A Report to The Commission for Streamlining Illinois’ Regional Offices of Education (SB 2147)
Regional Offices of Education are Offices of Public Service Held by an Elected Regional Superintendent
ROEs are Resourceful Offices for Education

Serving Public and Private Schools
Organization

A Partnership In the Delivery of Education
Acronym Glossary

- Regional Offices of Education (ROE) – 44 offices in 101 counties
- Intermediate Service Centers (ISC) – 3 offices in Suburban Cook County
- Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of School (IARSS) – ROE/ISC Leadership
- Regional Delivery System (RDS) – distribution of services through ROEs/ISCs/ISBE
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) – state agency for K–12
ROE Structure

- 6 Areas covering all 102 counties
- Single or multiple counties
- Elected officials (ISCs appointed)
- Employing more than 2700 local people
- Serving more than 2 million Illinois citizens every year
Duties and responsibilities

- School Code
  - 925 citations for the Regional Superintendent

- Cooperative Management
  - ISBE
  - Education Cooperative
  - Public School Districts
  - Private Schools

- Public Relations
Compliance
Compliance

- By statute, 105 ILCS 5/3-14.2, the regional superintendent of schools shall exercise supervision and control over all school districts within the county.

- The Regional Superintendent annually conducts compliance visits of all districts in their region.
Compliance Visits

✓ During these visits the regional superintendent verifies the following:
  ✓ School Governance and Operations
  ✓ General Health and Safety
  ✓ Personnel
  ✓ Instructional Program and Services
  ✓ Transitional Program and Bilingual Education
  ✓ Elementary and Secondary Instructional Programs
  ✓ Special Education Compliance
Ensures that the mandates passed by the legislature are being observed and implemented.
Compliance Mandates

✓ Bullying Prevention
✓ Suicide Prevention
✓ Food Allergy Guidelines
✓ Diabetes Care Act
✓ Bloodborne Pathogens
✓ First Aid/CPR
✓ Educator Ethics Training
✓ Gang Resistance and Education
Health, Life, Safety
By statute, 105 ILCS 5/3–14.21, the regional superintendent shall inspect and survey all public schools under his or her supervision and notify the board of education, or the trustees of schools in a district with trustees, in writing before July 30, whether or not the several schools in their district have been kept as required by law.
Health, Life, Safety

Health, Life, Safety is funded locally through a 5 cent tax levied by the local districts. The regional superintendent ensures accountability through their oversight of the building and amendment process.
The regional superintendent is the code authority on issues concerning school buildings

- Reviews & Certifies 10 Year Surveys
- Reviews & Certifies amendments
- Conducts Building Plan Reviews
- Issues Building Permits
- Conducts Building Inspections
- Issues Occupancy Permits
The regional superintendent **inspects** each school building under their supervision and control on an annual basis.

From the review the Regional Superintendent makes recommendations for changes and improvements to school buildings.
Reporting
By statute, 105 ILCS 5/3-15.8, districts are required to file documents with the Regional Office of Education to ensure compliance with state or federal law.
Regional Superintendent certifies to the State Board of Elections a list of each district under their supervision.

Regional Superintendent reviews and approves district application for recognition of public schools.

Regional Superintendent reviews and approves district application for recognition of non-public schools.
Consolidation & Organization of School Districts
By statute, 105 ILCS 5/11E, Regional Offices of Education are responsible for the oversight of school consolidation and reorganization of districts in their region.

