



February 5, 2025

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Calendar

Stay tuned for upcoming events with our District website calendar available [here](#).

- **Monday, Feb. 10:** Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12:** High school early release day. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Feb. 13:** Community Advisory Council meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Feb. 13:** African American Advisory Council meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Friday, Feb. 14:** End of the 2nd trimester. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, Feb. 17:** President's Day holiday. No classes, offices closed.

Early Registration Now Open to All Families

EARLY REGISTRATION



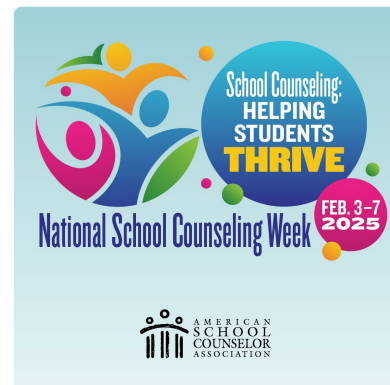
**Registration for the
2025-26 school year is now open!**

u-46.org/registration

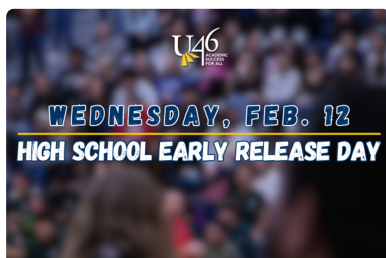
#U46FirstDayReady  **#ListoParaElPrimerDíaU46**

National School Counseling Week

The week of Feb. 3-7, 2025, is National School Counseling Week, designed to highlight the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. In U-46, we have 45 school counselors in our middle and high schools. We thank them for the work they do in supporting our students' academic, social, and emotional growth.



High School Early Release Day



Next Wednesday, Feb. 12, is an early release day for students in our five comprehensive high schools — Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, and Streamwood. High schoolers will be dismissed at 1:59 p.m. to allow teachers time for planning and collaboration.

Please note that this schedule change does not apply to elementary or middle school students as well as Dream Academy and Central School students — they will follow their regular dismissal times.

High school students who rely on bus transportation or participate in after-school activities are expected to remain at school until the regular dismissal time of 2:55 p.m. They will be supervised during this period. Students may use this time to complete homework, study, or explore other options offered in the building.

A copy of the 2024-25 school year calendar with all high school early release dates is available at u-46.org/calendar.

Safety Tuesday on Wednesday

U-46 is fully committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students, and that includes online.

U-46 uses a digital safety service, called Securly, on the Chromebooks and iPads provided to students. The service alerts U-46 staff if there is activity that indicates a student may be considering self-harm, harming others, or be involved in cyber-bullying. More information about Securly, including an option for parents, can be found [here](#).



Of course, most students have online access on devices other than the ones provided by U-46. Tuesday, Feb. 11, is [Safer Internet Day](#), an international education and awareness-raising effort designed to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones.

Parents should supervise their children's internet use, periodically checking their profiles, games, apps, and social media sites they visit.

The National PTA has a [number of resources](#) designed to empower families to use technology safely - and to inspire conversations between parents and children about guidelines for screen time, appropriate content, and online interactions. A Family Media Agreement, such as [this one](#) offered by Common Sense Media, can also help guide conversations about digital safety.

Exploring Cell Phone Limits in School



The focus for this month's meeting of the Community Advisory Council will be "Exploring Cell Phone Limits in School." The meeting is being held in person on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin. It will feature a presentation by two U-46 principals - one from a middle school, one from a high school - whose schools piloted updated

procedures limiting student use of cell phones during the school day. A panel discussion to follow will include students and teachers discussing their experiences with the new procedures. All are welcome to attend CAC meetings, and Spanish-language interpretation will be available.

African American Advisory Council

The African American Advisory Council's next meeting will be held virtually at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13. The focus of the meeting will be early college opportunities and the SchoolLinks platform. The Zoom link to join is available [here](#), and more information is available [here](#). All are welcome.



Legal and Financial Planning for Special Needs Families

A presentation later this month will walk special needs families through various tools that will help protect their child's future. Participants will learn about guardianship, special needs trusts, and other planning considerations.

"Legal and Financial Planning for the Special Needs Family," will get underway at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, via Zoom. It's part of the special education virtual program presented by the Community Advisory Council's Specialized Student Services Committee. Attendees can join at www.zoom.us. The meeting ID number is 890 2989 6626, and the passcode is 700356.

[Find more details here](#), including a QR code for the meeting, and information about the presenters. The program will be presented in English with Spanish translation.

Special Education Virtual Program Series: 2024 – 2025



Legal and Financial Planning for the Special Needs Family

National Biodiversity Teach-In Aims to Inspire

Environmental science students from Elgin High School are once again hosting the National Biodiversity Teach-In on Fridays in February. Featuring webinars led by renowned scientists, the Teach-In aims to educate participants and inspire them to take action in environmental protection.

Subjects to be addressed during this year's Teach-In include shark superpowers, the world of orcas, bobcats in Illinois, plastic in our aquatic ecosystems, and polar bears in a changing Arctic.

The webinars are free and open to the public. The Teach-In website at



www.nationalbiodiversityteachin.com has a full schedule and details on the speakers and topics being discussed. Those who register to attend a webinar will receive a personalized Zoom link.

Upcoming Deadlines

For high school sophomores and juniors:

The deadline to apply for the full-time Dual Credit program at Elgin Community College (ECC) is Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025. The Dual Credit program provides an opportunity for students to take all of their coursework at ECC while earning both high school and college credit simultaneously. Find more details at u-46.org/dualcredit.

For high school seniors:

Have you logged in to the U-46 Educational Foundation Online Scholarship Portal? You'll find 12 scholarships all in ONE online application. Our portal was designed to make it easier for U-46 seniors to apply for multiple scholarships. In some cases, you can even use the same essay for more than one scholarship. [Check it out here](#).

Don't forget that most scholarship applications require teacher recommendations, and teachers need time to write these! If you are applying for scholarships on the Foundation portal, start early and give your teachers plenty of time. Deadline for all U-46 Foundation Online Application submissions is Monday, March 3.

More Resources

We're Hiring

Have you considered becoming a part of the U-46 team? School District U-46 offers a number of [rewarding opportunities](#) for educators and support staff.



Weekly Message from Dr. Johnson

Each week, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson shares a message with U-46 employees and community members. You can read the latest message [here](#).



Care Solace

[Care Solace](#) is a complimentary and confidential service provided by School District U-46 to help locate a provider for mental health care or substance use treatment. It's available to U-46 students, staff, and their family members.



Board of Education

The Board of Education meetings are streamed on the District's [YouTube channel](#) and via Zoom. Written highlights from the meetings, as well as presentations delivered to the Board, can be found [here](#).



Community

Visit our [U-46 Online Backpack](#) to find information on community events, activities, and resources for our U-46 families and students.



School District U-46

All means all.

