

*Please note that this FAQ includes every question the District received via index cards during the May 3, 2018 General Citizens' Advisory Council meeting. Some of the questions are repetitive but the District wanted to provide the full 127 questions issued and answered. A link to the CAC's post of this FAQ will be post on the [Educational Pathways](#) section of the District website as well as a trimmed version.*

### **Topic: The Basics**

#### **What if your child's chosen academy fills up and they cannot attend?**

Students will most likely be asked to rank their choices. We will make every effort to ensure a student gets his/her first choice but it's possible that a student could be placed in her second choice. The application process has yet to be established. We will continue to communicate the process.

#### **Does every kid get into the academy that they choose to go to? Is there a selection process? Is there a chance that they cannot get into an academy that they are interested in? What happens then?**

Students will most likely be asked to rank their choices. We will make every effort to ensure a student gets their first choice but it's possible that a student could be placed in their second choice. The application process has yet to be established. We will continue to communicate the process.

#### **Are career academies housed at home high school? (Example: high school is housing boundary)**

Each of our five comprehensive high schools will house three to five career academies. These academies will be open to students across the District. Within the three to five academies, representing career clusters, there will be several educational pathways that address a more specific career within the career cluster.

#### **Is there an application process? Are all children guaranteed entry to the pathway of their choosing? What happens if the number of students pursuing a pathway exceeds the enrollment capability? Will students be turned away? If so, how will denied admissions be decided?**

There will be an application process for the career academies and educational pathways and while it has yet to be developed, it won't be based on academic performance. Students are not

guaranteed their first choice, but U-46 will work to provide the first choice for as many students as possible.

**Is this a program a student chooses (such as dual, AVID or Gifted)? Or will this be mandatory for all in 2019-20?**

There will be a mandatory career exploration course in MS in 19-20. In 2020-21 all freshmen will be asked to choose an academy and the following year, they will choose an educational pathway.

**What happens to a pathway if there is not enough interest?**

Interest and enrollment will be monitored for several years. If over the course of time, interest and enrollment is lacking, a pathway could be phased out and a new pathway phased into the academy.

**Will a kid have to go to summer school if they decide to switch their pathway in 9th or 10th grade?**

No. Summer school will not be required if a student changes academies or pathways in 9th or 10th grade. However, it may be necessary if a student chooses a pathway with an industry credential and wants to earn that credential prior to graduation.

**Can they choose to not be in any of the pathways and be in the traditional high school path? The reason to do this might be that the student would prefer to do their high school in the home school for various logical reasons? Can they change pathways if they do not like it. When in the process can they do that?**

Students will be required to select a pathway. Students can change pathways if they do not like it. Students would be able to change prior to the start of the next school year. Students can select to enroll in a career academy in their home school.

**What professional Career Pathways will be offered (doctor, lawyer, etc.)?**

These pathways are still being determined but some include healthcare and government.

**Will a single pathway be offered at multiple schools? If not, how will the District address enrollment issues (e.g. families avoiding certain Pathways because of the host school/location)?**

The majority of academies and pathways will be offered at multiple sites.

**Please state the pathways to be offered in U-46. (Please do not refer us to the Rockford/Nashville websites. We want to know what will be offered in U-46 not what other cities offer.)**

The pathways are still being determined and we will communicate the process and offer a series of town hall meetings as we come closer to our final selection.

**What specific pathways will be offered? Please don't suggest we look to Rockford, etc. We want to know about our District.**

The pathways are still being determined.

**How will U46's implementation of Pathways be different from and similar to the Nashville and Rockford programs?**

The basic model for the academy structure is the common factor among these locations. The implementation in U-46 will be unique in the following ways: academies offered, pathways offered, course offerings, work-based learning experiences, and student day.

**In what other district has this been successfully implemented in Illinois?**

The following districts have implemented their own variations on the academy and pathway initiative: Chicago Public School, Rockford Public Schools, Joliet Public Schools, District 214, and District 211.

**How does U-46's Pathway program compare to other iterations in different nearby districts? For instance, how does it compare to District 214's educational program?**

At this time, the most significant difference, is that 214 does not provide the academy and pathway opportunity for all students.

### **Topic: The Reasons Why**

**Even without career pathways, students can explore with electives. Why choose an academy when they still want to explore? Does a student get in with testing like the current academy? Are all categories available in all schools?**

The Career Academy Model allows students to more deeply explore within an Academy that represents a career cluster and a student's field of interest. The application process has yet to be established but we do not expect to require testing as we do for the current academies. We will continue to communicate the process.

