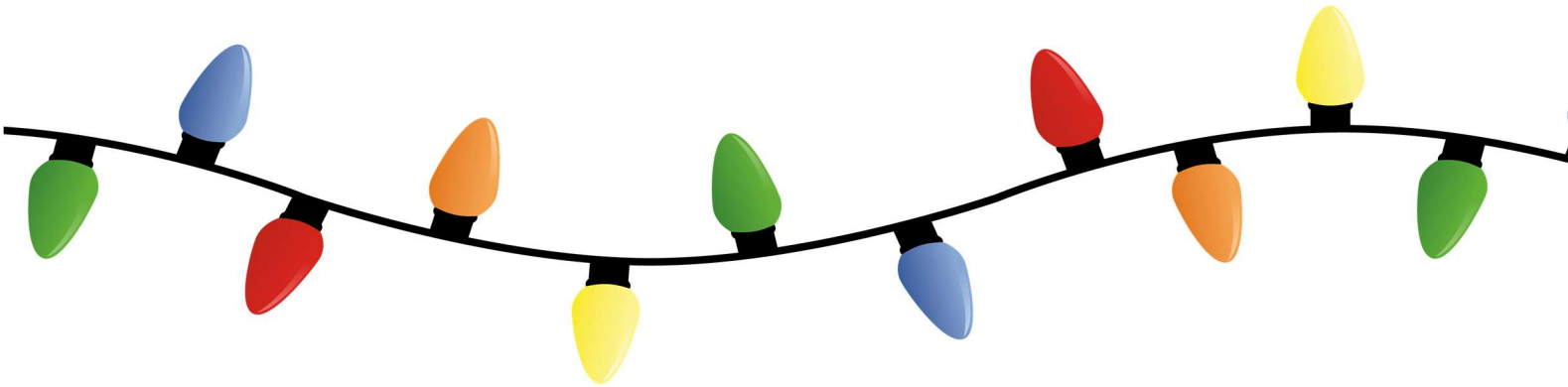
News 4 You

Keeping ROE 40 Districts and Staff Informed

DECEMBER 2025



Wishing you ALL a MERRY CHRISTMAS & A SAFE and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Our office will be closed December 22, 2025 through January 4, 2026

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- Trebuchet
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Carlinville Office
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PH 618-498-5541

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ROE 40
info@roe40.com
www.roe40.com

ROE40
Serving the counties of
CALHOUN • GREENE • JERSEY • MACOUPIN

Upcoming ROE 40 Professional Development

Director of School Improvement
Ryan Wamser, rwamser@roe40.com

Monday, December 1 – Mindful Mondays – VIRTUAL

Thursday, December 4 – Supporting Autistic Youth: Regulation, Connection & Communication @ Jerseyville ROE

Thursday, December 4 – Forecasting Snow with STEM: The National Weather Service at Work -- VIRTUAL

Tuesday, December 9 – AI Roundtable Discussions for Educators – VIRTUAL

Wednesday, December 10 – Intro to Google Forms/Sheets/Slides - VIRTUAL

Monday, December 15 – Mindful Mondays – VIRTUAL

January 2026

Monday, January 5 – Secretaries & Assistants – Boundaries at the Front Desk – VIRTUAL

Tuesday, January 13 – Admin Workshop – Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Kindergarten @ Jerseyville ROE

Wednesday, January 14 – Boundaries, Balance and Better Habits @ Jerseyville ROE

Thursday, January 22 – Designing and Using Common Assessments to Drive Learning @ Carlinville ROE

Thursday, January 29 – AI in Action – A Leader's Guide to Implementation @ Jerseyville ROE

***** More information found on our website – roe40.com *****

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

"YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH BOOKS INTO THE HANDS OF ENOUGH CHILDREN"

Dolly

INSPIRE A LOVE OF READING

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a FREE BOOK every month until their 5th birthday.

"Our daughter **LOVES READING** and being read to, and the **VARIETY** she receives from the Imagination Library is a **SIGNIFICANT** part of this"

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland.

ROE 40 (Calhoun, Greene, Macoupin, Jersey)

CALHOUN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Sponsored in Calhoun, Macoupin, and Jersey Counties by the Regional Office of Education #40 and the Calhoun Community Foundation.

IMAGINATIONLIBRARY.COM

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Launches in Macoupin, Jersey, and Calhoun Counties Through Local Collaboration and School District Support

Families in Macoupin, Jersey, and Calhoun Counties now have access to free books for their young children, thanks to the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in the region. This nationally acclaimed early literacy program is being brought to life locally through a partnership between the Regional Office of Education #40, the Calhoun Community Foundation, and all of the school districts across the three counties, which are collectively funding the initiative.

