

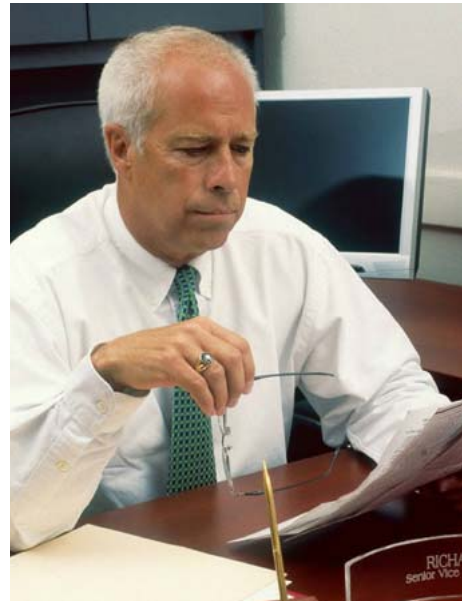
# Regional Superintendent

PRESENTED BY THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONERS

## Primary Duties

The regional superintendent of schools exercises supervision and control over all school districts within the county. The regional superintendent works in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education and local districts in the region to initiate, refine and fulfill both local and statewide directives. The regional superintendent ensures that students receive the best possible education in order to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

The primary responsibility of the regional superintendent is to ensure compliance with legal and curriculum requirements. Regional superintendents visit each public school in the county at least once a year noting such things as the methods of teaching, the text-books used and the general condition of the school – this includes the enforcement of health and life safety standards. They report annually to the county board and the state Board of Elections regarding the activities of the office and the condition of the schools. Regional superintendents also advise in controversies under school law and respond in instances of chronic truancy and education neglect. They respond to questions, including legal questions, from parents, teachers, administrators, board of education and other citizens of the region.



The regional superintendent is directly responsible to the legislature and electorate. In most instances, enforcement responsibilities become services to help schools and school personnel meet minimum expectations in the ongoing process of school regulation. They register teaching certificates, conduct GED testing programs, and provide in-service training for school bus drivers. Regional superintendents also serve as the fiscal agent for school districts. They distribute state and federal funds, examine vouchers and certify claims.

Until 1973, there were 102 county superintendents in Illinois, one for each county. By consolidation of smaller counties into regions, that number was reduced to 78 in 1973 and reduced again to 57 in 1977. As a result of a new state law passed in 1995, this number was further reduced to 45. Today each region must have a population of at least 45,000 inhabitants.

## Other Responsibilities

The regional superintendent acts as the secretary for the regional Board of School Trustees and conducts school district property proceedings. The review school construction plans and specification for remodeling, school additions, and new school construction for compliance with applicable codes. Regional superintendents also provide school improvement services, technology assistance, and staff development activities.

## Training

In addition to good character, eligibility requirements for the regional superintendent of schools include:

- Master's Degree
- 20 graduate level credits in professional education
- Four years experience teaching and at least two of the last four years teaching or supervising schools
- A valid all-grade supervisory certificate or limited supervisory certificate or state life supervisory certificate or administrative certificate

## Term

Regional superintendent of schools is an elected office serving a four-year term.