

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Introductions

- Dr. Shawn Walsh
 - Director of District and School Leadership
- Kristina Holloway
 - Rural School District Support Lead

Agenda



Department History



Department Goals



Rural School District Support

DEPARTMENT HISTORY

- ISBE established the Department of District and School Leadership (DDSL) in late 2020 to strengthen and diversify the leadership pipeline in Illinois.
- Marty McGreal was hired as the first director.
- DDSL created a work plan that focuses on equity, diversity, and partnership.
- DDSL added the rural school district support lead position in 2024.

DEPARTMENT GOALS

**Recruit a robust
and diverse
leadership pipeline.**

**Retain leaders
through strong
mentoring.**

**Improve
conditions for
leaders.**

DEPARTMENT GOALS

Goal 1: Recruit a robust and diverse leadership pipeline.

- Principal Recruitment Program
- Three-year continuation grant for \$1.8million/year for FY 2022-FY 2024
- Request for Proposals released for FY 2025-FY 2027

DEPARTMENT GOALS

Goal 2: Retain leaders through strong mentoring.

- New Principal Mentoring Program
- Three-year continuation grant for \$1.2million/year for FY 2022-FY 2024

DEPARTMENT GOALS

Goal 2: Retain leaders through strong mentoring.

- New Superintendent Mentoring Program
- Annual, sole-source grant awarded to Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) for \$298,250 for FY 2024
 - Mentoring and coaching services available to first-, second-, and third-year superintendents
 - Provides scholarships to at least five educational leaders of color to attend the IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy

DEPARTMENT GOALS

Goal 3: Improve conditions for leaders.

- Ed Leaders Network (ELN)
- Five-year, sole-source grant awarded to the Illinois Principals Association for \$1.5million/year
 - Over 111,000 registered Illinois educators in the ELN database
 - ELN offers 172 unique courses, including mandated trainings
 - Live webinars on a variety of topics – free of charge
 - Offering 58 micro-credentials

DEPARTMENT GOALS

Goal 3: Improve conditions for leaders

- Partner with and support stakeholders to improve conditions for leaders to increase retention
- IWAS Taskforce – ISBE and IASA members identifying pain points in the IWAS system for improvements
- Superintendent-Only Support Line

Rural School District Support Lead

Rural School District Support Lead



Works with other agency departments to provide technical assistance and other support services to rural district superintendents and district senior leadership.



Manages and coordinates research and data analysis regarding trends in rural school districts related to teacher vacancies, licensure inequities, demographic trends, etc.



Provides leadership, support, and resources in response to districts need in the administration of Title V grant (Rural Education Achievement Program).



Serves as the liaison to the Association of Rural and Small Schools, including serving as the ISBE representative to support the Rural Education Advisory Council.



Analyzes legislation to provide input to ISBE leadership on impact for rural district communities.

Supporting Special Education Administrators, Educators, and Students with Disabilities in Rural School Districts

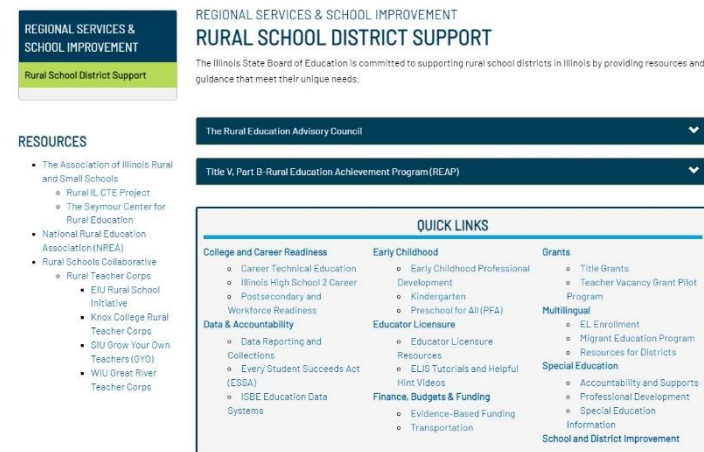
- Working collaboratively with:
 - ISBE Department of Special Education
 - ISBE Department of School Improvement
 - ISBE Department of Data Strategies & Analytics
 - ISBE Department of Educator Licensure
 - ISBE Department of Career Technical Education
 - Regional Offices of Education
 - IASA Rural Cohort
 - Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS)
 - Rural Education Advisory Council



Supporting Special Education Administrators, Educators, and Students with Disabilities in Rural School Districts

➤ [ISBE Rural School District Support webpage:](#)

- Houses information specifically for rural school districts.
- Provides rural school districts a place to find all supports/resources to meet their unique needs.
- Provides quick links to ISBE departments.
- Additional links, information, and resources will be added as they become available.



REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT

The Illinois State Board of Education is committed to supporting rural school districts in Illinois by providing resources and guidance that meet their unique needs.

RESOURCES

- The Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools
 - Rural IL CTE Project
 - The Seymour Center for Rural Education
- National Rural Education Association (NREA)
- Rural Schools Collaborative
 - Rural Teacher Corps
 - ELIU Rural School Initiative
 - Knox College Rural Teacher Corps
 - SIU Grow Your Own Teachers (GYO)
 - WIU Great River Teacher Corps

QUICK LINKS

College and Career Readiness	Early Childhood	Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career Technical Education• Illinois High School 2 Career Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Childhood Professional Development• Kindergarten• Preschool for All (PFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title Grants• Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot Program
Data & Accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Reporting and Collections• Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)• ISBE Education Data Systems	Educator Licensure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educator Licensure Resources• ELIS Tutorials and Helpful Hint Videos Finance, Budgets & Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence-Based Funding• Transportation	Multilingual <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EL Enrollment• Migrant Education Program• Resources for Districts Special Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountability and Supports• Professional Development• Special Education Information• School and District Improvement

Supporting Special Education Administrators, Educators, and Students with Disabilities in Rural School Districts

- Support districts that are eligible for Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP):
 - Review Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) applications.
 - Support districts that are eligible for the RLIS and Small, Rural School Achievement programs with resources.
 - Ensure eligible districts are aware of funding and understand the application process.
- Conduct on-site/virtual visits
 - Meet with ROEs and school/district administrators to conduct needs assessments.
 - Provide onsite support in identified areas of need.
 - Share data gathered through onsite visits with ISBE leadership.



How can we support you?



Questions?

Contact Information



Dr. Shawn Walsh

swalsh@isbe.net



Kristina Holloway

khollowa@isbe.net