The Imagination Library mails free, high-quality books each month to children from birth to age five, helping build a strong foundation for learning and a lifelong love of reading. This local rollout aligns with a broader statewide initiative supported by the Illinois State Board of Education, which is helping offset program costs to expand access across Illinois. In Illinois alone, over 81,000 children are currently enrolled across 80 counties, with the program continuing to grow thanks to strong local leadership and community support.

"This is a powerful example of what can happen when communities come together to invest in their youngest learners," said Michelle Mueller, Regional Superintendent of Schools for ROE #40. "By partnering with our school districts and the Calhoun Community Foundation, we're ensuring that every child—regardless of zip code or income—has access to books and the opportunity to thrive."

Families in Macoupin, Jersey, and Calhoun Counties can enroll their children at no cost by visiting https://imaginationlibrary.com.

To make a donation, visit the Calhoun Community Foundation website: CalhounIL.org and click on the DONATE button.

Forecasting Snow with STEM: The National Weather Service at Work

Thur. Dec 4, 2025
3:30 - 4:30 pm (cst)

FREE PD via ZOOM

All educators welcome!

Jayson Gosselin
Meteorologist with the National Weather Service

Hosted in Collaboration By:

ROE 40 — Calhoun, Greene, Macoupin, Jersey

Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics — ICTM — Est. 1948 — 75th

1 IL PD Credit

Register at:
http://www.roe40.com/stem-pd-support.html

Illinois State Historical Society

411 E. Monroe Street • P.O. Box 1800
Springfield, IL 62705-1800
Phone 217/525-2781 • Fax 217/525-2783
www.historyillinois.org

Attention Illinois High School Students!

Is a $1,000 Scholarship in your future?!

Are you the next winner of the Illinois State Historical Society's Verna Ross Orndorff Scholarship? The ISHS is offering this prestigious award of $1,000 for the best 1,500-word essay written by an Illinois high school student on the subject of Abraham Lincoln or the Civil War era in Illinois. **Essays must be submitted by January 15th of every year.**

(1) The focus of the essay should be about Abraham Lincoln or a significant event in the Civil War period in Illinois.

(2) Essay should be 1,500 words with a title page, outline, annotated bibliography, and suggestions for further reading.

(3) The name of the student; address and e-mail; phone number; name of school; and name of student's teacher, must be provided with submission of the application for the scholarship. Included in this mailing is the application. Please feel free to make as many copies as needed. You may also email kim.jones@historyillinois.org for a copy to be emailed.

The student whose essay is chosen will receive a $1,000 scholarship and a Certificate of Achievement. The Award will be presented at the Illinois State Historical Society's Annual Awards Banquet in 2026. Additionally, the winner's paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Illinois Heritage* magazine. For more information, call (217) 525-2781 ext. 2.

Entries should be mailed to the Society office at 411 E. Monroe St., PO Box 1800, Springfield, IL 62705-1800 or email Kimberly Jones at kim.jones@historyillinois.org. This scholarship is named for a lifelong student of Illinois history, Vera Ross Orndorff, a native of River Forest, Illinois.

Illinois State Historical Society

VERNA ROSS ORNDORFF SCHOLARSHIP
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Strawbridge-Shepherd House PO Box 1800
Springfield, Illinois 62705-1800
Telephone: 217-525-2781
www.historyillinois.org

Email: kim.jones@historyillinois.org

Submission must be postmarked or emailed by January 15, 2026

Student First Name:_____ **Last Name**:_____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address:_____

_____

Grade:_____ School:_____

Teacher-Name: _____

Address (school):_____

_____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name of School:_____

Address: _____

_____

Phone Number: _____

(over)

Name of local newspaper:_____

Address: _____

_____

Email address or website: _____

Essay:
(please use additional paper if necessary)

Illinois
State Historical Society

411 E. Monroe Street • P.O. Box 1800
Springfield, IL 62705-1800
Phone 217/525-2781 • Fax 217/525-2783
www.historyillinois.org

SOCIETY SEEKS NOMINATION FOR TEACHER AWARD
Deadline for submission: January 15, 2026

Do you know an outstanding history or social studies teacher in Illinois? The ISHS Educational Services committee and the Awards Committee seek nominations for the Olive Foster Outstanding Teacher Award. This award honors Olive Foster, former Illinois State Historian, Director of the School Services Program, and originator of the Illinois History Program for students. The annual award is designed to recognize and reward a full-time teacher for outstanding contributions to the study and teaching of state and local history. Recipients of this award actively promote Illinois history in schools as well as in their local communities, using the resources of one or more local historical societies, museums, the ISHS, and other Illinois-based historical organizations.

