PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

"QUALITY EDUCATION WITH CARE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT".

PAEC CENTER BOARDROOM - 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **ABA THERAPY PRESENTATION**

   Presented by RoHealth.
3. **FASTBRIDGE DATA**
   Presentation by Mrs. Bethany Kural - PAEC Data Coordinator
4. **CLOSED SESSION**
5. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**
6. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
7. **APPROVAL OF GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**
8. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
9. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
   - A. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**
     The information is attached.
   - B. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
   - C. **NEW BUSINESS**
     - a. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**
     - b. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT REPORT**
     - c. **THE ANSWER, INC. FACILITY USE AGREEMENT**
     - d. **SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION**
     - e. **RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS**
     - f. **AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH THE AMENDED 2025-2026 BUDGET**
     - g. **ROHEALTH CLIENT STAFFING AGREEMENT**
     - h. **CERTIFICATE FOR PAYMENT**
       Geothermo Borefield and Conversion Project.
10. **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**
    The Executive Board meeting was held on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Those present included: Dr. Nicole Spatafore from District 87**,** Ms. Irene Daciuk, District # 87, Dr. Victoria Stockton from District #88, Dr. Antonia Hill from District # 93, and Mrs. Vanessa Schmitt from District #209

    Mr. Michael James, Ms. April Cohen, Ms. LaShonda McDaniel, and Mrs. Cecy Mendoza-Jurek from PAEC Administration was also present.

Mrs. Trainette Latham from PAEC Administration was present during the ABA RoHealth Presentation.

The Executive Board reviewed and recommended approval of all action items on the agenda.

Dr. Antonia Hill from District # 93 will be the Executive Board Representative for the Governing Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

11. **DUPAGE/WEST COOK REPORT**
    The April West Cook Region Meeting has been moved to Thursday, April 9, 2026.

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
    The Finance Committee met on March 7, 2026. The following items were discussed:

- **Treasurer's Report (March 2026) —** The committee reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's Report, including an overview of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances.
- **Fund Balance Discussion —** A spreadsheet was presented outlining the amounts needed to bring PAEC back into compliance with Board policy requiring a minimum 10% fund balance. The committee also discussed a plan to withhold a portion of FY2025 audit refunds to member districts, using a consistent allocation method, to support rebuilding the fund balance.
- **Transfer of Funds for Vehicle Purchase —** A resolution was discussed to transfer funds from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Transportation Fund to support the purchase of a replacement passenger van. The current vehicle is over 20 years old and is no longer cost-effective to repair.
- **FY2026 Amended Budget —** The proposed amended budget was presented. The budget remains balanced with no new funds required, but an amendment is necessary to reflect adjustments identified during the mid-year financial review.
- **FY2026 Audit Engagement Letter —** The committee reviewed the audit engagement letter from Baker Tilly for FY2026.

No formal action was taken. The committee will continue to review these items and provide recommendations to the Board as appropriate.

13. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

    A. **CURRENT DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2025-2026**
    The information is attached.

    B. **CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING PATTERNS 2025-2026**
    The information is attached.

    C. **TRANSITION REPORTS**
    The information is attached.

    D. **INITIAL REFERRALS**
    The information is attached.

    E. **POLICE REPORTS**
    There were no reports during the month of March.

    F. **PAEC ACTIVITY FUND**
    The information is attached.

    G. **PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES**
    The information is attached.

    H. **PAEC EVENTS**
    The information is attached.

    I. **PAEC STRATEGIC PLAN AT WEST 40**

The information is attached.

J. **VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD - 1ST PARTY FUNDRAISER**
The information is attached.

K. **PAEC ACADEMY TALENT SHOW**
The information is attached.

L. **EASTER BASKET DONATIONS**
The information is attached.

M. **SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEES LUNCHEON**

N. **FOIA REQUESTS**
2 were received.

O. **PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**
The information is attached.

14. **OTHER/ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD**

15. **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**
None.

16. **MEETING RECAP**

- After reviewing the information regarding the Social Media litigation, our PAEC attorney stated that PAEC could pursue the lawsuit. The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve joining the lawsuit.
- The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve the additional lease for The Answer Inc.
- The Executive Board recommends that the Governing Board approve the Resolution to transfer funds. This resolution was created for PAEC to be able to purchase a new van that will transport students to their vocational jobs and other destinations as needed.
- The Executive Board discussed a possible lease with regard to the location of PAEC Academy starting July 1st, 2026.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

PAYROLL AGENDA
March 2026

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL	
	3/13/2026	3/13/2026	3/13/2026	3/13/2026	3/13/2026	**PAYROLL 03/13/2026**
Education Fund	$ 511,316.33	$ 21,667.97	$ 17,595.95	$122,351.96	$ 672,932.21	
Building Fund	$ 17,148.90	$ 1,303.78	$ 955.21	$4,100.58	$ 23,508.47	
TOTALS	$ 528,465.23	$ 22,971.75	$ 18,551.16	$ 126,452.54	**$ 696,440.68**	

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL	
	3/27/2026	3/27/2026	3/27/2026	3/27/2026	3/27/2026	**PAYROLL 03/27/2026**
Education Fund	$ 503,068.42	$ 21,561.29	$ 17,529.38	$127,688.07	$ 669,847.16	
Building Fund	$ 16,939.44	$ 1,287.75	$ 943.55	$4,350.23	$ 23,520.97	
TOTALS	$ 520,007.86	$ 22,849.04	$ 18,472.93	$ 132,038.30	**$ 693,368.13**	

ACTION ITEM – PERSONNEL REPORT
April 2026

A. Employment

1. Sharon Lorek — 1:1 Program Assistant (D88)
   Effective Date: March 31, 2026
   Bill Rate: $24,735 (pro-rated to $4,947)
   Location: PAEC Academy

B. Resignations

There are no resignations at this time.

