

Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



Aug. 24, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

In my previous weekly message, I mentioned using this opportunity to share our system's goals. I'll begin with our goal that "U-46 will establish and operate equity-focused, inclusive, efficient, and safe learning environments."

This week, we clearly demonstrated and executed this goal by welcoming preschool students into our system. It was exciting to see our youngest learners begin or continue their educational path in U-46. Thank you to our team members who worked tirelessly to prepare for their arrival.

Also, this week, we faced some high temperatures! I want to thank our entire U-46 team for your service to our students in the midst of this heat wave. Temperatures have been challenging across numerous sites and departments. A special thank you to our operations team for keeping our buildings cool. And, a special KUDOS to our transportation team for transporting our students via buses, many that lack air conditioning. Thank you!

This goal clearly aligns with our effort to provide welcoming and safe schools for all students as we strive to make each day a great day to learn in U-46. Additionally, this goal is clearly aligned with our [Unite U-46](#) work.

How is this goal aligned to "Making Each Day a Great Day to Learn in U-46?" In U-46, we believe that updated, safe, and accessible facilities will positively impact learning and engagement. To realize this goal, we will:

- Create spaces to allow for balanced enrollment and class size to support more teaming opportunities and differentiated rigorous instruction.

- Support the facilities plan to result in more efficient operations with regularly scheduled maintenance to improve the annual budgeting process and decrease the need for emergency repairs and risk factors.
- Increase early childhood opportunities to result in improved outcomes for all students as they matriculate through the school district.
- Establish inclusive educational environments to foster feelings of belonging.
- Updating pathway and career and technical education spaces across the school district.

What are the primary actions to achieve the goal?

- Execute on all planned facility updates across the school district.
- Identify school buildings to retire, enhance or rebuild.
- Obtain real estate for new construction.
- Organize building maintenance schedules for roofs, preventative maintenance, etc.

I realize this goal is extremely aggressive. I also realize this goal is essential to providing every student the learning environment they deserve to be college and career-ready. Next week, I will provide an overview of another goal for the 2023-24 year.

It's a great day to learn in U-46!

Dr. Suzanne Johnson



School District U-46