Documentation of the teacher's work is required. A $1,000 award will be given in 2025 to an Illinois teacher from one of the following categories:

(1) Elementary school level

(2) Middle-junior high school level

(3) High school level

The award will be presented at the Illinois State Historical Society's Annual Awards luncheon in 2026. Nominations may be made by any group or person, including the nominee, and should also include letters of support or recommendation. You may return the application by regular mail to the above address or email to: Kimberly Jones at kim.jones@historyillinois.org

Print

Illinois State Historical Society

OLIVE FOSTER OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 1800
Springfield, Illinois 62705-1800
Telephone: 217-525-2781
Email: kim.jones@historyillinois.org
www.historyillinois.org

Submission must be postmarked or emailed by January 15, 2026

Nominee First Name:_____ **Last Name**:_____

Name of School: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address (city,state,zip):_____
(nominee)

_____

Teaching: Grade:_____ Subject:_____ School:_____

Principal-Name: _____

School Address: _____

_____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominator First Name:_____ **Last Name**:_____

Address:_____

_____

Email Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

Name of local newspaper:_____

Address:_____

_____

Email Address or Website: _____

Nominee Educational Experience:

Nominee Professional Experience:

Nominee Outstanding Classroom Accomplishments:

Please use additional paper if necessary. Digital supporting documentation (e.g., YouTube videos of the teacher teaching, students' projects, etc.) will also be accepted.

TREBUCHET

"IT'LL MAKE YOU HURL"

Looking for teams of 4-5 high school students to compete in a friendly, competitive but educational, event.

APRIL 10, 2026

GEORGE C. TERRY RIVER BEND ARENA

Register by Feb. 14, 2026

Students will utilize basic principles of physics and mathematics while learning how engineering teams work together to accomplish a goal. (Must be accompanied by a coach/teacher.)

HTTPS://WWW.LC.EDU/COMMUNITY-VISITORS/COMMUNITY-OUTREACH/TREBUCHET.HTML

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ISBE'S WEEKLY

MESSAGE

From Illinois State Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR SCIENCE EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

The ISBE Science Professional Development Committee invites you to complete a survey to help us better understand your professional learning needs in science education. The survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Why participate?

- Influence future professional development offerings
- Ensure training is relevant and impactful
- Strengthen the statewide science education community
-

ALPLM/ISBE AMERICA 250 STUDENT ART CONTEST

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) and ISBE invite Illinois students in Grades K-12 to enter the annual student art contest on the theme "America 250 - Reflections Through Art." As the United States turns 250, young artists are invited to use their art to explore the past, understand the present, and dream about the future.

Contest details:

- The contest is open to any public, private, alternative, or home-schooled student in Illinois from kindergarten through high school.
- A winner and two runners-up will be selected for each grade group: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
- Winners and runners-up will have their work displayed by the ALPLM, and the four main winners' artwork will be featured on a poster sent to schools for Arts Education Week.

Entries are due **Dec. 19**. More details on submission rules and requirements are available on the ISBE Art Contest webpage. Contact Jeffrey Judge with questions.

2026 ILLINOIS EDUCATION & CAREER SUCCESS NETWORK CONFERENCE

The Illinois Education and Career Success Network's 2026 Annual Conference is **Feb. 26, 2026**, at Moraine Valley Community College. This year's theme, *Stronger Together: Creating Opportunity for Every Learner*, will highlight collaboration, innovation, and equity. Join over 300 education and workforce leaders statewide for a day of learning, networking, and innovation. This year's featured keynote speaker is Dr. Jeff Strohl, director of Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce. Don't miss early bird pricing — $66 through **Dec. 31** or for the first 150 tickets.

ILLINOIS LICENSURE TESTING UPDATES

ISBE and Pearson have collaborated to redevelop the Illinois Licensure Testing System assessments into a structure using modules known as testlets. Visit ISBE's Testing webpage to learn more about recent developments in Illinois licensure testing, including:

- The new model that allows test subareas to be taken and scored independently.
- A new paraprofessional licensure test launching in 2026.
- Details about the test development and redesign process.
- A new, flexible testing option for early childhood education that is coming soon.
- Free test retake vouchers for eligible test takers.

Read more about the new features under the "Testing Updates" section, and learn about all steps taken to create a test under the "Testing Development and Redesign" section on ISBE's Testing webpage.

ISAC'S 2026-27 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION COMPLETION INITIATIVE

Financial aid application completion information – Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative App) – for the graduating class of 2026 is now available in ISAC's Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access portal.

New this year! Illinois public high schools are required by state law to designate a FAFSA point of contact and provide financial aid application completion support during the school day. Please make sure to provide your school's FAFSA designee's contact information on the main page under "FAFSA Designee" to be able to view FAFSA/Alternative App completion data for your students. You can learn more, as well as view the FAFSA Communication Toolkit and the Financial Aid Completion Requirement, by visiting ISAC's Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative webpage.