

John K. Jonak, Ed.S.

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Education executive with 28 years in Illinois public schools, having served at every level from paraprofessional and classroom teacher through district superintendent to Regional Superintendent of Schools. Currently provides statutory oversight, regulatory services, and professional learning for nine school districts, 161 public schools, 30+ non-public schools, 9,600+ educators, and 107,000+ students across a 524-square-mile educational service region. Combines district-level operational experience with 20 years of U.S. Army and Illinois Army National Guard leadership. Known for building durable regional networks, modernizing operations and compliance systems, and keeping every decision anchored to the student in front of us.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Kane County Regional Office of Education #31 | Geneva, IL July 2025 – Present

Regional Superintendent of Schools

Hold statutory supervision and control over the Kane County Educational Service Region, serving districts U-46, Batavia 101, West Aurora 129, East Aurora 131, District 300, Central 301, Kaneland 302, St. Charles 303, and Geneva 304. Lead a professional staff delivering licensure, compliance, alternative education, safety, and professional learning services under the office mission: Lead. Assist. Inspire.

- **Regional Leadership** — Provide direct support and technical assistance to nine district superintendents and their staff on school law, administrative rule, governance, and compliance; represent Kane County in Area 1 superintendent meetings and statewide IARSS and IASA networks.
- **Strategic Communications** — Co-authored and launched a five-year Communications Strategic Plan (2025–2030) positioning the ROE as a regional convener and thought partner; facilitating a monthly countywide Communications and Marketing Network for district communicators, enabling co-created campaigns and unified crisis messaging.
- **Professional Learning** — Lead Kane County during Institute Day, the region's flagship professional development event, convening 1,300+ educators at the Q Center in St. Charles; oversee Administrator Academies and workshops reaching 1,450+ participants.
- **Regulatory Services** — Direct registration of 3,615 educator licenses and 4,250+ criminal history background checks and fingerprinting appointments; ensure operational compliance and Health/Life Safety standards for every school in the county.
- **Alternative Education** — Operate alternative programming and the Juvenile Justice Center school program for students not succeeding in traditional settings; issued 403 high school equivalency diplomas.
- **Operational Stewardship** — Recruited and appointed a Director of Business and Operations to lead finance, technology, facilities, and Health/Life Safety review, strengthening internal controls and modernizing administrative systems.
- **Safety and Crisis Readiness** — Convened superintendents to align extreme-weather closing thresholds and E-Learning day protocols countywide; partner with the Illinois School Safety Conference and local agencies on emergency protocols and threat assessment.
- **Student and Family Services** — Oversee McKinney-Vento homeless education coordination, truancy intervention, youth outreach workers, family counseling, and minor work permits; partner with CASA Kane County, SPARK Aurora, BPAC's, Birth to Five Illinois Region 31, and regional parent education programming.
- **Recognition and Community** — Co-facilitated the annual Educator of the Year celebration, the countywide Student Photography Contest, and the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee.
- **Governance** — Serve as Ex-Officio Secretary to the Kane County Regional Board of School Trustees.

Rosemont School District #78 | Rosemont, IL 2022 – 2025

Superintendent

Performed all district-level duties as the sole district administrator.

- Authored a 700-page procedural handbook aligned to Board Policy over an eleven-month period.
- Wrote multiple federal and state grants and coordinated districtwide furniture and facilities upgrades.
- Presented the annual budget and levy; recommended investments that increased district revenue.
- Collaborated with architects and builders on a \$50M school building project.
- Implemented a crisis plan with a reunification location and process in partnership with local law enforcement and village agencies.
- Built a professional development plan responsive to educator and student needs.

- Developed human resources procedures and led disposal of district records spanning 1985–2023.
- Worked with community stakeholders to create opportunities for students — and plowed and shoveled snow when the district was short-staffed.

Community Unit School District 201 | Westmont, IL | 2012 – 2022

Director of Student Services and Early Childhood Programs (2021–2022)

- Directed districtwide special education, child find services, articulation with general education, SASSED, and outside service providers; served students with IEPs representing 19% of district enrollment.
- Addressed McKinney-Vento family needs in a district with 3% homelessness — transportation, mini-grants, and access to district and community resources.
- Wrote and managed IDEA and other grants; completed State reporting in collaboration with the Business Manager.
- Created the district Student Services Handbook; served as Principal of the South Early Childhood Program for self-contained and blended Preschool For All classrooms.

Principal, Westmont Junior High School (2012–2021)

Educational leader of WJHS for over nine years; supervised all faculty and staff and managed building resources in accordance with district mission, goals, and policy.

