

Karen Simmons is the Director of Student Services at Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424. Karen joined the district following a long-term substitute and summer school position at a therapeutic day school. Her career began at Davenport Elementary, where she taught K-3 Special Education and 2nd grade before transitioning to Administration as the Director of Student Services in 1997. As Director, Karen oversees all students within the district boundaries that have disabilities or are at-risk students, as well as English Learners.

Karen received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northern Illinois University with certifications in both Elementary and Special Education, as well as General Administration and Special Education Director credentials.

Karen views a collaborative and supportive school environment as an important component to school and student success. She believes that all children can learn and it is her job to help school staff and families to develop plans that offer supports and/or services necessary for students to be successful in school.

During her free time, Karen enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, community service, humanitarian ventures, reading and spending time with family.