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Overview: Gov. Pat Quinn says the state can save more than \$11 million by eliminating 47 Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs) statewide. It's clear that in many ways, ending these valuable offices would have a much deeper and more painful cost for Illinois and its education system – for now and the future.

About Us: The ROEs and ISCs serve as the backbone to keep our schools running in these ways:

- We ensure our schools are safe and meet the requirements set out under state law and regulations
- We improve teacher and administrator quality through services and grant programs
- We help more than 2 million students and their families with education services. We run the GED program, get 34,000 homeless students the help they need and serve 23,000 early childhood education students. Our work makes a difference!
- We bring together leaders from school districts to talk through problems and share ideas about increasing efficiency – from building to bus safety issues. Our work translates into a measurably better educational system

Value: We're worth our \$11 million and much, much more. Here's why:

- The regional superintendents saved the state **\$135 million** in the last school year. In Fiscal Year 2010, we generated or administered **\$125 million** to directly benefit school districts and saved schools another **\$10 million**. We bring in federal money that simply CANNOT be replaced if our offices are eliminated
- Losing ROEs means higher costs for school districts. A \$12 million school construction project in Macon County would cost an extra \$60,000, and a new building in LaSalle County would cost an extra \$35,000 – all because we wouldn't be there to handle the permitting process. Those are real costs for schools who can't afford them
- The State Board of Education embraces our work. In fact, the experts there think we need **MORE money**. Its 2012 proposed budget called for a \$2 million increase in our funding – the professionals who run our education system know what we mean to it
- The Streamlining Educational Delivery Systems Taskforce last fall recommended regional superintendents playing a greater role, helping school districts and the state navigate tough times by serving as a model for efficient delivery of services. Gov. Quinn recently gave the regional superintendents the power to oversee local increases in sales taxes adopted by school districts around the state for construction projects. We do more with less and we are vital to our schools' well-being.

Bottom line: Illinois should embrace us and our 2,500 employees for the hard work and dedication we show every day to make our schools better for students, teachers, administrators and taxpayers. We oversee \$135 million in funds and grants and run programs and services that touch the lives of **2 million** Illinoisans who can't just go somewhere else for help.

We do the work that matters and we do it with pride. Stand with us to ensure our funding is put back in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget and we can continue making Illinois schools a source of pride.