- The school rose from the 33rd percentile to the top 15% of Illinois middle schools per U.S. News & World Report during tenure; sustained state recognition on the 5Essentials Survey.
- Created the Student Service Learning Commitment (SSLC) and Educational Assistance Dog (EAD) programs as proactive social-emotional supports.
- Founded and facilitated the Local Principal Professional Learning Network (2015–present at the time); hosted countywide middle-level Edcamps; invited by the DuPage ROE to lead a Middle School Principal Collaborative.
- Led technology integration through BYOD and 1:1 programs; drove schedule redesign, exit outcomes, curriculum mapping, Genius Hour, and flexible intervention time.
- Served on PERA, RIF, DLT, MTSS, Strategic Plan, Technology, and Critical Incident teams; district Complaint Manager for five years.

Superintendent Internship (2019–2021)

Logged 300+ hours under the CUSD 201 Superintendent to complete NIU superintendent preparation programming.

- Key facilitator in community-based meetings producing the district Portrait of a Graduate and Strategic Plan; presented to the Board of Education.
- Led ESSER budget planning with the director of technology and business manager; built the district assessment calendar and essential standards alignment.
- Revised the critical incident quick reference plan with emergency services; created a PRESS policy update tracking process for the Board committee; recommended a new principal recruitment and selection procedure.

Mannheim School District #83 | Melrose Park, IL 2006 – 2012

Assistant Principal, Mannheim Middle School

- Oversaw curriculum development, special programs, and student discipline; supervised, counseled, and disciplined approximately 500 students per year.
- As Co-Director of the Title I program, created School Wide Title I Program Plans for four schools.
- Served as Law Enforcement Liaison across three municipalities and led implementation of the District Safety Plan.
- Coordinated Mentoring, Residency, Technology, Safety, Special Education, Co-Teaching, and Family Literacy programs; served on School Improvement, RtI, Data Team, Bilingual Program, and PLC teams.
- Graduate, Carol Ann Tomlinson's Summer Institute on Academic Diversity.

South Berwyn School District #100 | Berwyn, IL 1999 – 2006

Social Studies and Literature Teacher, Heritage Middle School

- Member of the P.B.I.S. Induction Team and School Improvement Task Force.
- Mentored new teachers in five of seven years and supervised two student teachers.
- As Athletic Director, raised and administered approximately \$50,000 over three years through fundraising and community partnerships.
- Co-taught with special education, bilingual, and language arts colleagues; coordinated with the gifted (ECHO) program.

United States Army / Illinois Army National Guard | Sycamore, IL 1990 – 2010

Platoon Sergeant and Battalion Operations Sergeant — Sergeant First Class (Retired)

Retired after twenty years of service leading a platoon and company in peacetime and wartime missions. Assisted the Battalion Executive Officer in planning and executing collective training; responsible for the health, welfare, development, training, and readiness of 500 Soldiers and for accountability of over \$25,000,000 in equipment. Served as an Artilleryman and Military Policeman.

- Deployed on several operations in 9 years, including Operation Enduring Freedom, the Global War on Terrorism in Afghanistan, and Hurricane Katrina relief. Graduate of the Anti-Terrorism Evasive Driving Course.
- Led a platoon in Afghanistan and served as acting Command Sergeant Major of the Northern Region.
- Selected to represent the United States Army as a Soldier/Diplomat in Germany for an exchange program.
- Decorated for leading a detachment during the statewide crisis exercise Operation Vigilant Guard, June 2010.
- Graduated with honors from multiple leadership courses centered on the After Action Review process; created a Soldier Resource Disc adopted as a legacy resource for current and future Soldier leaders.

EDUCATION

Northern Illinois University | DeKalb, IL 2021

Ed.S., Superintendent Licensure — GPA 4.0

Benedictine University | Lisle, IL 2006

M.A., Administration and Leadership — GPA 4.0

Eastern Illinois University | Charleston, IL 1998

B.S., Elementary Education; Minor, History — GPA 3.48 (3.76 major)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Illinois Professional Educator License with endorsements in Superintendent (PK–12), General Administrative (K–12), Elementary (K–9), Self-Contained General Education (K–9), and Social Science (5–9).

HONORS, AWARDS, AND DISTINCTIONS

- Highly decorated Sergeant First Class (Retired), U.S. Army / Illinois Army National Guard
- 2019 DuPage IPA Reaching Out and Building Bridges Award
- 2019 Westmont Educator of the Year
- 2019 AIMS Schools to Watch designation (Westmont Junior High School)
- 2016 DuPage Illinois Principal Association's Middle School Principal of the Year
- Inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

- Member, CASA Kane County (pending), 2026-present
- Member, Action Council Birth to Five Illinois Region 31, 2026-present
- Member, Workforce Development Kane County 2025-present
- Ex-Officio Secretary, Kane County Regional Board of School Trustees, 2025–present
- Member, Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), 2025–present
- Member, Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), 2021–present
- Member, Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators (IASPA), 2020–2025
- Member, Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), 2022–2025
- Chair, LASEC Board, 2023–2025
- Secretary, Leyden Area Superintendents Organization, 2022–2025
- Member, West40 Superintendents, 2022–2025
- Legislative Chair, DuPage Illinois Principals Association, 2018–2022
- Creator and Facilitator, Local Principal Professional Learning Network, 2015–2022

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- Available upon request.