C. Transfers

1. Crystal Green — Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-7th Grade
   Effective Date: March 15, 2026
   Transfer from: Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary) -8th Grade

2. Janice Boens — 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Academy)-87
   Effective Date: February 11, 2026
   Transfer from: 1:1 Program Assistant (Northlake) -87

D. Terminations

There are no terminations at this time

E. Retirement

1. Melinda Kelly — Program Assistant
   Effective Date: May 27, 2026 after 30 years without incentive

F. FMLA

1. Maria Ofelia Cardenas — Bilingual School Secretary
   Effective Date: March 23, 2026 through March 23, 2027
   Intermittent leave and will utilize available sick, vacation, or personal days.

2. Fontella Livsey — Permanent Substitute Teacher
   Effective Date: March 12, 2026 through June 15, 2026
   Block Leave and will be utilizing available sick or personal days.

ACTION ITEM – CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS
April 2026

A. Delta T

1. Anasha Holliday — 1:1 Program Assistant -D88
   - Effective Date: April 14, 2026
   - Bill Rate: $33 per hour
   - Location: PAEC Academy

B. Amergis

1. Maria Hernandez — 1:1 Program Assistant
   - Effective Date: March 16, 2026
   - Bill Rate: $45 per hour
   - Location: Jefferson

C. Contractual Transfers

1. Rahkeda Gamble — 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-D88
   - Effective Date: March 5, 2026
   - Transfer from: 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-D92

2. Jamari Scott — 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-D92
   - Effective Date: March 5, 2026
   - Transfer from: 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-D88

3. Denzel Moore — Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-7th Grade
   - Effective Date: March 5, 2026
   - Transfer from: Program Assistant (PAEC Elementary)-8th Grade

D. Contractual Terminations

1. Jaria Dixon — 1:1 Program Assistant
   - Effective Date: March 24, 2026
   - Location: PAEC Center CCF

2. Kayla Armstrong — 1:1 Program Assistant -(D209)
   - Effective Date: March 27, 2026
   - Location: Proviso East

3. Jewelene Williams — 1:1 Program Assistant -(D209)
   - Effective Date: April 17, 2026
   - Location: PMSA

4. Nikema Smith — 1:1 Program Assistant -(87)
   - Effective Date: April 13, 2026
   - Location: PAEC Academy

PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES
FROM MARCH 2026

PAEC Academy at Divine Infant

1) **Academics**

IAR testing for students in grades 3 through 8 was successfully administered online during the week prior to spring break. In preparation, the technology department provided valuable support in ensuring that all Chromebooks were fully updated and ready for use. Additionally, staff participated in targeted training during March's late arrival day, which helped promote a smooth and organized testing process. Although minor challenges arose, they were effectively managed, and overall, the testing experience was both efficient and well coordinated. Makeup tests will be administered until all students meet the requirement.

During the same late arrival session, teachers also engaged in a collaborative review of the Corrective Reading Curriculum. The team thoughtfully examined the various program levels and worked collectively to establish a cohesive implementation sequence moving forward. Looking ahead, the exploration and potential adoption of an updated math curriculum has been identified as a priority for the upcoming school year.

2) **Festivities**

Our talent show, held on March 20, 2026, was a vibrant and well attended event that truly highlighted the spirit of our school community. We were pleased to welcome representatives and families from Berkeley School District 87, Lindop School District 92, Hillside School District 93, and Bellwood School District 88, all of whom joined us in celebrating their students' talents and achievements.

We were also honored by the presence of Bellwood Mayor Andre Harvey, whose attendance further underscored the strong connection between PAEC Academy and the broader community.

The event itself was a meaningful showcase of student expression, with performances ranging from dance and singing to a variety of unique acts. Each student took the stage with confidence and pride, demonstrating not only their individual talents but also the supportive and neuroaffirming environment that defines PAEC Academy. The event served as a powerful reminder of what makes our school a place where our Tigers truly thrive.