**Universities will not reduce the number of credits required to earn their degree because you took three years of child development in high school. It won't save money. Kids with good grades will still get in regardless. So why does this matter?**

Students who receive dual credit opportunities will receive college credit which would allow students to reduce their overall credit needs after they graduate. In fact some pathways we have explored result in an associate's degree by the time our students graduate high school, which would allow them to transfer into a four-year university as a junior. In addition, Advanced Placement (AP) offerings will also be available within pathways. This could again reduce the number of credit hours necessary to complete a two or four-year degree.

**Does the law REQUIRE that ALL students must pick a pathway, or is this something brand new U46 want to "trail blaze"?**

Both state and federal law requires that students earn college and/or career indicators. The list of college and career indicators are outlined within the powerpoint that is posted on the Educational Pathways section of the District website. U-46 is among many districts that is implementing a Career Academy Model.

**Other Districts in the area not mandating Pathways. They are offering it as a choice, like our academies. There is no data to prove that all 13 year olds are ready to choose. Where is your data? Proof?**

We see the academy model as an exciting opportunity for our students to learn some valuable career exploration and career skills while in high school. Our current academy model has worked very well; students credit the small learning communities, relationships and relevance for jump-starting their careers - even if their career is different than their Academy's focus. District leaders would like to give all high school students a small learning community that may help them shape their thinking about a future career. We do not expect an 8th grader to choose a career for life. This is about exploration and trying out a field of interest before moving on to postsecondary education which is typically very expensive and has left millions of Americans with cumbersome debt. At the same time, it's important to note that some Academy alums did in fact choose their area of interest as eighth graders and are currently working in that field.

**Why must choosing a Pathway be required? Will there be a general education Pathway?**

To ensure students have access to these career opportunities, it is best to create instructional programming that is required of students and avoid students randomly choosing electives without a cohesive vision or outcome in mind. At this time, there is no consideration of a General Education Pathway but we will choose academies that reflect the most in-demand career clusters. Each pathway will offer several entrances and exits where students could gain the skills and certification to work after high school and go to college or work for a couple of years and then enroll in college.

**When you say every freshman has to choose that is a track. How can you say there isn't a career track?**

This is a chance to explore a general in-demand field of interest while also meeting graduation requirements and any specific college admission requirements.

**PWR ACT does not state to force students to a Pathway, it states to explore career fairs, financial aid, etc. U-46 does not need to pilot a program mandating students to choose a pathway.**

Both state and federal law requires that students earn college and/or career indicators. The list of college and career indicators are outlined within the Powerpoint presentation posted on our website. U-46 is among many districts that is implementing a Career Academy Model.

But our reasons for moving to the Career Academies Model goes beyond just federal and state laws. To ensure students have access to these career opportunities, it is best to create instructional programming that is required of students and avoid students randomly choosing electives without a cohesive vision or outcome in mind.

**Why not make pathways an option like the academies now a days?**

Both state and federal law requires that students earn college and/or career indicators. The list of college and career indicators are outlined within the Powerpoint presentation posted on our website. U-46 is among many districts that is implementing a Career Academy Model.

But our reasons for moving to the Career Academies Model goes beyond just federal and state laws. To ensure students have access to these career opportunities, it is best to create instructional programming that is required of students and avoid students randomly choosing electives without a cohesive vision or outcome in mind.

**If a child switches pathways both freshman and sophomore year this then means they could potentially go to three different high schools for their first three years.**

Students would only move to a different high school if they transition to an academy and pathway outside of the school of initial enrollment.

**Why can you force a student to pick a career in 8th grade? Switch schools in HS after they have made friends, sport teams, school anxiety is at an all-time high, this being FORCED will only add to this.**

Students will select an academy of interest in eighth grade and choose their pathway within that academy during the spring of their freshman year with pathway courses beginning sophomore year. Students will have the opportunity to transition to a different academy and pathway. Students who make these decisions will be aware this decision could require they transition to a different site and could impact the credentials earned within a pathway but still will take their core classes and should remain on track to meet graduation requirements and college admission requirements.

**Why is there a "math and science" pathway (listed on U-46 website) but no "English and language arts" pathway?**

BHS has the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Academy. SEHS has the BEACON Academy that includes Language Arts standards in the course scope, sequence, assessment, and evaluation.

