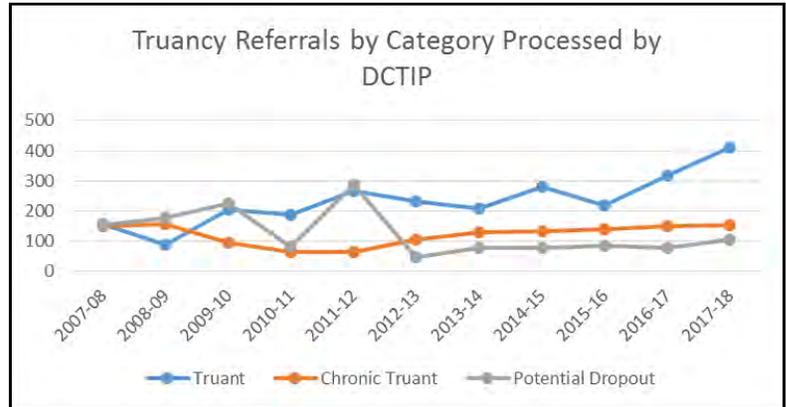
This was the 31st year that DeKalb County was part of a Truants' Alternative Optional Education Program. DeKalb County Truancy Intervention Program (DCTIP) was funded through a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education and was administered and facilitated through the Regional Office of Education, with the Assistant Superintendent serving as DCTIP Director. Truancy outreach staff worked with truant students and their families to improve attendance by providing intervention services, acting as a liaison between home and school, referring children and families to DeKalb County service agencies, and coordinating a credit-recovery program. While early interventions are preferred, the DeKalb ROE appreciates working with the State Attorney's Office and DeKalb County Court Services when needed. Trend data is provided here to help express the need for additional resources.

Total student enrollment in public schools was 16,725; 4.0% of all DeKalb County public school students were referred to DCTIP. This percentage has increased from 3.2% in FY17 and 2.6% in FY16. Out of the 671 referred, 33% were Black or African American, 21% were Hispanic or Latino, and 39% were White. Males constituted 53% and females were 46%. The grade from which the greatest number of referrals came was 12th, followed by 10th, 11th, and then 2nd and 1st.

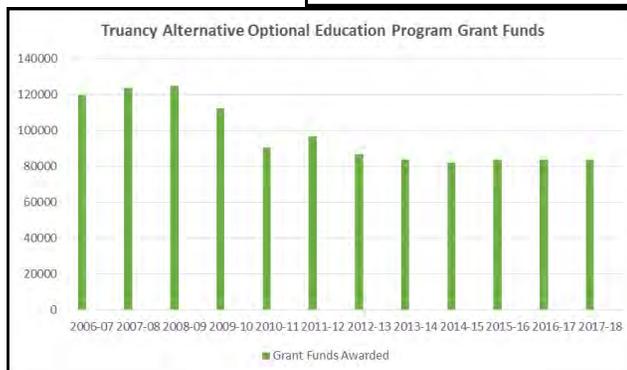
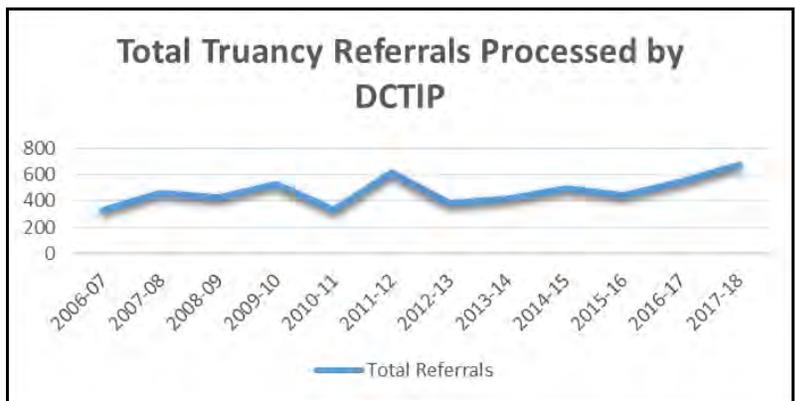
The ROE recently completed a data review from ten years of providing truancy services in DeKalb County. Highlights include the following:

- 91% of served students met their goals and objectives
- 1% dropout rate in population of students served
- Served an average of 542 students per year at an annual funding rate of \$125.00 per student

School Year	Grant Funds Awarded
2006-07	\$119,813
2007-08	\$123,407
2008-09	\$124,641
2009-10	\$112,177
2010-11	\$90,067
2011-12	\$96,669
2012-13	\$86,567
2013-14	\$83,754
2014-15	\$81,870
2015-16	\$83,754
2016-17	\$83,754
2017-18	\$83,754



	Truant	Chronic Truant	Potential Dropout	TOTAL Referrals
2006-07	177	101	55	333
2007-08	156	151	153	460
2008-09	89	156	178	423
2009-10	204	95	225	524
2010-11	188	63	81	332
2011-12	265	62	288	615
2012-13	233	106	45	384
2013-14	209	129	77	415
2014-15	279	134	79	492
2015-16	217	139	83	439
2016-17	316	150	76	542
2017-18	412	153	106	671



FY18 DCTIP Services	# Provided
Home Visits	56
Academic Counseling	108
Court-related Services	32
Monitoring	671
Mentoring	4
Credit Recovery	112

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Kishwaukee Education Consortium

KEC serves DeKalb, Genoa-Kingston, Hiawatha, Sycamore, Hinckley-Big Rock, Indian Creek, Sandwich, Somonauk and Rochelle. KEC is the Regional Safe School Program, providing alternative education to students who have multiple suspensions or an expulsion. This program is part of the ReStart program which gives students the opportunity to “restart” their academic, social, and emotional growth. At the end of 2017-18, 38 students were enrolled in the Safe School. We have continued to receive the Career Education grant for Safe School students to engage in career technical education, learn career skills, and obtain work placements under a KEC supervisor.

Visits for Homeschooled Children

The ROE visits home school families and can request evidence of curriculum, completed work, and assessment as well as verification of start dates, overall satisfaction with the program and progress of the home school student. During FY18, the ROE visited three home school families. The ROE also assists families in registering as a home school .

Northwestern Illinois Association

The Northwestern Illinois Association (NIA) is an association of public school districts in the ten northwestern counties of Illinois, which provides services to children with low incidence disabilities such as severe sight or hearing problems or orthopedic impairments. A large geographic area is needed in order to provide an effective and economical program since a very small percentage of children are found in these categories.

Location: Sycamore CUSD 427 Administration Building, 245 W. Exchange St., Sycamore.

DeKalb County School District Enrollments

Below is a summary of student enrollment figures for DeKalb County schools during the school years of 2008-2009 through 2017-2018. Public school figures come from the Fall Housing Report (September 2017). Private school figures are at the request of the ROE.

DISTRICT	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Genoa-Kingston 424	2059	2058	2016	1909	1867	1834	1773	1763	1735	1673
Indian Creek 425	877	873	803	687	766	763	749	722	681	677
Hiawatha 426	616	632	585	608	604	611	580	550	554	518
Sycamore 427	3727	3711	3787	3805	3767	3738	3744	3757	3783	3683
DeKalb 428	5907	5875	6000	5667	6244	6264	6351	6465	6595	6623
Hinckley-Big Rock	766	757	733	711	710	695	692	686	691	647
Sandwich 430	2492	2492	2391	2346	2275	2264	2151	2096	2087	2065
Somonauk 432	1031	1031	876	864	864	821	796	807	819	801
Regional Safe School	26	45	40	53	52	44	61	35	31	38
Public School Totals	17,501	17,474	17,231	16,650	17,149	17,034	16,880	16,881	16,976	16,725
St. Mary - DeKalb	250	221	231	241	250	192	177	193	194	204
St. Mary's - Sycamore	235	235	198	228	240	244	228	193	184	184
Somonauk Christian	69	67	102	117	124	98	86	No data	No data	22
Cornerstone Christian	400	400	350	339	345	164	279	294	267	277
Montessori Sycamore	20	63	98	22	24	22	No data	20	No Data	41
Camelot School	130	129	132	140	138	88	87	85	84	No data
Private School Totals	1104	1115	1111	1087	1121	608	864	785	729	728
Total Enrollment	18,605	18,589	18,342	17,737	18,270	17,642	17,737	17,666	17,705	17,453