3) **Interesting Information**

April 7th-April 17th - IAR makeups
April 8th- Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm
April 15th- Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm
April 16th - Parent /Teacher Conferences
April 17th- Late Start @9:45am
April 19th- Soccer Tournament
April 20th-April 24th- Kindness Challenge Week
April 21st- Trip to Triton College
April 21st- Dentist visits Academy
April 22nd- Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm
April 28th - Graduation money due
April 29th- Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm
April 30th - School trip to Morton College

4) **Program Information**

a. Student Count	72
b. Transitions	2 students in partial transition between Academy and district
c. Time Outs	0
d. Restraints	1
e. Hospitalizations	0
f. Police Involvement	0
g. Restorative Meetings	0

PAEC Early Childhood

Academic Update: The March themes in the EC program included Animals and the Weather as well as the introduction to the Spring season. The units within the themes included Pets, St. Patrick's Day and a short introduction to Easter vocabulary in case many of the students will be participating in egg hunts over the break. The vocabulary that was targeted included different states of the weather during spring, flowers, rainbows, leprechauns, the pot of gold, rabbits. The students also colored eggs and they ended the month by going on Easter egg hunts in the playground and the school hallway.
The academic targets for March were the following:

Academic Targets:
COLORS: Gray, Yellow, and Red
SHAPES: Triangle and rectangle
LETTERS: U, R, and D
NUMBERS: 10 and 11

PROGRAM UPDATE
On Friday, March 20th we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day (3/21/26) and had a wonderful Erin's Law presentation by Victor Pacini and learned about Safe and Unsafe Touch. On Friday, March 27th, the EC program also received Easter baskets from the Proviso Township for all the students in the EC program. We are very grateful for the nice surprise right before we went into our Spring break.

Transitions- There were no student transitions this month.

Student Count: There are 19 students in the two half day EC classrooms and 7 students in the full day EC Autism classroom that are counted under the PAEC Center numbers. Three new students are projected to be starting in the month of April. The EC Principal has also been on multiple home visits this month as new referrals from school districts and the early intervention program have been received. Home visits are done before new students enter the EC program as a way to help the parents learn about the program as well as getting to know the potential new students in a comfortable, safe environment. These visits have played a vital role in appropriate classroom placement in order to minimize multiple changes between classrooms once the students start school.
One full day student will be leaving the EC program in order to enroll in a full day ABA program

Half day Classrooms			Full Day Classrooms	
87	12		87	4
88	0		88	1
92	4		92	0
93	3		93	2

PAEC Therapeutic Day Elementary School
PAEC Elementary
Amina Payne, Principal
Projected enrollment numbers

- ☐ Students 42 Actual, Projected 37 for Fall 2026
- ☐ Staff 3 Certified Teacher Vacancies (currently filled by Permanent Substitute Teachers)
- ☐ 1 Permanent Substitute PA Vacancy

Erin's Law Implementation



The Comprehensive Health Education Act, commonly known as Erin's Law, was signed into law in January 2013. Known formally as Illinois Public Act 097-1147, it requires public schools to provide child sexual abuse prevention education for children in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

This school year, our elementary students received age-appropriate instruction as required by law. Core themes taught at all grade levels include identifying safe versus unsafe or unwanted touching, the safety rule about private areas, three key safety steps — Say "No!", Get Away, and Tell Someone — and understanding the difference between good and bad secrets. .



Illinois Assessment of Readiness Spring 2026

The IAR is the state-mandated evaluation administered annually to students in grades 3–8, measuring proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics in alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards. Testing is scheduled to begin this month, and our staff has been diligently preparing students through targeted instruction and review. Results from this assessment will inform instructional decisions, support school improvement planning, and provide families with meaningful data on student academic progress.

Upcoming events: Earth Day and Autism Awareness Walk

Transitions	3
Hospitalizations	1
Police/Ambulance Calls	0
Restraints	7
Isolation Room	5
Restorative Meeting	3

PAEC Therapeutic Day High School
Academic Operations & Assessments

- **Academic:** The third academic quarter concluded on Friday, March 13, 2026.
- **College Readiness:** Pre-ACT and ACT testing protocols are finalized, including the completion of accommodation inputs and technical systems readiness.
- **Calendar:** April 7 ACT/PRE-Act opens.

School Culture & Student Engagement

- **Women's History Month:** The students had the opportunity to enter our fine arts contest in March on "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future."
- **Upcoming Observances:** March programming will center on Women's History Month.
- **Activities:** Student engagement activities for March included a St. Patrick's Spirit Week and a donut fundraiser.
- PLCCA began their after-school Teen Huddle. Mr. Fields had a small group for four days with team-building activities.

Student Transitions

- Home School Returns: Six students successfully transitioned back to their home schools during the first semester.
- Full-Time Re-entry: One student returned to PMSA on a full-time basis effective January 5, 2026. A student returned to Proviso West on a full-time basis effective March 9, 2026.
- Upcoming Transitions: Additional updates will be provided as transitions are finalized

Physical Management	0
Police Calls	0
Ambulance	0
Restorative Meeting	6

25-26 Current Enrollment: 81 Students

Vocational Program Update
Submitted by Lindsey Holsten, Vocational Counselor
March 2026

This month, Ms. Holsten and Mr. Tafoya were pleased to host our annual Postsecondary Options and Career Fair, which was expanded to include students and staff from PAEC Center. The event provided students with valuable exposure to a wide range of postsecondary programs, training opportunities, and additional educational institutions. Participating organizations included: APSIRE, Empire Beauty School, NAMI Metro Suburban, Pipefitters Union, Triton Community College, Community Support Services, RR Trade School, Parents Alliance Employment Project, CISCO, UCP Seguin, Chicago Women in the Trades, Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council, American Job Center of Maywood, Oak Leyden, Department of Rehabilitation Services, Chicago Lighthouse, United States Marine Corps, Lincoln Tech, Morton Community College, and Malcolm X College.