**The least of my concerns is transportation. This seems like a nightmare at best. When kids change their minds, they may have to switch schools, therefore disrupting the small communities you claim to care about. How do you plan to address that?**

We're adding a career exploration class and expanding our curriculum and career fair to help middle schoolers to prepare to explore a field of interest in high school. If they find their academy choice is not a good match, we will work with them to adjust their plan in a way that supports them fully. It is possible they may want to attend another academy within the same high school, for example, making the transition easier. There will be options and support throughout the process as students continue to prepare for high school graduation and the post-secondary admissions requirements.

#### **Topic: Logistics**

**What if a student wants to try a business/management course, a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) class and an accounting class, where does he go?**

At this time, students would be able to access PLTW at all sites and thus would consider attending a site with the appropriate Business, Marketing, & Finance Academy.

**What if a student wants to try the Bartlett Math/Science Academy but they don't have the previous math background? Do you still let them do it?**

The BHS STEM Academy requires application with review of admission. The current application process and that process moving forward may keep students who lack the required math courses and/or ability to meet specific math standards from admission.

**Will there be application requirements for certain Pathway choices? Which ones? What are the requirements?**

Our current academies will continue to require students to apply and meet specific academic thresholds. We will be moving these academies to become magnet schools but they will remain selective enrollment schools.

**Do you know that 22 to 52 percent of postsecondary students change their majors? What percentage of our middle and high school students are you expecting to CHANGE their minds?**

The purpose is to give students the opportunity to explore and consider career interests. They may change their minds, and that is fine, but they will benefit from the exploration, the small learning communities, the relevance and rigor that will be a part of the experience. We expect the experience will help them hone in on their career and postsecondary education choices and better prepare them to take advantage of those postsecondary opportunities and perhaps even save their families and themselves time and money. We are essentially expanding our current academies which have worked well for thousands of U-46 graduates.

**How will you handle the many students who change their minds? Will students be attending pathways in their home schools?**

We expect that the middle school career exploration class, guidance counseling as well as the annual curriculum and career expo will help prepare them to make a solid academy choice but there will be a process to allow students to switch academies during their freshman year. They will start taking educational pathway courses their sophomore year in addition to meeting all graduation requirements and any college admission requirements that they may pursue. Students may choose to attend pathways in their home school.

**Are all Pathways at all high schools? After 9th grade they hate their choice, can they switch school? After 10th grade they hate that choice, can they switch schools again? What about after 11th grade? In college you can switch schools completely at any time, can students do the same in HS? It feels like NO choice, kids will be stuck**

Each high school will house several academies and those academies will represent career clusters and will offer educational pathways that offer more in-depth content and experience within a particular field of interest or career. This is an opportunity to explore and hone those exploration skills, as well as transferable career skills, before paying for post-secondary training or college tuition.

**Recognizing that many college-aged young adults switch majors, how will the District handle wanting to change pathways mid-year or from year-to-year? The U46 website mentions a process will be implemented, but it also states that the District expects children to not change pathways. Will children be required to take summer school or otherwise "makeup" for a switched pathway?**

There will be some flexibility to switch academies and pathways. The specific process has yet to be developed. As long as students are meeting graduation requirements, we don't expect they will have to take summer school or do any make-up work. However, it may be necessary if a student chooses a pathway with an industry credential and wants to earn that credential prior to graduation.

**How do students qualify for academies within the change to pathways. Will they be assigned to an academy or do they have to qualify and interview for an academy. Low GPAs in academies?**

Students will self-select the career academy and educational pathway for enrollment. The process for academy enrollment has not yet been developed but as a baseline, we know that it will not be based on academic performance as is the case with the current five academies at our high schools.

**If a student switches academy as a 9th grader do they have a guarantee they'll get to switch to their choice?**

At this time, there are no guarantees students will gain access to their first choice of academy or pathway.

**Do you guarantee our child's choice will be picked?**



At this time, there are no guarantees students will gain access to their first choice of academy or pathway. The application process has not yet been developed.

**Are students guaranteed their chosen pathway? Is there an application process?**

At this time, there are no guarantees students will gain access to their first choice of academy or pathway. Students will self-select their academy and pathway.

**Will there be competition for pathways? If my child chooses a pathway, will he be certain/guaranteed that pathway?**

At this time, there are no guarantees students will gain access to their first choice of academy or pathway. Students will self-select their academy and pathway.

