



## Regional Office of Education #11

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February 2, 2018

TO: John Kraft  
FROM: Bobbi Mattingly   
RE: FOIA Request

ROE #11 works closely with the schools in our region to provide an excellent education, and to be prepared in case an emergency strikes. While state law is silent on the role of Regional Offices of Education in shooting situations as happened in Mattoon last fall, we have taken important steps to be ready to respond in a crisis.

Our office procedures were crafted out of an event we co-hosted with Eastern Illinois University in Fall 2014, for about 75 district superintendents and principals in our area. We followed these procedures as follows for the Mattoon school shooting:

- ROE staffer Becky Parker was sent to Mattoon High School to help with student counseling. She has been trained by the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA) in how to appropriately respond to school shootings.
- Assistant Regional Superintendent Kyle Thompson reached out to Mattoon's high school principal, counselor and several teachers expressing our empathy.
- Drs. Thompson and Mattingly phoned or visited each of our alternative schools to notify staff of the incident and make sure the students and buildings there were safe and secure. We also offered counseling services for any Mattoon students attending there.
- As school districts adjust emergency plans to learn from this incident, ROE #11 has scheduled trainings with experts in school safety and distributed information on assessing behavior threats from students and developing emergency operation plans to educators in our region.
- Because of the sensitivity of the ongoing investigation and to ensure school security, Drs. Thompson and Mattingly advised all ROE staff to refer any questions to them.

We take the safety and security of our schools very seriously and want to be as prepared as possible to respond when a crisis like this hits our region.