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REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY

John K. Jonak, Regional Superintendent

The Kane County Regional Office of Education Marks Attendance Awareness Month with a Look at the Student Services Team Addressing the Root Causes Behind Missed School

When a student routinely misses school, the underlying cause is rarely a lack of caring. Transportation obstacles, family changes, housing instability, or severe anxiety after falling behind are often the true barriers keeping children out of the classroom.

In recognition of September's national Attendance Awareness Month and its theme "Your Presence Matters," the Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE) has released a new spotlight feature examining how local specialists intervene before attendance issues turn into a crisis.

"Attendance is the earliest signal we get that a student needs something," said John K. Jonak, Kane County Regional Superintendent of Schools. "When a child stops showing up, that isn't a discipline problem — it's information. Our job is to find out what's in the way and help remove it."

The spotlight marks the second episode of The ROE Link, a bi-weekly series connecting Kane County families and educators to local support networks. The feature highlights Superintendent Jonak alongside ROE youth outreach specialists, truancy intervention staff, and family counseling personnel who make home visits, build tailored support plans, and connect families with vital community resources. The full episode can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/vdnQXi30JEQ>.

Parents concerned about their child's attendance can visit kaneroe.org/truancy-prevention and use the Locate Your Outreach Worker tool to find the specific specialist assigned to their school.

Community organizations interested in being featured in future episodes of The ROE Link are encouraged to contact Emily Hattendorf at ehattendorf@kaneroe.org.

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About the Kane County Regional Office of Education

The Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE) is one of 38 educational service agencies in Illinois. Located in Geneva, we serve 9,200 educators and 107,000 students across 524 square miles that span nine school districts across Kane County (U-46, Batavia 101, West Aurora 129, East Aurora 131, District 300, Central 301, Kaneland 302, St. Charles 303, and Geneva 304).

Our mission is to advocate for education, provide leadership, perform regulatory functions, and coordinate state and local services for educators, school districts, and the community.