**What about students going into 9th grade and above (so students in HS before the Pathways roll out), what opportunities will they have with the Educational Pathways?**

Students will be able to access some of the pathways as curriculum is written and implemented as work moves forward. Not all pathways will be written and implemented at the same time.

**How are we going to make sure that each school has enough kids attending and kids won't be put in pathways because it has less students?**

Research is currently being completed to review. We will consider site capacity for enrollment, site capacity to house programs that require specific program and operational structures, current attendance guidelines, and the ability to establish attendance guidelines/feeder patterns to support academies and pathways.

**When there are more students selecting an academy than space is available, how will students be selected? Are they required to have a first, second, third choice?**

Students will submit several choices for academies and pathways.

**What categories of career pathways academies are currently under consideration? Vary school to school or will multiple academies be housed at each building? And is there a gen-ed "no pathway" option?**

There is no General Education Academy option planned at this time. The following Academies are being considered: PLTW Engineering Academy at all five high schools, Business,

Management, Marketing, & Finance Academy at four high schools, Manufacturing, Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics Academy at BHS (autos), EHS (welding - Regional /autos), SEHS (precision mfg. & autos), SHS (precision mfg. & diesel) Government, Public Administration, & Safety Academy to include ROTC at two to three high schools, Hospitality & Tourism Academy at two high schools, Education, Training, & Human Services Academy at four high schools, Health Care Sciences Academy at three high schools. We will make final decisions regarding career academies in Fall 2018.

**Is there a general pathway? Some colleges do not allow students to declare a major until sophomore or junior year but we expect 8th grades to now? Does this make them less competitive for college selection?**

There is no General Education Academy option planned at this time. Students are being asked to select an academy. The Academy Model is additional to graduation requirements and university admission requirements for students. Thus, the pathways provide additional instructional opportunities for students.

**Will there be a General Education/Homeschool option or an opt out of a Pathway for students who do not want to choose?**

There is no General Education Academy at this time. There will be no opt-out option at this time. Students will always be free to choose an academy at their home school.

**Will children be required to take core gen-ed classes, e.g. mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, etc. Will all children receive the same baseline education?**

All students will access the same general education classes required for high school graduation and college admission.

**How will core classes required for graduation blend with the pathways tract? How will this impact academies especially the current program at BHS & EHS?**

The Pathways courses serve as the elective course periods for the student schedule. Course offerings at BHS and EHS will be reviewed as the current offerings are being evaluated and research is being conducted for STEM programming at BHS and International Baccalaureate at EHS.

**Will there be a general education pathway without a career goal?**

Not at this time.

**What impact to boundaries will this have?**

As shared in the powerpoint presentation, academies will be implemented in five high schools. General boundaries will not need to be addressed.

**Can students just plan to go to their assigned homeschool and forgo Pathways because they do not want to travel to another location or do not want to pick a Pathway?**

Students will have the opportunity to select an academy and pathway at their homeschool or another school that offers the programming of interest.

**Is it necessary to eliminate the home school system?**

The home school system is not being eliminated. However, students will need to enroll in an academy and pathway at their home school to attend the site.

**What percentage of kids do you estimate will not attend their base school?**

This information is not available at this time.

**Does the current staff have the expertise to teach the courses for all of these pathways? If not how will these classes be staffed?**

The review of staffing and teacher credentials aligned to the academies and pathways will be an essential component of curriculum writing, resource adoption, staffing, and credentialing of staff.

**How are teachers going to be trained and prepared for this new style of education? How many new teachers will need to be hired?**

Teachers will participate in ongoing professional development on a regular basis to support the implementation of academies and pathways. At this time, we cannot project the number of new teachers needed when the academies and pathways have not been finalized.

**How are you going to recruit the best teachers to lead the Pathways? I don't want this program to turn my child off to a career because of their U46 experience.**

As a system, we recruit teachers throughout the school year locally, nationally, and internationally to identify credentialed teachers. Additionally, teachers will be recruited from

careers and other educational systems that are likely to have these experts in non-traditional classrooms.

**How will pathways students be placed in courses? Will academic level be a factor? Will children of different levels be learning as a group?**

General Education courses will maintain differentiation by offering honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Pathways courses will provide levels of work applicable to course sequence.

**If students are not succeeding in a pathway will they be removed, making way for others?**

Students will not be removed by administration.

