

Press Clippings for 9/28/2022

---The Daily Herald---

Sep. 28, 2022

State superintendent calls U-46's dual language program 'a beautiful thing'

By: Alicia Fabre



Illinois State Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala talks with Channing Elementary School third-graders Alicia Govea, left, and Jayden Raglin on Tuesday during a visit to the Elgin school to observe dual language classrooms in action. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*



Paul Valade/pvalade@dailyherald.com From left, State Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala, Elgin Area School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders, Illinois student advisory board member Rossi Gutierrez, and U-46's Director of Multilingual and Multicultural Education Griselda Pirtle tour Channing Elementary School Tuesday to observe dual language classrooms.



State Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala talks with kindergartners Tuesday at Channing Elementary School in Elgin. See more at dailyherald.com/video.

Illinois State Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala dropped in on a few dual language classrooms at Elgin Area **School District U-46** elementary schools Tuesday to see the nationally acclaimed program in action.

"It's a beautiful thing," Ayala said during her visit. "The fact that they have schools where all children can learn another language is, I think, a wonderful thing as we are becoming more global."

This year, 12,000 students are enrolled in the dual language program at the state's second-largest school district. **U-46** has one of the largest dual language programs in the country and offers it from preschool through 12th grade.

The program started in 2011 with Spanish speakers learning English at 29 **U-46** schools. A two-way program, which included English speakers who wanted to learn Spanish, was offered at six of the 29 schools. Today, the district's dual language program is offered at all district schools to English and Spanish speakers.

The Association of Two-Way and Dual Language Education, a national organization, recognized **U-46's** program in 2017 for its efforts in promoting bilingualism.

Research has found an ethnic studies curriculum helps promote an appreciation for differences among diverse communities and contributes to overall academic success.

"I see amazing things happening here in this district," Ayala said Tuesday.

Ayala's visit included stops at **Channing** and **Creekside** elementary schools, both in Elgin. Both schools also are part of the initial group of "Schools for Equity and Rigor" that serve as models for **U-46** Rising, a program to ensure the district is meeting the needs of all students.

To watch the full video click [here](#).

---The Examiner---

Sep. 28, 2022

Add-on contract ratified by District U-46 board

By: Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** approved a \$32,000 contract, coming from the education fund, with the College Board at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 12.

The item, presented and approved that evening, was approved by a 5-0 vote, board members Sue Kerr and Eva Porter were absent. Board members John Devereux and Dawn Martin attended the meeting virtually.

The contract is an add-on to a June approval of a \$79,469 when the board approved purchase of the PSAT exam for 10th- and 11th-graders. This add-on provides exams for ninth-graders.

“The contracts presented in June 2022 for high school PSAT testing only contained grades 10 and 11 for the fall PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) and did not contain the PSAT 8/9 for students in grade 9,” the proposal stated. “We received updated district priority focus areas of work on August 5, 2022, at the All Administrators’ Back to School meeting. Since then, we have reevaluated our assessment plan at the high school level in alignment with the areas of work. We would like to expedite the approval of PSAT 8/9, at an additional cost of \$32,000.00, to adhere to College Board’s ordering deadlines and be able to provide 9th grade students the opportunity to take the PSAT prior to taking it in the spring as the Illinois State Assessment.”

Additionally, the board voted 5-0 on a list of 2022 high school graduates. The annual vote certifies the graduation. Superintendent Tony Sanders said the lists “include the lists of all the summer graduates as well as who attained their degree prior to the end of the semester, technically.”