



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

**May 1, 2024**

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## **Calendar**

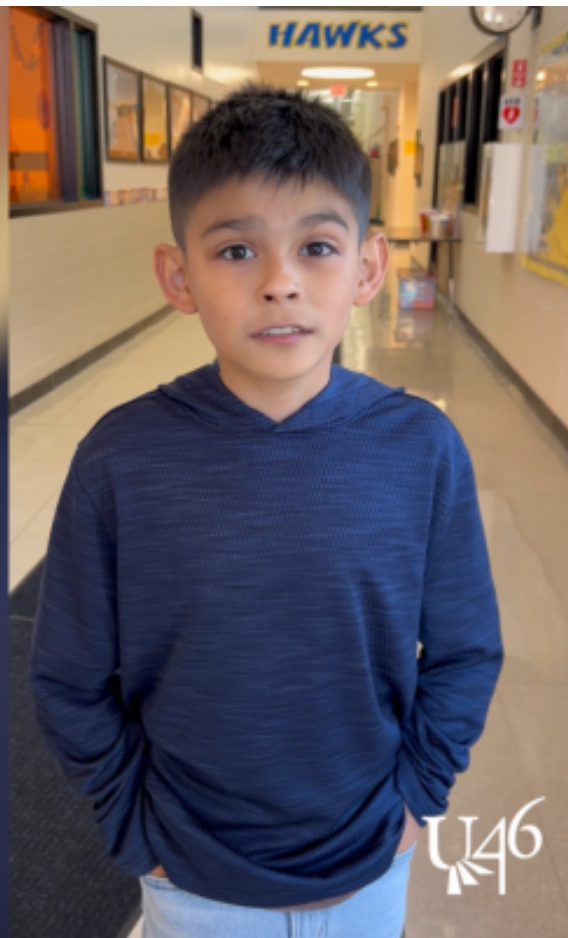
*Stay tuned for upcoming events with our District website calendar available [here](#).*

- **Thursday, May 2:** Community Advisory Council meeting [Details here](#).
- **Monday, May 6:** Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Wednesday, May 8:** Dual Language Info Session. [Details here](#).
- **Wednesday, May 8:** Unite U-46 Community Engagement Session. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, May 9:** African American Advisory Council. [Details here](#).

## **May 3 - Important Reminder!**

[Here's a reminder](#) that school will be in session on May 3, as it is now a student attendance day.

Please visit [u-46.org/calendar](https://u-46.org/calendar) to view and download the calendar for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.



## #U46FirstDayReady

To our U-46 families who have completed the registration process for the 2024-25 school year — THANK YOU!

If you have not yet started the registration process, now is the time to do it — all currently enrolled students must be registered by May 31 this year.

It's also easier to turn in necessary paperwork before the summer break begins, and if you run into problems, the front office staff at your child's school is available to help.

There are no instructional fees being collected - the District is covering those costs.

Get started [here](#). You can use a laptop, desktop computer, or your student's District-issued Chromebook. If you've forgotten a password or username, or need other assistance, [this page](#) will help.



## Community Advisory Council

Don't miss the last opportunity to attend a [Community Advisory Council](#) meeting for the 2023-24 school year. The final meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, at the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin.



The chairs of the CAC's committees will deliver their year-end

This is a great time to get involved with CAC and to preview how your participation can positively impact our school district's future in the 2024-25 school year and beyond. Please consider completing [this brief survey](#) to help determine the group's focus areas for next school year, including the best time to meet.

## African American Advisory Council

The Department of Equity and Innovation is asking for your input at the final African American Advisory Council meeting of the 2023-34 school year.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, May 9, via Zoom from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The focus is to gather suggestions from our learning community on ways to increase educational equity for our students. The meeting will conclude with its book club discussion of "Punished for Dreaming: How School Reform Harms Black Children and How We Heal," by Dr. Bettina L. Love. To register and receive your unique Zoom link, please visit [info.u-46.org/AAAC23-24](https://info.u-46.org/AAAC23-24).

## Dual Language Interest Form Deadline

The deadline to submit the interest form for incoming kindergarten or 1st grade students to participate in our award-winning Dual Language program is Friday, May 10. Filling out the form does not guarantee placement, but begins the process.



There is one more opportunity to attend a Dual Language info session this spring on Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Otter Creek Elementary School, 2701 Hopps Road, Elgin.

This hour-long session, hosted by the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, 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 program will be offered in English and Spanish.

Any families with questions can call 847-888-5000, ext. 5331 or 5332, or visit [u-46.org/duallanguage](https://u-46.org/duallanguage).

## Planetarium Sky Show

Come learn about the history of the U-46 Planetarium and its rich connection to Elgin at the next Public Sky Show on Monday, May 10, at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.



Doors open at 4 p.m. Seating is limited and no reservations are taken. Admission is \$2 per person or \$10 maximum per family, cash only. Discretion is advised for children ages 5 and under due to time in the darkness and the length of the program.

The Planetarium is located at 312 Watch St., at the corner of Watch and Raymond streets in Elgin. Free parking is available in a lot at the corner of Raymond and National streets, one block away.

There is no parking on Watch Street or in private lots. Find more information [here](#).

## Thank a Teacher

Honor a special teacher or school staff member for Teacher Appreciation Week 2024.

Teacher Appreciation Week begins May 6, and the [U-46 Educational Foundation](#) is offering several ways to thank a teacher. Some include a donation, but they all include your personal heartfelt message of why your teacher is special.

The suggested levels are as follows:

- **Free** - Write a personalized message that will be sent via email to your teacher as a special surprise during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- **\$50 donation** - Your message will be sent to your teacher in a colorful card. The teacher will receive it during the Teacher Appreciation Week, along with a notification of your donation.
- **\$250** - you can surprise your teacher with a Very Special Teacher certificate, which will be delivered in person directly to their classroom by a U-46 VIP, during Teacher Appreciation Week.



If you would like to support the U-46 Foundation by thanking a teacher, please click [here](#) and follow the instructions to get started. If you have any questions, you may reach out to [foundation@u-46.org](mailto:foundation@u-46.org).

## Superintendent's Scholarship Video

School District U-46 celebrated 30 seniors last week during the annual Superintendent's Scholarship reception and awards ceremony. These members of the Class of 2024 are first-generation college-bound students, and each will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Learn more about these impressive students in [this video](#).





## SUN Program - Food & Nutrition Services

Beginning in the summer of 2024, the state of Illinois is participating in nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) Program. [Summer EBT](#), also known as SUN Bucks, is designed to reduce childhood hunger by providing families with a monthly grocery benefit to feed their children during the summer months when students are not receiving meals at school.



Eligible families can receive up to \$120 per child, allocated in three payments of \$40 each, to purchase food in the summer from grocery stores and other authorized retailers. Children who are eligible are those who live in a household with an income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

We encourage those who believe they are eligible to fill out the 2023-2024 Fee Waiver form, available in English and Spanish [here](#), before May 15. Households that already qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Income Eligible Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or have children who are homeless or in foster care, are not required to fill out the Fee Waiver Form. No action is required for households that have already filled out the 2023-2024 Fee Waiver form.

For more questions on eligibility, please contact the Illinois Department of Human Services by calling 1-800-843-6154 or by visiting their [website linked here](#). Our District or school staff will not be able to answer questions, please be sure to contact the Department of Human Services directly.

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## 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](#).



## 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. Learn more [here](#).



## 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](#).



## 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.



## 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.