**How will you ensure class sizes are equitable amongst the Pathways?**

Class size ratios will be determined by appropriate metrics based upon the classroom, instructional standards, and authentic learning needs of the classroom.

**The high schools already have large classes; some well in excess of 40 students. How will this new program impact class size going forward? How do these large class sizes foster "small learning environments" cited?**

It is not possible to determine class size at this time, while still determining the academies and pathways. The students in the pathways share teachers and often will spend several years with the same teachers in the pathway. That connection to the teachers and the other students sharing a similar instructional experience will foster the small learning environment.

**One of the main reasons schools and districts moved away from vocational ed in the 1960's-1970's was because they were found to be tracking poor students and students of color into lower paying careers. Some of this was intentional, some was not. How will U-46 ensure that they do not create a new system of tracking poor students and students of color- be it intentional or unintentional?**

The Academy and Pathway initiative provides an opportunity for U-46 to establish perimeters and guidelines for student enrollment in support of the U-46 diversity effort. Enrollment statistics will need to be carefully reviewed and help sites maintain the diverse community U-46 recognizes and celebrates.

**How does the district plan to ensure cultural competency is built into the very fabric of these programs, to ensure that these programs improve engagement and test scores for our students of color?**

Cultural competency, implicit racial bias, social justice, and restorative practices will be included and embedded in the professional development of teachers and administrators charged with this work. Additionally, structures will be created and implemented to allow for data to be reviewed including: Social emotional, academic, and behavior data.

**How do you make sure we keep our high schools diverse and not become racially segregated?**

The academy and pathway initiative provides an opportunity for U-46 to establish perimeters and guidelines for student enrollment in support of the U-46 diversity effort. Enrollment statistics will need to be carefully reviewed to help sites maintain the diverse community U-46 recognizes and celebrates.

**Is a desired impact of the Pathways program to increase diversity at each high school? Is Pathways partially being implemented to solve the problem of low enrollment at Larkin (or any other school)?**

The academy and pathway initiative provides an opportunity for U-46 to establish perimeters and guidelines for student enrollment in support of the U-46 diversity effort. Enrollment statistics will need to be carefully reviewed to help our high schools maintain the diverse community U-46 recognizes and celebrates. This initiative will provide an opportunity to best utilize the instructional space at all of our high schools.

#### **Topic: Middle School**

**What class is eliminated in 7th grade to allow for career opportunities class? Is this year long or semester?**

The MS course is presently being written and will be one semester in length.

**The 7th grade explore class-will that be for a full year or just a semester?**

The middle school career exploration course will be one semester in length.

**The current 6th grader who will be 20-21 freshman have chosen their electives, how does the new system work for them in middle school?**

Starting in 19-20, all students will take a career exploration class in seventh grade and take elective classes aligned to career academies. In eighth grade, all students will take elective classes aligned to career academies. In September, all eighth grades will attend the annual career and curriculum expo. Finally, in January, all eighth grade students will select a career academy. Next year's rising seventh graders will participate in a career exploration course and in eighth grade, they will participate in the Explore curriculum and career expo.

**Will there be counselors and or career specialists at the middle schools, who will be using Naviance with students?**

Each middle school will have a guidance counselor to support this effort.

**Are middle school students losing the opportunity for an elective in order to explore their "career opportunities" as 7th and 8th graders?**

Students will be able to take band or orchestra, as well as another elective, providing they are not in a reading intervention class. If students are in a reading intervention class, we will have to work to find a way to make space for a band and/or orchestra, and the career exploration class. We will keep everyone updated on decisions as we continue to develop this program.

**What courses will be dropped so middle school students will have room to take required Pathway Exploratory courses?**

This is still being determined at this time. Middle school electives are currently being revised and rewritten to more closely align to the high school academies

**Topic: Parental/Family/CAC input**

**When will a parent survey regarding pathways be circulated?**

The District will offer targeted surveys at important junctures in the process.

**When will 7th/8th grade parents get communications about the changes being made this fall?**

Current seventh and eighth graders will not be impacted by this proposed change. We shared a link to our current website section, called "Educational Pathways," in an email and text sent to all District parents. Additionally, we have announced a series of town hall meetings scheduled in

May and early June and plan to host more meetings in the fall of 2018.