We took a tour of the new Maywood Lumity facility and are currently exploring a potential partnership with Lumity for the upcoming school year. Lumity's STEMWorks programs—including Construction & Trades Pathways (an IllinoisWorks pre-apprenticeship program), Career Launch, and YouthBuild—offer a comprehensive, student-centered approach to supporting young people without a defined college or career plan. These programs offer training in high-demand industries, including construction trades, healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, and solar installation. Participation is fully funded, and students receive stipends while developing career skills. STEMWorks also offers individualized support services, including assistance with transportation, childcare, and counseling, as well as job placement support and ongoing mentorship after program completion.

We also celebrated three students who completed the Level Up program, a six-course work-readiness series focused on essential workplace skills and professional development. Students were recognized at a celebratory lunch at the Level Up Center in Maywood, where each received a professional outfit to support their job search efforts.

Additional experiential learning opportunities this month included a field trip to the PLCCA-sponsored Career Fair at the Maywood Public Library. During this visit, students also participated in a financial literacy workshop focused on budgeting and making informed financial decisions. Finally, we coached and brought one student to attend a Starbucks hiring event, who was offered a summer position immediately after her interview.

PAEC Center School
The month of March came in like a lion for sure!!!

The curriculum for the students in the elementary school is Unique Learning Systems (ULS). Using ready-made, standards-aligned lessons, automated differentiation and built-in assessment tools, ULS helps teachers save time and ensures that every learner gets the support they need.

The High School students use the Education Associates Job Ready curriculum. This series adapts the curriculum provided in the Career Exploration series to meet the needs of students with the most significant challenges. With multiple modes of instruction, no student is left behind. The following list the different titles within the series

- Cleaning Maintenance
- Filing
- Greenhouse Work
- Grocery Clerking
- Hair Care & Styling
- Mail Handling
- Table Service
- Child Care
- Animal Care
- Autobody Repair
- Caregiver
- Carpentry
- Food Service
- Health & Nutrition
- Retailing
- Skin & Nail Care
- Small Engine Repair

PAEC Center also uses subscriptions to Scholastic magazines as supplemental instructional materials. Additionally, current events such as Black History month for February are also recognized and curriculum developed around the day.

St. Patrick's Day brings Green River Floats! Students were treated to the floats to help commemorate the day!

During the month of March PAEC Center also hosted the Women's History Fair Fair on March 25th. The students' presentations were engaging, interactive and student lead . Each classroom produced posterboard highlighting a woman who was relevant to the education and presented it on a table in the gym. The other classrooms were then able to visit the gym on a rotating basis to celebrate these achievements!

On the 27th, the students were invited to engage in an Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs were filled by high school students and elementary students were able to "hunt" for them in the playground and enjoy the treats inside.

Information	Number of Occurrences
Student Count	176
Transitions	0
Time Outs	0
Restraints	1
Hospitalizations	0
Police Involvement	0
Restorative Meetings	0

PAEC Behavior Intervention (BI) Team
The PAEC Behavior Intervention Team continues to provide behavioral support and interventions to reduce undesired behaviors within the Proviso Township school districts.

The Elementary Behavior Coaches are required to implement the 8-Week Step Interventions & Support Curriculum developed based on evidenced-based data and documenting.

Total number of PAEC Behavior Intervention Team: 13
Active: 13

Projected total number for 2025/2026 Academic Year is (14)
The elementary level position has been posted.

Proviso East: 3
Proviso West: 3
District 87: 2 (currently 1)
Floating Coaches (District 88, District 93, District 92, District 87): 6

There were a total of 1 individual student referrals in March.
There were a total of 0 classroom referrals submitted in March.

District 87 - Jefferson Primary | Sunnyside Intermediate | Whittier Primary | Riley Intermediate | Northlake Middle School | MacArthur Middle School

Whittier Primary:
Early Childhood Referral: (On-going support) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student to provide behavior management strategies such as daily sensory walks, intentional transitions and a token economy to encourage positive behavior. *Update:* The Interventionist will continue to provide additional support for the duration of the school year based on administrators request, 3 days per week.

2nd Grade Classroom Referral: The assigned Interventionist has begun coaching the teacher on the implementation of effective interventions to improve the overall function of the class. Interventions have included a token economy system, implementations of class expectations, sensory room/calming corner and mild consequences due to high levels of disruptive and disrespectful behavior.

Jefferson Primary:
Kindergarten Student/Classroom Referral: (On-going support) Student has been assigned to an Interventionist due to excessive and extreme attention seeking behaviors. The student is currently receptive to the Lilo & Stitch behavioral chart designed to reduce behaviors such as screaming and blurting out. *Update*: The Interventionist continues to support the classroom due to its transition into a full classroom intervention.

First Grade Referral: (On-going support) An Interventionist has been assigned to a student to provide additional support, as this student's behavior is not extreme. Support will consist of reminding the student to focus during instructional time and maintaining attentiveness to improve academics.

2nd Grade Referral: The student has been assigned to a BI for behavioral support to improve off-task behaviors such as not attending to and completing work. The student also demonstrates a poor ability to interact with peers appropriately and positively. The Interventionist will create and provide the student with social stories regarding peer interactions and identifying a reward system to help her focus during instructional time.

