



# ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Deanna Oliver, Assistant Superintendent • doliver@kaneroe.org

**Our alternative programs assist with at-risk youth and their families facing atypical circumstances within the school system, whether it be homelessness, truancy, expulsion, or delinquency. As stated by the Illinois State Board of Education, regional offices of education are also responsible for investigating noncompliance within private and homeschool arrangements.**

## TRUANCY PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAM

In 2016-2017 the Regional Office of Education completed the 32nd year of the Kane County Truancy Prevention Program. Youth Outreach Workers (truancy officers) collaborate with schools to advocate for students and parents to ensure consistent school attendance. Kane County had 2,110 official referrals from our local schools requesting truancy assistance from our staff.

Services	2016-2017
School Visits	1,781
Home Visits	260
Student Contacts	3,012
Community Agency Contacts	85
School Conferences	163
Regional Conferences	3
Juvenile Court Cases	5
Adult Court Cases	1

Source of Referrals by District	2016-2017
U-46 Elgin	569
101 Batavia	31
129 West Aurora	231
131 East Aurora	728
300 Dundee/Carpentersville	451
301 Central	23
302 Kaneland	14
303 St. Charles	50
304 Geneva	13
Total	2,110
<b>By Grade Level</b>	
Elementary K-5	940
Middle School	423
High School	746
Other	1
<b>By Gender</b>	
Males	1,095
Females	1,015



## DROPOUT INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Kane County Dropout Intervention Program completed its 29th year in the 2016-2017 school year. This program reaches out to those individuals who have dropped out of school for a variety of reasons. Information is provided to them regarding continuing their education in some manner through returning to school, obtaining a GED or vocational programming.

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## REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS PROGRAM (RSSP)

This is a cooperative effort between the Regional Office of Education and the local school districts. The programs within school districts are designed to meet local needs. The purpose of the RSSP is twofold: 1) to increase safety and promote the learning environment in schools and 2) to meet the particular educational needs of disruptive students more appropriately and individually in an alternative educational environment. In 2016-2017, 275 students were served through this program. Without this program, those students would not have received an education and most likely would have become dropouts.



## ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMS (ALOP)

The Alternative Learning Opportunities Program serves students that may need educational supports and other support services that are not currently provided by their regular school programs. In order to address these needs, school districts develop and implement Alternative Learning Opportunities Programs (ALOPs) that offer a broader range of academic, behavioral, and social/emotional interventions designed to increase the academic achievement levels of these students so that they are able to meet the Illinois Learning Standards and complete their education in a safe learning environment. The Kane County Regional Office of Education partnered with 4 school districts and 1 special education cooperative to support students within an ALOP. 616 students in grades 6-12 received supports in an ALOP environment during the 2016-2017 school year.





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## JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

To guarantee students in juvenile detention continue to be educated and make a successful transition back into their public school program, the Kane County Regional Office of Education administers the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center Education Program. An agreement between the St. Charles School District, the Chief Judge of the 16th Circuit Court, and the Kane County Regional Office of Education makes this possible. The over-arching goal is to broaden the mindset of students at the center. Students have access to online courses, GED preparation, dual credit courses, and explore college and careers. For more information on the Juvenile Justice Center, contact Shirley LeClere at [sleclere@kaneroe.org](mailto:sleclere@kaneroe.org).



## HOMESCHOOLING

The Regional Office of Education serves as a resource to those parents who are interested in homeschooling their children. Information is shared with the parents to assist them. A request is made for parents to register with the Regional Office as a homeschooling parent and assure that education is being provided to their children. There are no fees collected for resource information.

## GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED)

The General Education Development (GED) Tests are completed at the ROE's Pearson VUE Testing Center. The test center offers computer-based tests to those who are 17 years of age or older in English or Spanish.



### **The HSE test takes about 7.25 hours and contains four sections:**

Reasoning Through Language Arts (including a 10 minute break): 150 mins  
 Mathematical Reasoning: 90 mins  
 Science: 90 mins  
 Social Studies: 90 mins

A passing score of 150 is required for each subject. A total score of 600 or higher is required to receive the HSA certificate. The final component of the HSE test is the passing of the US Constitution test. This test is offered for free at the ROE and is completed on a computer. The ROE's Pearson VUE Test Center also provides GED transcripts and GED certificates upon written or faxed request. For more information on this service, please visit: <http://www.kaneroe.org/gedhse/>

# HOMELESS EDUCATION

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**Homeless children and youth face numerous obstacles in obtaining an education. The goal of the Kane County Homeless Education Program is to assist the school districts to ensure equal educational access for all homeless children and youth, including preschoolers, so that each student will have the opportunity to succeed in school programs and meet the same challenging state standards to which all students are held.**

## EQUAL CHANCE PROGRAM

The federal McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to be proactive in finding homeless children who are not attending school and identifying which children and youth are homeless. This program is administered by the ROE's Homeless Liaison and funded by a sub grant from the Area One Lead Program and Illinois State Board of Education through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

### **For the 2016-2017 school year the ROE Equal Chance Program provided:**

- Technical assistance to all 9 Kane County School District Liaisons
- 15 trainings to all school staffs including 3 social service agencies
- 10 Administrator Academies
- Created unaccompanied McKinney/Vento panel and presented at 2 conferences
- Facilitated 50 parent meetings
- Met with 45 students several times throughout the year to offer supportive services
- Assisted 12 students to complete the FAFSA
- Weekly meetings/workshops with Community Crisis Center Clients
- Collaborated with ECC, U-46, D300, Community Crisis Center for the 4th Annual Project Backpack Back To School Fair in distributing 1,300 backpacks filled with school supplies
- Distributed Christmas Gifts donate by churches, Renaissance Foundation, and Kane ROE to 252 children
- Distributed 50 Thanksgiving and Easter food baskets to Kane County families
- Facilitated tutoring for 18 homeless students in Kane County
- Assist unaccompanied homeless youth to obtain health benefits, physicals and other benefits they may be entitled to
- Partnered with U-46, D300, and Elgin YWCA for 6th annual Cinderella's Closet to provide prom dresses for Kane County students in need
- For the 2016-2017 school year, school districts in Kane County identified, served and reported 2,121 homeless students.

### **Affiliations 2016-2017 School Year**

- Attends and is on the Board, Steering Committee, and Ranking Committee of the Kane County Continuum of Care
- Area Planning Meeting Committee member
- Participating in U-46 alignment process for Trauma Informed care.
- Belong to the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL) group and on the communications taskforce (newly awarded innovation zone)
- Collaborate and participate in planning for Aurora SPARK (Strong, Prepared, And Ready For Kindergarten) (Innovation Zone program)
- United Way of Elgin grant ranking committee