**There are some parents that explicitly do not want their child to be forced into a pathway. Some parents are very passionate about a liberal arts approach to learning - where students are encouraged to learn about as many different subjects as possible. How will the district serve these families? Parents normally have the right to "opt out" of curriculum. Will they still have the right to opt out of all aspects of this pathways pressure? What will that look like?**

Students and parents will have the opportunity to select the academy and pathway of their choosing. Students will not be able to opt out of selecting a pathway.

**Some students do not have a good deal of parent support at home. Will the pathway/choice be set up in a way that a student is empowered/able to make these decisions independently?**

Yes. Students will receive information and education during middle school concerning the career clusters. Students will also have access to a guidance counselor during middle school to support this process. This support will continue into high school with additional entry level coursework, support via guidance counselor and administration.

**Has the District considered how moving to Pathways may deter new families from moving to the District or may encourage current families to move out of the District? If so, please provide the information and results.**

School District U-46 does not have evidence to suggest families will move out of the system to avoid this learning opportunity.

**What consideration has the District given to the impact on families having multiple children at different pathways schools, including schools located in different towns and after-school/after-dark activities? Please provide the details.**

Families currently have students at multiple high schools. Families have managed to support students in their decision to attend different sites and participate in the activities offered at the sites.

**Isn't it too late in the fall to get CAC involved? The decision will be made in the Fall of 2018.**

CAC involvement will not focus on the identification of academy and pathway locations. CAC involvement could mean specific efforts within current committees, i.e.: Family and Community Engagement - communication and outreach support for families, students, and the community;

Curriculum and Instruction - review of curriculum, resources, assessments, and pedagogy aligned to the pathways and courses; Enrollment and Facilities - potential academy feeder pattern; Specialized Student Services - review of inclusion and instructional opportunities for students with IEPs.

**Does the CAC have any influence over curriculum & development? If yes, what kind? If no, is it possible?**

CAC can participate via the curriculum and instruction committee to review curriculum, resources, assessments, and pedagogy aligned to the pathways and courses;

### **Topic: Electives**

**The biggest barriers to student's success in higher paying careers include: Social determinants, verbal skills, math skills, soft skills. How will these pathways be more effective than AVID at addressing these barriers?**

Academies and pathways will align to and enhance the AVID strategies and skills students learn. This is not an either-or initiative.

**Due to band and orchestra electives, will PE waivers be offered again to allow for pathway electives?**

PE Waivers are currently being researched for this consideration.

**Will children still be permitted to take electives or other courses that truly allow career/interest outside of their Pathway?**

Yes.

**Currently, middle school students are allowed two electives. If they are in band or orchestra, how do they take electives related to their pathway? Additionally, some students are required to take reading strategies as an elective. How can those kids participate in the pathway they chose to try in the middle school?**

All students will take a career exploration class in seventh grade and take elective classes aligned to career academies. In eighth grade, all students will take elective classes aligned to career academies. In September, all eighth graders will attend the annual career and curriculum expo. Finally, in January, all eighth grade students will select a career academy. As there is one career exploration class, students will still be able to access band or orchestra.



**How do the arts play into this (academy) program?**

The Visual and Performing Arts Academy will continue. While the course offerings are currently being reviewed, students admitted to the Magnet Academies would not enroll in additional academies or pathways. Students will still have the opportunity to select and enroll in electives outside an identified pathways.

**As you take more career-oriented classes, you have to take less of other classes. How will the district protect the integrity of our fine arts electives in the presence of pathways? How will the district protect and further improve the AVID program?**

Students will still have the opportunity to select and enroll in electives outside of an identified pathway.

**Will there be electives available to all academies, band, art, choir, orchestra? (Fine Arts)**

Yes

**My son wants to be a professional basketball player, what pathway should he take?**

Students interested in becoming professional athletes will be able to access one of the seven career cluster academies and a pathway within the academy. Any of these academies would be beneficial for the student.

**What impact will pathways have on student athletics? Will athletic programs be consolidated or split/moved between the various high schools?**

U-46 will work with the IHSA to maintain our status to honor the Illinois High School Athletic Association (IHSA) bylaws and academy initiative.

**Does U-46 have ROTC now?**

Not at this time.

**Topic: Gifted, Dual, Special Needs**

**Will Dual Language Gifted (Ignite) programs roll up into the International Baccalaureate certificate at Elgin HS?**

Yes.

**Will each Pathway provide AP/gifted opportunities? How will gifted students received accelerated education to meet their needs for each pathway?**

Students will continue to have access to Honors and Advanced Placement courses while enrolled in an academy and pathway.