First Grade Classroom Referral: There have been several students (3) referred within this class due to excessive disrespect towards the teacher. Students have displayed physical aggression such as throwing items and desks, and have collectively caused significant disruptions within the classroom. An Interventionist has been assigned to incorporate antecedent modifications (seating changes), a reward system for the on-tasks students, review of expectations and mild consequences for extreme behavior.

Jefferson Team Highlight





Serving up more than support; this time, it's breakfast. Thank you to our Jefferson Primary Behavior Interventionists for nourishing both staff and school spirit.

District 92 - Lindop School

District 88 - Lincoln Primary | Grant Primary | Grant Elementary | Lincoln Elementary | McKinley Elementary | Thurgood Marshall Elementary | Roosevelt Middle School

McKinley Elementary:
Kindergarten Class Referral: (on-going support) An Interventionist was assigned to coach the teacher on structuring the classroom with a schedule, class expectations, task/time management, transition methods, and token economy systems. *Update:* Interventionists continue to provide on-going support **as needed.**

First Grade Class Referral: (On-Going) A Student has been assigned an Interventionist due to displaying inappropriate behaviors with peers. The Interventionist will be working with the teacher to implement/demonstrate appropriate peer dynamics through social stories and role-playing.

First Grade Referral: The student will be assigned to a BI following spring break due to excessive negative peer interactions. The Behavior Interventionist will incorporate antecedent strategies, including structured separation from peers, to decrease inappropriate social interactions and promote on-task behavior.

Lincoln Elementary:
Kindergarten Student Referral: (On-going) The student has been observed exhibiting problem behaviors outside of the classroom. An Interventionist has been assigned to provide additional support with the student during special activities such as gym, art and recess.

First Grade Referral: The student has been referred due to excessive chatting and disruptions within the class setting. The student also exhibits behavior that limits his ability to participate during instructional time due to their lack of focus. An Interventionist has been assigned to assist with improving focus by implementing a pre-mack principle/reward system to encourage classroom engagement and minimize disruptions.

Fourth Grade Referral: A student was referred due to continuous oppositional and defiant behavior with adults, as well as attention seeking behavior. An Interventionist was assigned to aid in reducing classroom outburst, oppositional/noncompliance, as well as implementing a differentiated reinforcement technique to receive appropriate attention.

Grant Primary:
Early Childhood Student Referral: (On-going) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student and is currently in collaboration with the special education program to support with implementing a behavior/safety and crisis plan. The Interventionist also has incorporated a behavior plan based upon a token economy and small consequences for extremely disruptive and physically violent behavior. *Update:* Per administration request, the Interventionists have continued to provide on-going support due to high levels or disruptive behavior.

2nd Grade Referral: An Interventionist has been assigned due to several students displaying highly disruptive behavior such as yelling aloud, running around the classroom and oppositional behavior. The Interventionist is working with the teacher while implementing interventions such as antecedent modifications, token economy and mild consequences (limited free time) for defiant behavior.

District 93 - Hillside Elementary

District 209 - Proviso East High School | Proviso West High School | Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy

There are currently a total of 6 Behavior Interventionists assigned to 209; 3 are assigned to East and 3 are assigned to West.

Interventionists are now assigned to Grade Level Principals. The 209 district is in the process of implementing a new MTSS Framework within the Panorama system to ensure equitable and responsive circles of support for students. All BI's will follow this framework under the leadership of Deans and their assigned GLP's.

PAEC OT/PT Department

Staff adjustments: Working on completing the OT/PT/AT Midyear Budget for 2025-26 SY.

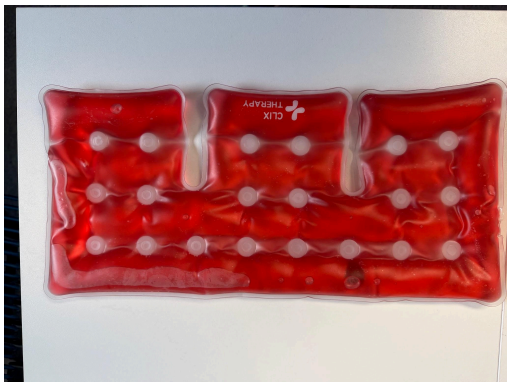
Activities of the department:

1. The AT Team continues to conduct SETT meetings to develop appropriate assistive technology to address the educational needs of their struggling students, including students' placements outside the cooperative.
2. The AT Team attended a staff meeting on 3-04-26 in person and via Zoom from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.
3. OT/PT/AT Lead brought in donations for the Egg Hunt on 3-27-26 from the LaGrange Highlands Lions Club. Donations were of eggs, candy, fidgets, and craft items for the students to enjoy.
4. The Lead OT/PT/AT continues participating in the Prom/Special Events Committee Meeting for PAEC Center and collaboration with the Special Recreation Services (SRS) department in Boardview on 3-06-26, 3-13-26, 3-20-26, 3-27-26 via Google Meets from 8:00 - 8:30 AM.
5. On 3-18-26, one of our OTs attended a full-day conference of Early Childhood Today: Every Connection Counts by Star Net Region II & VI.
6. The OT/PT/AT Lead and SLP Lead met with representatives from RCM on 03-19-26 to discuss the performance of current contracted therapists and meet the new representatives.
7. The OT/PT Department attended a staff meeting on 3-19-26 in person and via Zoom from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm in the PAEC Center Board Room. This meeting included an article review titled: The Impact of Childhood Trauma on Sensory Processing and Connected Motor Planning and Skills: A Scoping Review by OT Student, Kaelen Bradford
8. The Lead OT/PT/AT discusses equipment needs with a representative from Fun and Function about equipment use in the PAEC Center B Pod. Reviewed previous plans and discussed other options for equipment.
9. There were no Clinics this month for Wheelchairs and Orthotics. Therapists are handling vendor visits individually.
10. The OT/PT/AT Lead is currently working on budgeting and FTEs for staff for the next school year.
11. The Lead OT/PT/AT received a donation of a Canon Printer to be used for Special Events from SRS in Broadview on 3-24-26.
12. The Lead OT/PT/AT attended the PAEC Worker's Comp meeting on 3-26-26.
13. The Lead OT/PT/AT attended the Leadership/Projections meetings on Wednesday throughout March.
14. Some equipment that came in the last month that was ordered: Clix Therapy Hot/Cold packs, Hemi Walker, Swivel Chairs, Slant Boards, Chew Necklaces, String Fidgets, Chew/Fidget Bracelets,

Sandtimers, 3D Filaments for 3D Printer, and Floor Chairs. See pictures below



Hand



Shoulder/Neck





Knee/Back in either Blue or Green



Foot



Wrap to hold the Knee/Back



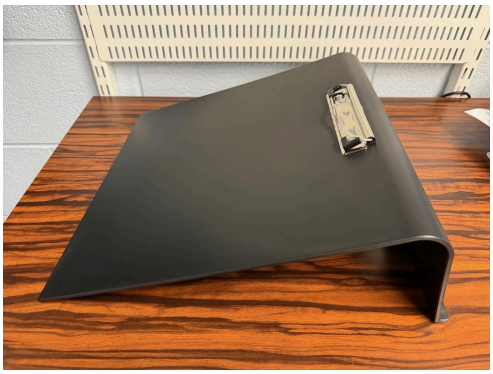
Vice Hemi Walker for Student



Swivel Chair



Swivel Chair



Slant Board







Chew necklaces



String Fidgets



Chew/Fidget Bracelets



Sand Timers



3D Filaments for 3D Printer in AT Dept.



Floor Chair

Thank you,
Julia Barnicle, PT, DPT, ATP
OT/PT Department Lead
AT Department Lead
708-450-2143

PAEC Psychology Department
Ms. Annette Munoz, PAEC Psych intern, gave birth to a healthy boy, Lorenzo (Enzo) on February 8th, 2026. Both mom and baby are doing great especially now that Enzo is home!

Ms. Ellie Margason, 2nd year graduate student from Loyola University Chicago, has accepted an internship placement with PAEC for the 2026-2027 school year. She will be working directly under Dr. Cermak's supervision as she completes the final year of her graduate training in school psychology.

Mr. Jackson Sheridan, first year practicum student from National Louis University, will also be completing his 2nd year practicum experience with PAEC. He will continue to be supervised by Dr. Cermak, but will also be working with other psychologists in the PAEC programs.

Dr. Michael Cermak, PAEC Lead Psychologist, helped plan an ISPA Hill Day event on March 25th, 2026 in Springfield. Educators from across the state were given the opportunity to meet with legislators and advocate for the needs of special education students, programs, and staff. Dr. Cermak also continues to provide individual SEL support, teacher consultation support, and input for team decisions throughout the co-operative.

Ms. Cathy Paullin, Hillside School Psychologist, continues to provide guidance and assistance with a variety of tasks at Hillside including the MTSS process, functional behavior observations, and consultation with staff.

Ms. Annamaria Iarrapino, Riley/Northlake School Psychologist, has been conducting some social-emotional and social skills groups focused on emotional regulation for students in 4th and 5th grade. She has also been leading MTSS meetings when data discussions need to be held.

PAEC Social Work Department
Monthly Board Update of the PAEC SW Dept. Activities/Initiatives/Information

1. PAEC School Social Work Department New Hires:
   Mr. Daniel McLarin, MSW (replacing school social worker at Proviso Math & Science Academy on Maternity Leave for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year)
2. Ms. Nicole Peña, MSW (PAEC School Social Worker-PAEC Academy) has facilitated small/whole classroom groups and individual sessions and has focused on the following topics: Self-Advocacy Strategies, Practicing Life Scenarios in Group Circles, and Identifying Emotions. Ms. Peña has collaborated and facilitated various student groups (i.e., Super Groups, Weekly Lunch Groups, etc.) with other related service personnel (i.e., SLP and OT). Ms. Peña provides daily check-ins/check-outs and daily push-in groups with PAEC Academy students.
3. Ms. Cecilia Feliciano, MSW and Ms. Temika Peace, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-Proviso East High School) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and continue to develop strategies to increase student attendance and promote more student engagement in after school programs. Topics covered include emotional regulation and appropriate interactions with others. Ms. Peace and Ms. Feliciano continue to participate in weekly Student Grade Level MTSS teams, as a means of providing interventions with various academic and/or behavioral concerns.
4. Ms. Haviland Byrd, MSW and Ms. Elivette Agosto, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-Proviso West High School)) continues to provide individual/small group social work sessions to students on their caseloads at Proviso West High School, covering such topics as managing social media stress, engaging in appropriate communication skills, reasons behind school truancy, and emotional regulation. Ms. Byrd and Ms. Agosto continue to provide crisis intervention, as warranted, as well as complete documentation for numerous annual review and re-evaluation meetings that have been scheduled. Additionally, Ms. Agosto has been an active participant in the Language Task Force Committee at Proviso West High School, led by Dr. Jennifer Kirmes.
5. Ms. Monette Carlos-Barnes, LCSW (PAEC School Worker-PAEC E.C. Program) has been working with the children in the PAEC EC program on the following: Cross-Cat Room: Problem Solving and Asking a Friend To Play; Autism Room: Feelings, Imitation Skills and Following Directions; and Individual Sessions: Transitions and Learning to Play Together. Additionally, Ms.

