



# **FY 2024-2025 Annual Report**

McHenry County  
Regional Office of Education

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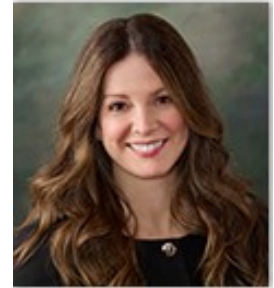
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Hours of Operation: Mon-Thurs 8 AM – 4:30 PM and Fri 8 AM – 3:30 PM

# LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear McHenry County Education Stakeholders,

I am honored to present the McHenry County Regional Office of Education's 2025 Annual Report. This report provides insight into how the ROE supported education during the 2024-2025 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 McHenry County.

This report uses information from reports on our programs and services and from reports at the Illinois State Board of Education website. This is comprehensive as possible but will not encompass every activity.

The mission of the McHenry 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.

On behalf of the Regional Office of Education, we thank you. Our best wishes to the students, teachers, service providers, administrators, and district personnel at our 18 school districts, 1 safe school, multiple private schools for continued success in the current school year and future.

Sincerely,

*Diana Hartmann*

## What's New At The ROE

The McHenry County Regional Office of Education hosted its first annual Excellence in Education summer conference in July. The day included keynote speaker, Richard Santana, who founded Homeboy Goes to Harvard Productions. During his speech, Mr. Santana focused on raising awareness about issues such as gangs, drug addiction, self-esteem, and all the risks experienced by youth in their school and home communities. The 200+ attendees were able to craft their own schedules and choose from a variety of breakout sessions hosted by teachers, specialists, and safety personnel. Topics included AI, special education, internship programs, science of reading, co-teaching, cyber security, and many more. Vendors were on site and spoke with participants about educational websites, graduate school options, the most up-to-date technology for school safety, and classroom gadgets, to name a few. The success of the day was immeasurable, and the Regional Office of Education staff are looking forward to the 2nd annual conference to be held on June 18, 2026.

The 2025 Regional Spelling Bee took place in March with 21 participants. The winner, Tyler Kochanski, Saints Peter & Paul Catholic School, attended the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C., thanks to our sponsors Northwest Herald, Urbanski Family, and State Representative Steve Reick.

The 2025 Educator of the Year winners were announced and celebrated at the regional ceremony in May. The winners were:



Educator of the Year	Lynda Bastian	D200
Private/Parochial	Cindy Russel	St. Mary's
Pre-School	Kelley Crone	D50
Elementary School	Brenda Kunde	D158
Middle School	Kari Snider-Ratkowski	D158
High School	Lana Bachta	D155
Administrator	Carl Valianatos	D156
Certified Support	Jennifer Atkinson	D15
Early Career	Kelly Taugner	D19
Non-Certified Support	Chris Liggett	D155

## About Us

The Regional Office of Education currently takes appointments for work permits, fingerprinting, and high school diploma/transcripts requests. Please call 815.334.3039 to make an appointment.

Services include the following:

- Health / Life Safety of District Buildings (Assurance & Compliance)
- Building Permits, Inspections, and Occupancy Permits
- Professional Development
- Legislation Influence
- School Safety
- Truancy Prevention
- Bus Driver Training
- Regional Safe School
- Work Permits for minor children ages 0-15
- Fingerprinting and Background Checks
- High School Equivalent Diplomas and Transcripts
- New and Renewal Licensure Support
- Instructional Coaching for Educators
- Pearson Testing Center

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### **Attendance and Truancy**

The Attendance and Truancy Division is McHenry County's truancy and dropout prevention program funded by the Illinois State Board of Education since 1985. The division is an intervention toll that is available to all schools in McHenry County. Intervention occurs when schools refer students for poor attendance/truancy. Outreach 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.

### **Regional Safe School**

The Regional Safe School Program of McHenry County serves students in grades 6-12 who have received multiple suspensions, are eligible for expulsion, or have been expelled from school in McHenry County. The students we serve often face long-term issues such as domestic violence, poverty, and drug and alcohol abuse, which influence behavior in the classroom. Our goal is to provide students with techniques to improve their decision-making skills that affect their school and home life, attendance and performance, and ability to transition to work or further schooling.

### **Professional Development**

The Educational Services Division provides 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 practices in education that support the development of skills needed in students. Administrator academies, guest speakers, workshops, and on-site training that aligns to district goals is delivered. We are committed to providing high quality personalized professional learning for our educators and administrators. We are continuously seeking opportunities to form new partnerships to support McHenry County districts.

### **Instructional Coaching**

The Instructional Coach Coordinator assists teachers, schools, and districts with teaching and learning with an emphasis on literacy and math. Objectives may include professional learning, increase teacher content, support curriculum implementation, model and observation, facilitate collaboration, data-driven instruction, and emotional and moral support.