Regional Offices of Education oversee the detachment and annexation of property between school districts, 105ILCS 5/7.
Consolidation Process

- Regional Superintendent provides guidance during the consolidation process.
- Regional Superintendent accepts and verifies the petition for consolidation, reorganization, and detachment.
- Regional Superintendent validates the petitions.
- Regional Superintendent publishes hearing notices and conducts public hearing on petition.
Consolidation Process

- Regional Superintendent certifies the petition and make recommendations to the State Superintendent.
- Regional Superintendent is the election authority for the consolidation election.
- Regional Superintendent certifies the ballot language.
- Regional Superintendent approves all actions of new district until the effective date stipulated on the ballot.
Detachment Process

- Landowner files petition for detachment with the regional superintendent.
- Regional superintendent reviews and certifies the petition.
- Publishes legal notification.
- Conducts hearing with Regional Board of School Trustees.
- Issues order based on decision of Regional Board.
Services
Services

✓ By statute, 105 ILCS 5/3–14.9 the regional superintendent is mandated to provide services to elevate the standard of teaching and improve the standards of schools in the region.
Services to School Districts and Their Communities

- Certification
- Bus Driver Training
- GED Testing
- Cooperative Educational Programs
- Regional Safe School Program
- Truancy Intervention
- McKinney – Vento Homeless Services
Services to School Districts and Their Communities

- Early Childhood Education Programs
- Illinois Virtual Schools
- New Principal Mentoring
- Assist Districts with Grant Applications
- Conduct Professional Development
ROE
Efficiency
RETURN ON STATE INVESTMENT

✓ $10 Million Matching Local Support
✓ On-behalf Contributions Office Space
✓ Client Served
✓ Additional Revenues for Education
  ✓ Federal Grants
ROE Effectiveness

- Local Appeal
- Accessible
- Fiscal Accountability
- High Marks on Lt. Governor’s Survey
- Lead Partner on School Improvement Grant
For Greater Effectiveness

- Policy Coordination
- Research and Development
- Central Records Depository Program Authority
- Legal Responsibility and Authority
- Statewide Assessment System/Data
Role of ROEs

✓ Serving students at every stage of life as a resource office for Illinois education;

✓ Assuring safe, secure educational environments as the guide and monitor for school district compliance with state and federal mandates;

✓ Coordinating professional development, educational programs, and shared services across the state as the single regional delivery system provider;

✓ Partnering with the Illinois General Assembly and the Illinois State Board of Education as an innovator in the development and implementation of current and future education policy; and

✓ Offering responsive, effective, and efficient service for the general public as an elected official.
Streamlining Task Force Recommendations

- To establish a statewide coordinating council;
- To fund core services across the State;
- To coordinate services in each region;
- To conduct an independent review of funding across the system; and
- To implement an accountability system for ROEs/ISCs.
In consideration of the creation of a more effective and efficient delivery model for education in Illinois, the following recommendations are being made to the Commission for Streamlining the Illinois Regional Offices of Education:
Examine the boundary lines of existing Regional Offices of Education to determine if they best serve the school districts throughout the state. The regional superintendents recommend that the boundaries continue to be based on census data, and that they not divide counties. Should a new regional boundary map be adopted, it must be completed by September 2013, which would be prior to the date on which candidates must file to run for the office of Regional Superintendent. In addition, all current regional superintendents would fulfill their terms of office through June 30, 2015.
Recommendation 2

Implement the recommendations from P.A. 96–0798, as presented by the Streamlining Illinois’s Educational Delivery Systems Task Force. These recommendations focus on ROEs/ISCs taking the lead on coordinating all educational services in their regions to ensure an effective and efficient approach that will provide for student success.
Recommendation 3

Provide opportunities and incentives to encourage the development of networks of shared services which focus on cooperative efforts in management, professional development, and technology support for school districts.
Re-allocate education dollars in the ISBE budget to support the regional delivery system by reducing/decentralizing ISBE. Accountability should be measured by the direct service to teachers in the classroom and school district operations. An annual evaluation, such as the Lt. Governor’s survey, should be conducted, which produces such data, including a study of all state dollars spent in the name of classroom support.
Recommendation 5

Further define the partnership between the ROEs/ISCs and ISBE to assess, reform, and implement policy for Illinois education. It is recommended that a statewide coordinating council be formed, which would meet quarterly to carry out these duties and responsibilities.
Regional Offices of Education are poised to undertake the operations and work required to implement state policy, to sustain effective services, and to champion our primary mission: ensuring high quality achievement and education opportunities for all students.