Monette Carlos has been completing 3 year Re-evaluation documents for meetings that have been scheduled.

6. Mr. Patrick Rossi, LCSW and Ms. Niane Serrano, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Elementary) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the PAEC Elementary Students, incorporating good sportsmanship, dealing with angry feelings, utilizing mindfulness, and a variety of exercises/sports to manage emotions during social skills groups. Both social workers continually provide crisis intervention, as necessary and contact parents to address care coordination and to provide additional resource information for parents to consider.
7. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW, Ms. Donna Kuchera, MSW , Ms. Tanaijah Fields, MSW, Ms. Alexandra Kagan, MSW and Mr. Elijah Aarons (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School and School Social Work Intern) continue to provide social work services to the students on their caseload and have been working with the students on the following: student crisis intervention/accountability for behaviors/actions, social media etiquette, self-awareness skills, personal boundaries, conflict resolution, consequences of drug/alcohol use/abuse and friendship/relationship management. Additionally, the PAEC High School social workers continue to provide resources/support for parents in preparation for the upcoming spring break.
8. Ms. Jill Collins, MSW and Ms. Anna Landmeier, LCSW and Ms. Tanaijah Fields, MSW (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Center School) have been participating in the coordination and planning of the upcoming PAEC Center Prom/Graduation Ceremony, End of the Year Events, as well as coordinated/facilitated/implemented Black History Month, PAEC Center Transition Fair and Women's History month celebration/activities. Ms. Collins co-coordinated the PAEC building-wide Zen Den Wellness Activity for PAEC employees throughout the PAEC Cooperative to enjoy. Additionally, they have been providing the following topics and themed activites in their classroom social work groups: Sexual Harassment; Learning How to Compromise; Developing Problem Solving Skills; Following Rules; Gratitude; Self-Regulation Skills; Voice Volume Regulation/Replacement Strategies; Decision Making Skills; Self-Care: Bathing; Self-Calming Activities (i.e., sorting, coloring, etc.)
9. Ms. Kenya Dockens, LCSW and Mr. Elijah Arons (PAEC School Social Worker and School Social Work Intern-Hillside School) continues to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the students at Hillside School, and have been working on Impulse Control and Classroom Expectations with the 4th Grade SEL Group; Transition to Middle School: Expectations, Anticipated Challenges & Opportunities with the 5th Grade SEL Group and Expanding Friendship Connection with the Student Lunch Group.
10. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, LCSW, (PAEC Lead School Social Worker) has been actively setting up interviews with school social work candidates for hire for the 2026-27 school year. Additionally, Ms. Pirrello held interviews with school social work candidates on March 4 & 5, 2026, to fill a school social work maternity leave vacancy at the Proviso Math & Science Academy. Ms. Pirrello and Ms. Monette Carlos-Barnes collaboratively planned, scheduled and helped facilitate the "Victor Pacini" Erin's Law Student Assemblies, which occurred on March 17, 2026 at PAEC High School, PAEC Elementary, and PAEC Academy and on March 20, 2026 at PAEC Center and PAEC E.C. Program. Students attended the assemblies throughout the school day. Each school program sent out Opt Out letters home to parents prior to the events. In preparation for the 2026-27 school year, Ms. Pirrello and Ms. Carlos-Barnes pre-locked in the Victor Pacini Erin's Law Assemblies to occur on October 19 & 20, 2026. Ms. Pirrello attended the following training in March 2026: March 3, 2026-"Introduction to AI for District Leaders" and March 10, 2026-McKinney-Vento Training. Ms. Pirrello facilitated a meeting with the PAEC School Social Work In-service Committee members to solidify professional development topics, presenters, dates and times for the 2026-27 school year.

11. The next PAEC School Social Work Department Meeting and In-Service is scheduled:
    Date: Friday, April 24, 2026
    Time: 10am-1:00pm

Topic: Crisis Prevention and Response: Understanding the SASS Protocol
Speaker: Laura Cruz of Leyden Family Services

1pm-1:45pm PAEC SW Dept . Pot Luck Lunch

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm
Topic: PAEC School Social Work Dept. Meeting

PAEC Speech/Language Department

- The SLPs attended a department meeting on Wednesday, March 18th.
- Lead SLP attended an inservice entitled "Leading a Future-Focused School System Through Artificial Intelligence" with other members of the Policy Committee on March 3rd from 8:15-3:30 at the Universal Technical Institute in Lisle.
- Lead SLP participated in projections meetings to determine and plan for needs for the upcoming school year.