## Who We Serve

### Schools/Buildings:

- 76 Public Schools
- 27 Non-Public Schools (K-12)
- 9 Non-Public Schools (Pre-K)
- 1 Regional Safe School

### Professionals:

- 336 Administrators
- 3,414 Teachers
- Substitutes
- Paraprofessionals
- Service Personnel (Social Workers, Psychologists, School Nurses, Speech Language Pathologists, School Counselors)

## Attendance & Truancy Division

Total Referrals: 267 (Aug '24 – May '25)

Reason: Chronic Truancy

### Comparison by Gender

Male: 137

Female: 130

Home Visits: 400+

School Visits: 400+

Letters Sent: 267

Truancy Hearings: 52

Court Cases: 12

## Health Life Safety & Compliance Visits

Annual Health/Life Safety & Compliance Visits: 103

Inspections Completed: 174

Construction Permits Issued: 101

Projects Completed and Occupancy Permits Issued: 77

Compliance Visits: Public: 4 Districts / 14 Schools

Non-Public: 0 Schools

## Bus Driver Trainings

### Division 1 – Van Drivers (under 10 passengers):

Initial Classes: 11 classes 52 drivers

Refresher Classes: 4 classes 11 drivers

### Division 2 – Bus Drivers:

Initial Classes: 18 classes 287 drivers

Refresher Classes: 34 classes 845 drivers



## Background Checks / Fingerprinting

Background Check / Fingerprints Submitted: 980

Substitute Background Check / Fingerprints Submitted: 279

The Regional Office of Education provides fingerprinting services for most McHenry County Schools. Both public and non-public schools along with independent cab companies. The Illinois School Code requires all new employees to have both a State and FBI criminal background check. The electronic submission of fingerprints allows the Schools or the ROE to typically receive results within 24-72 hours, so the employment can start quickly.

## High School Equivalency (HSE)

206 requests new, duplicate certificates and/or transcripts, and education verifications.

## Minor Work Permits

166 requests for minor work permits.



## Pearson Testing Center

Pearson Testing Center exams range from educator licensing, high school equivalency, and over 300 exams for various industries outside of education. The testing center is open during normal business hours and typically has well over 280 testers per month.



# Sixth Day Enrollment Figures

## September 2020 – 2025

District	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Nippersink 2	1,136	1,051	1,100	1,102	1,114	1,097
Fox River Grove 3	393	384	395	408	417	398
Johnsburg 12	1,807	1,678	1,662	1,703	1,668	1,647
McHenry 15	4,332	4,062	4,029	4,079	4,031	4,008
Riley 18	277	258	270	270	240	255
Alden-Hebron 19	410	369	407	438	411	415
Cary 26	2,460	2,280	2,350	2,302	2,330	2,368
Harrison 36	375	362	357	402	408	434
Prairie Grove 46	712	680	769	813	867	896
Crystal Lake 47	7,316	7,006	6,973	7,109	7,020	6,872
Harvard 50	2,679	2,561	2,502	2,510	2,494	2,503
Marengo 154	658	657	655	685	666	654
Crystal Lake 155	5,772	5,674	5,583	5,405	5,334	5,196
McHenry 156	2,146	2,146	2,185	2,222	2,177	2,187
Richmond-Burton 157	611	580	565	549	531	515
Huntley 158	9,109	8,776	8,590	8,595	8,481	8,358
Marengo-Union 165	1,036	977	1,007	1,055	1,085	1,099
Woodstock 200	6,322	6,001	6,167	6,159	6,139	6,111
Totals	47,551	45,502	45,566	45,806	45,413	45,013



## Regional Board of School Trustees

The McHenry 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	Service Began	Current Term Expires
Adria Tyndall Elected Chairperson	2021	2027
Karen Tirio	2021	2027
Thomas Baba	2025	2027
William Stanton	2023	2029
Tim Sebastian	2025	2027
Brian Meyers	2023	2027
Jacquice Smith	2023	2027

## Staff Directory

<b>Administrative Team</b> Diana Hartmann, Ed. S. Christopher Zielinski	Regional Superintendent Assistant Regional Superintendent	dkhartmann@mchenrycountyil.gov cmzielinski@mchenrycountyil.gov
<b>Attendance and Truancy</b> Tim Dempsey Mayra Carbajal-Cruz	Truancy Officer Truancy Admin Assistant	tpdempsey@mchenrycountyil.gov mmcarbajalcruz@mchenrycountyil.gov
<b>Professional Development</b> Amanda Oltman	Director of Professional and Student Services	amolman@mchenrycountyil.gov
<b>Instructional Coach</b> Laura Servedio	Instructional Coach Coordinator	laservedio@mchenrycountyil.gov
<b>Educator Licensure</b> Annette Jablonski	Educator Licensure	aaablonski@mchenrycountyil.gov
<b>Support Staff</b> Kim Walters	Program & Communications Coordinator	kdwalters@mchenrycountyil.gov
<b>Regional Safe School</b> Scott Whipple	Principal	(815) 239-0001