**How does Dual Ignite play into the rollup into HS?**

Dual Ignite students will have access to Spanish-based content courses and Honors, Advanced Placement, and international Baccalaureate courses (EHS).

**How are special populations going to fit into the Pathways - i.e. gifted/ignite/AP, Special needs students, athletes, band, etc.?**

U-46 will continue to provide instructional access and opportunities for all students including: gifted/ignite/AP/Special Education Students, Athletes, and Musicians, etc.

**How will the career pathways be supportive of Special Ed kids receiving self-contained or Cross-Cat Spec. Ed services/instruction?**

Students will have access to selected instruction as appropriate developmentally for students and in alignment with support outlined within their IEP.

**How are special needs students included in Pathway programs? Or are they excluded from the Pathways?**

Students will have access to selected instruction as appropriate developmentally for students and in alignment with support outlined within their Individualized Education Program, or IEP.

**What happens to kids with special needs? Are they going to be forced into specific careers that are limited? How are they going to have the chance to experience different subjects to make a career choice?**

Students will have access to selected instruction as appropriate developmentally for students and in alignment with support outlined within their Individualized Education Program, or IEP.

**Topic: Current Academies & Magnet Schools**

**What is happening to the current academies? Will they still apply to the present academies in 8th grade?**

Yes. We will keep the current academies. We are updating curriculum and transitioning to getting these academies classified as Magnet schools.

**Year over year, how many students are currently being denied entry into each of the current U46 academies?**

This year 635 eighth graders applied to one of our five academies and 405 were invited to enroll as freshman in one of the academies for the 2018-19 school year. This is fairly representative of our year-to-year outcomes.

**What is a magnet school?**

A Magnet School is a public school offering specialized instruction and programs not available at all schools to all students. The following is a resource to gain additional understanding <http://magnet.edu/about/what-are-magnet-schools>

**Magnet schools will be open to non U-46 students? Need more clarity in selection process for magnet schools**

Non-resident students may attend District schools upon the Chief Executive Officer/designee recommendation, approval of the Board of Education, and subject to the following: 1. The student will attend on a year-to-year basis. Approval for any one year is not authorization to attend a following year. 2. The student will be accepted only if there is sufficient room. 3. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be charged the maximum amount of tuition as allowed by State law. 4. Transportation to and from school shall be the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s). Non-resident students may also attend District schools whenever any State or federal law, interagency agreement, or a court order mandates the acceptance of a non-resident student.

If all of those criteria were met, a student could potentially attend a U-46 Magnet school and pay tuition. However, it is not our intention to open enrollment to U-46 Magnet schools to outside districts. To date, SD U-46 has only had 2-3 students per year from another district attend a U-46 school and pay tuition.

**Can students outside U-46 apply to attend our magnet schools/academies?**

Non-resident students may attend District schools upon the Chief Executive Officer/designee recommendation, approval of the Board of Education, and subject to the following: 1. The student will attend on a year-to-year basis. Approval for any one year is not authorization to attend a following year. 2. The student will be accepted only if there is sufficient room. 3. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be charged the maximum amount of tuition as allowed by State law. 4. Transportation to and from school shall be the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s). Non-resident students may also attend District schools whenever any State or federal law, interagency agreement, or a court order mandates the acceptance of a non-resident student.

If all of those criteria were met, a student could potentially attend a U-46 Magnet school and pay tuition. However, it is not our intention to open enrollment to U-46 Magnet schools to outside districts. To date, SD U-46 has only had 2-3 students per year from another district attend a U-46 school and pay tuition.

**What does magnet status mean? In plain words. Are we opening our doors to those outside of U-46?**

A Magnet School is a public school offering specialized instruction and programs not at all schools to all students. The following is a resource to gain additional understanding <http://magnet.edu/about/what-are-magnet-schools> All U-46 school are currently open to non U-46 students. Students are required to pay tuition for this opportunity.

**Will there be a CAC Pathways Committee for true input?**

There are current CAC committees in which CAC members will be able to provide input, i.e. Curriculum and Instruction, Enrollment and Facilities, Family and Community Engagement, and Specialized Student Services.

