



**The weekly newsletter from School District U-46**

**April 10, 2024**

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## **Calendar**

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

- **Thursday, April 11:** African American Advisory Council meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Wednesday, April 17:** Newcomer Parent Support Group. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, April 22:** Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).

## **Summer Connection**

Have you checked out the robust offerings of the 2024 Summer Connection programs yet? There are [learning and enrichment opportunities](#) for elementary students, and a [special program](#) for those who are new to the United States. Current 6th, 7th, and 8th graders can sign up for [academic enrichment opportunities](#), and high school students can take advantage of [credit recovery options](#).

All students entering 7th grade are encouraged to attend a voluntary two-day program that will feature community and team-building activities. Called the [Middle](#)



[School Experience](#), it will be offered at each of our eight middle schools and will help students become familiar with their new classmates, schedules, and buildings.

Similarly, students entering 9th grade can be a part of the two-day [Freshman Connection](#) at the high school they will attend in August, and seniors can join [College Jumpstart](#) to help refine their post-secondary plans, get guidance on college applications and essays, and more.

Fees for the U-46 summer school program will be waived for 2024, and transportation will be available to eligible students who sign up before specific deadlines for each program. There are limited spots available, though, so click [here](#) to begin the sign-up process for elementary summer school and [here](#) for secondary summer school.

Separately, our five comprehensive high schools are hosting a number of [athletic camps](#) this summer, too.

If you have questions about Summer Connection programs, please contact your school directly or use [Let's Talk](#).

## Safety Tuesday on Wednesday

Drivers ages 16 and 17 get into more car accidents than any other age group, according to [research](#) from the American Automobile Association (AAA) Foundation for Traffic Safety. Teen drivers don't have the experience or skills that older drivers have, and they get distracted easily, especially if they have friends in the car.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) offers a [number of resources](#) to help parents develop their teen's driving skills. One of the most important pieces of advice the agency offers is to learn about the laws that apply to new drivers in your state, in our case [Illinois](#). For instance, Illinois drivers ages 16 and 17 have restrictions on their nighttime driving. Also, for the first 12 months of licensing, or until the driver turns 18, whichever occurs first, the number of passengers is limited to one person under age 20, unless the passenger is a sibling, stepsibling, child, or stepchild of the driver.



Distracted driving can also involve the use of mobile phones. One in three teens say they have texted while driving. Research has found that dialing a phone number while driving increases a teen's risk of crashing by six times, and texting while driving increases the risk by 23 times.

Parents and guardians should not only talk to their teens about the risks of distracted driving but also set consequences for breaking a distraction rule you have set, such as cutting down on the hours or places they can drive. Adults also must set a good example - keep your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel while driving. Teen drivers learn from watching their parents, relatives, and others.

## African American Advisory Council

The District's Curriculum & Instruction Department will be the focus of the next meeting of the African American Advisory Council. At the end of the meeting, the council will continue its book

club discussion of "Punished for Dreaming: How School Reform Harms Black Children and How We Heal," by Dr. Bettina L. Love.

All are welcome to attend the meeting, which will be conducted via Zoom at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 11. To attend this meeting, please register at [info.u-46.org/AAAC23-24](https://info.u-46.org/AAAC23-24).

## Newcomer Parent Support Group

If your family is new to the United States, we hope you can attend the next session of our Newcomer Parent Support Group on Wednesday, April 17, at 6 p.m. at the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin.

Those who attend this session will learn more about the registration process for the 2024-25 school year and services offered by our [Project Access](#) department, as well as social-emotional support strategies for adults and children. Community resources will be available, and childcare will be provided.