PAEC Special Olympics

We have 1 High School team, the Blazers and this year we have so many players at Academy, that we have 2 teams, Tigers 1 and Tigers 2. All three teams have played 3 games so far. We traveled to St. Charles to play D 303. Our High School team fought hard in a high scoring game of 7-9, but ended up losing. It was a very exciting game. Our Tigers 1 won against their junior team and our Tigers 2 fought hard, but unfortunately lost. We all attended a local tournament where every team walked away with one win and one loss. Everyone had a great time. We are busy preparing for our State Qualifying Tournament on 4/19 at Hinsdale South High School.

PAEC PROGRAMS
Events for April 2026

ALL PAEC PROGRAMS

March 30th – April 6th – **SPRING BREAK**

April 7th – **Back to School**

April 16th – Parent/Teacher Conferences
By Appointment Only!

April 17th – 1 hour late start 9:45am

PAEC ELEMENTARY

April 22nd - Earth Day Celebration

April 24th - Autism Awareness Walk

PAEC ACADEMY

April 7th thru April 17th – IAR Makeups

April 8th – Soccer Practice - 3pm to 4:30pm

April 15th - Soccer Practice - 3pm to 4:30pm

April 19th – Soccer Tournament

April 20th to April 24th – Kindness Challenge Week

April 21st – Trip to Triton College

Dentist visits PAEC Academy

April 22nd - Soccer Practice - 3pm to 4:30pm

April 28th – Graduation Money is Due

April 29th - Soccer Practice - 3pm to 4:30pm

April 30th – School Trip to Morton College

PAEC CENTER

April 8th – Winnega, Marrea

April 21ST - Prom

PAEC HIGH SCHOOL

April 7th – ACT Testing

PAEC EARLY CHILDHOOD

April 20th to April 24th – Autism Awareness Fun Activities

PROGRAMAS DE PAEC
Eventos de Abril 2026

TODOS PROGRAMAS DE PAEC

Marzo 30 – Abril 6 – **VACACIONES DE PRIMAVERA**

Abril 7 – **Regreso a Clases**

Abril 16 – Juntas de Padres/Maestros
Solamente con Cita!

Abril 17 – 1 hora entrada tarde 9:45am

ESCUELA PRIMARIA DE PAEC

Abril 22 – Celebracion del Día de la Tierra

Abril 24 – Caminata de Enfoque en Autismo

PAEC ACADEMY

Abril 7 a Abril 17 – Recuperar Examenes de IAR

Abril 8 – Práctica de Fútbol - 3pm a 4:30pm

Abril 15 - Práctica de Fútbol - 3pm a 4:30pm

Abril 19 – Torneo de Fútbol

Abril 20 a Abril 24 – Reto de Semana de Amabilidad

Abril 21 – Paseo a Colegio Triton
Dentista Visita la Academia de PAEC

Abril 22 - Práctica de Fútbol - 3pm a 4:30pm

Abril 28 – Pago de Graduación

Abril 29 - Práctica de Fútbol - 3pm a 4:30pm

Abril 30 – Paseo Escolar a Colegio Morton

CENTRO DE EDAD TEMPRANA DE PAEC

Abril 20 a Abril 24t – Actividades Divertidas de Enfoque en el Mes de Autismo

PAEC CENTER

Abril 8 – Winnega, Marrea

Abril 21 – Baile de Graduación

SECUNDARIA DE PAEC

Abril 7 – Examenes de ACT

March 4th - Field Trip to Charlotte's Web





March 4th - Field Trip to Charlotte's Web



March 4th - Field Trip to Charlotte's Web



March 13th - Tiger's Win State







March 12th - Dranko's Class Celebrates National Planting Day







March 20th - Talent Show







March 20th - Talent Show







March 20th - Talent Show





March 20th - Talent Show





March 27th - IAR Pizza Party















March 27th - Easter Baskets



Ms. Taylor's Class

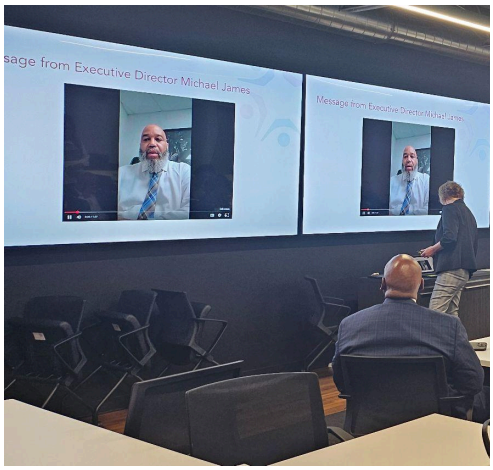
March 27th - Easter Baskets



K/1 Class

PAEC Strategic Planning at West 40













Village of Bellwood - 1st Party Fundraiser
Attended by Ms. April Cohen













PAEC Academy Talent Show























Easter Basket Donation
Township of Proviso







Spotlight Employees Luncheon



