

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **U-46 to Host Third Annual Dual Language Parent Academy**

*Free event features keynote speaker and breakout sessions*



**ELGIN** - The U-46 English Language Learners (ELL) Department will host the third annual Dual Language Academy for parents of preschoolers to ninth graders on Saturday, Nov. 10 at Elgin High School. In partnership with the Gail Borden Public Library, the event aims to inform and empower the District's Dual Language community to better prepare students for bilingualism and biliteracy.

"As the second largest ELL program in the state of Illinois, we are proud to serve a community of learners that represents more than 100 languages," said U-46 Director of English Language Learners Annette Acevedo. "Our programming mirrors the linguistic and cultural diversity of our learning community, and it honors and validates the students' home language."

The event will begin with keynote speaker Dr. Lorena Mancilla, a parent engagement consultant. Dual Language parents will have the opportunity to participate in a DL Parent panel and to choose from multiple breakout sessions, including learning activities for the home, strategies to support students' language development and academics, and many more.

Dual Language students in seventh through ninth grade are invited to attend their first DL Student Leadership Institute with CEO Tony Sanders and his

CEO Student Advisory Council. The panel will answer questions and discuss leadership with secondary students enrolled in dual language programming.

Research shows that the ability to speak, read, understand, and write in world languages is critical to success in business, research, and international relations in the 21st century. In 2017, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences reported the study of a second language has been linked to improved learning in other subjects, enhanced cognitive ability, and the development of empathy and interpretive skills.

School District U-46 offers Dual Language classes in 42 schools, and nearly 11,000 students are on their way to becoming bilingual and biliterate through the PreK-9th grade Dual Language program. The District plans to continue expanding its Dual Language programming at the high school level, aiming to provide Dual Language opportunities for students PreK-12th grade by the 2021-22 school year.

Breakout sessions will be offered in both English and Spanish. Food and entertainment will be provided, no registration required.

**WHO:** The U-46 English Language Learners Department and the District's Dual Language community.

**WHAT:** Dual Language Parent Academy

**WHERE:** Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin.

**WHEN:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10

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*School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities across 90 square miles within Chicago's northwest suburbs. The District is nestled in the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. Nearly 39,000 pre-schoolers through twelfth graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*