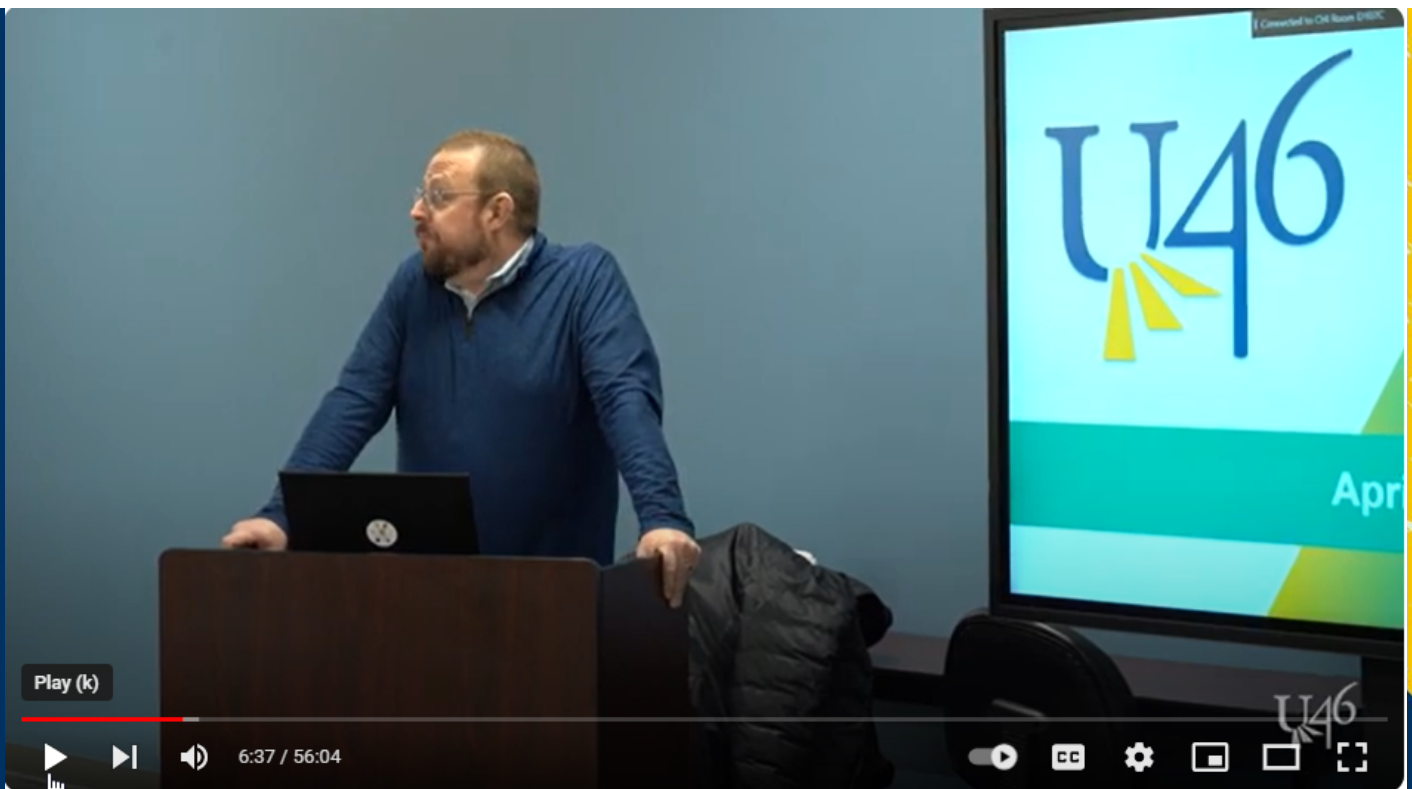
The sessions will be interpreted in Gujarati, Hindi, Panjabi, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Urdu. Families that do not speak these languages are also welcome to attend.

These sessions are organized by the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, and questions can be directed through [Let's Talk](#).

## Community Advisory Council

The April meeting of the [Community Advisory Council](#) focused on how CAC's future direction can connect with the strategic priorities in U-46. Watch [this video](#) to see a recap of the meeting, and then take [this survey](#) to provide your input on potential priorities, focus, and structure of the U-46 Community Advisory Council (CAC) moving forward.





## Dual Language Interest Form

Take the first step in your child's multilingual journey by filling out the [Dual Language Interest Form](#). The deadline for parents and guardians of incoming kindergarten or 1st grade students to submit the interest form for our award-winning Dual Language program is Friday, May 10.



Filling out the form does not guarantee placement, but begins the process.

If you have not been able to attend one of our Dual Language Info Sessions, there are two remaining sessions this spring, both hosted by the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department:

- A virtual session will be held Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. That meeting can be joined [here](#).
- An in-person meeting will be held Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Otter Creek Elementary School, 2701 Hopps Road, Elgin.

These hour-long sessions will explain the structure of the Dual Language program, resources available for parents to support their child's learning experience, and will allow for Q&A time. The programs will be offered in English and Spanish.

Please help spread the word about this great opportunity for young students. Any families with questions can call 847-888-5000, ext. 5331 or 5332, or visit [u-46.org/duallanguage](https://u-46.org/duallanguage).

## #U46Eclipse

More than 20,000 students, teachers, and staff were able to safely view the solar eclipse outside on April 8. The U-46 Science Department planned nearly two years ahead of time to make sure students and staff were provided with the proper training, resources, and solar eyewear. Their hard work received recognition from two local news stations. The U-46 Planetarium and Planetarium



Director Peggy Hernandez were highlighted on [NBC Chicago](#), and on the day of the eclipse, U-46 Science Coordinator Deb McMullen and students at Elgin High School were a part of a live [CBS Chicago](#) broadcast.

Thank you to all the teachers and staff who helped make it possible for our students to experience the wonder of this celestial event. We hope everyone remembers this special day in U-46 in 2024, when the next eclipse visible from the United States is expected to occur!



## #U46FirstDayReady

All currently enrolled students must be registered for the 2024-25 school year by May 31 or else wait for late registration to open in the summer.

No instructional fees are being collected; the District is covering the cost of instructional materials fees for the 2024-25 school year.

By registering this spring, you can help the District better plan for staffing and transportation for next school year and help ensure our schools are ready to welcome students on the first day back.

Find more information at [u-46.org/registration](https://u-46.org/registration) and easy instructions for current families [here](#).

# U46 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION

## Now Open



Register your Student Today  
at [u-46.org/registration](https://u-46.org/registration)

## Save the Date!

U-46 will celebrate Children's Day (Día de los Niños) on Saturday, April 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at Larkin High School. This free event is sponsored by School District U-46, its Multilingual & Multicultural Education Department, and the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC). There will be lots of fun activities for kids, including face painting, crafts, and a storytime, plus free lunch for the first 500 attendees.

## More Resources

### 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](#).



### We Are 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.



## 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](#).



## Care Coordination

[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.



Online Backpack  
Mochila Digital

## 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.