**Magnet schools - how are they different from present academies? In admittance? In classes?**

A Magnet School is a public school offering specialized instruction and programs not at all schools to all students. The following is a resource to gain additional understanding <http://magnet.edu/about/what-are-magnet-schools>. All U-46 schools are currently open to non U-46 students. Students are required to pay tuition for this opportunity. Magnet Schools are not all that different than our current Academy structure. There is an application and an admission process and courses, scope, and sequence for Magnet Schools that are not available at all schools to all students.

## **Topic: Budget**

**Has a financial impact study been conducted? What is the impact on the budget? Short-term and long-term?**

The financial impact is still being researched for short-term and long-term implications.

**What are the costs to implementing Pathways? Many schools in U-46 lack resources (lack of technology, art/music/PE cut, etc.) Will the waiting list for funding be lengthened due to the costs associated with implementing pathways?**

The financial impact is still being researched for short-term and long-term implications. It is difficult to anticipate the impact on or from state funding.

**How much do you anticipate this program will increase expenses at the District, either one-time expenses and on-going? Will taxes need to increase to support these changes?**

The financial impact is still being researched for short-term and long-term implications. Only the Board of Education can determine if, when, and how to increase taxes. The current proposal for this initiative is not based on an increased tax base.

## **Topic: Transportation**

**How will the District address transportation? Will the District bus a single neighborhood to multiple high schools?**

Transportation has not yet been determined.

**So if a student's Pathway (i.e. Automotive) falls at a school that has the equipment program (South Elgin) that is not his/her home school, how will they be transported Do they apply to that school?**

We will provide transportation. There will be an application process.

**Will all high schools have all pathways? If not, how will transportation work? If not, will it be clear which school is associated with each pathway?**

We will provide transportation. There will be an application process.

**How is transportation going to be handled? Specifically internships and job shadowing.**

Transportation will not be provided to internships or job shadowing.

### **Topic: Technology Support**

**Are there any plans to update and modernize current U-46 high school facilities? If so, please provide the plans.**

The enrollment updates will need to be researched in alignment with the consideration of the academies and pathways for the sites.

**Recognizing that many of our schools already lack technology and other programs/benefits that neighboring districts enjoy, how will the District fund Pathways?**

Pathways will be funded through the General Education Fund.

**Will there be technical support available to students/teachers to address technology related issues rather than taking up valuable class time?**

That plan is currently being drafted to support the inclusion of 1:1 technology at the high schools for 18-19.

### **Topic: Business and Internships**

**Will students (8th grade) receive sample questions to ask at the Career Expo? As well as the Expo vendors?**

Yes, we will prepare suggested questions, talking points and tips for both students and vendors.

**Do we think we can provide 60 hours of internships for what percent of our students?**

School District U-46 is currently interviewing and surveying local businesses to determine the platform to support this work and how to partner in growing this work.

**Share the list of companies willing to have internships.**

These partnerships are still being determined and finalized.

**How do businesses participate in the career expo?**

Businesses may register for this opportunity at <https://www.align4edu.org/>

**Is the District partnering with colleges to link the students' efforts in high school with a potential college major? If so, which college?**

These links do not exist at this time.

**Pathways seems to have an unbalanced focus on the "trades" rather than college readiness. Please comment.**

All academies will have professional pathways for students to enroll.

**This approach looks to be career centric and will be really confusing to kids in what pathway to choose at a very early age. Is this in sync with college admissions process/requirements?**

Students will still be able to fulfill even those most rigorous college admissions requirements and have the opportunity explore other electives and work-based learning experiences.

**Why don't you partner with community colleges to allow career education for kids interested in career pathways?**

Partnering with Community Colleges is part of the Career Academy Model and educational pathways initiatives.

**How does this help or hinder kids who over perform and are planning to enter top colleges within the U.S.? Are these career pathways open to non-U-46 students?**

All U-46 schools are currently open to non U-46 students. Per state law, students are required to pay tuition for this opportunity. All students receive an opportunity to acquire work-based learning experiences with this model. Those experiences will help students build a competitive resume for university admission or career.

**What about more details for students who are looking toward joining the military?**

These students can access information from their guidance counselor.

**Will these be building blocks for students who think they want to go into the trades? But later (after high school and working awhile) choose to go BACK to school -- college -- as an adult?**

Yes. Work-based learning experiences will provide building blocks for all students whether they enter university, career, job training, or military.

**What will these "endorsements" do towards students that are going to college? It is not a guarantee the student will be accepted to any college/university?**

Work-based learning experiences will provide building blocks for all students whether they enter university career, job training, or military. There have not been and will not be guarantees for university admission.