

Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



Nov. 8, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe we have been in school for over two months. Now is an opportune time to return to our instructional goal for the 2024-25 school year:

School District U-46 will maximize resources available to accelerate student growth in alignment with the [U-46 instructional clarity framework](#).

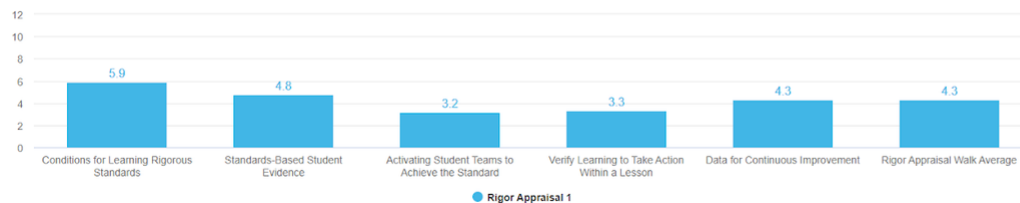
Our Instructional Teams across U-46 are essential for accelerating student growth. Whether you are part of an Instructional Leadership Team, School Improvement Team, Teacher Collaborative Team or District Team, your collaboration and focus on student data is essential and makes a difference for our students. As teams review data, they should consider the following:

- Where are we at in our cycle of improvement?
- Are we following the ORID data protocol?
- Did we accomplish our goals established in our first 45-day plan or what goals are continuing and may have been revised?
- How can we enhance implementation of our strategies to reach our goals?
- What is our communication plan for our work and has it been shared with all essential audiences?

Below is a snapshot of the Average Rigor Appraisal Scores from the beginning of the year. Conditions for Learning Rigorous Standards had the highest average pillar score (5.9), while Activating Student Teams to Achieve the Standard had the lowest average pillar score (3.2).

Rigor Appraisal Pillar Scores

The Rigor Appraisal contains questions on a 12-point scale, grouped into one of five pillars. The average score for each pillar is compared below. Higher scores indicate a stronger alignment with the characteristics of rigorous instruction



Rigor Appraisal Summary

In the most recent Rigor Appraisal,

- **Conditions for Learning Rigorous Standards** received the highest average pillar score (5.9)
- **Activating Student Teams to Achieve the Standard** received the lowest average pillar score (3.2)

This data will continue to be reviewed by sites and across the district in coming weeks and in alignment with our upcoming Illinois State Board of Education School Designations. School designations have been announced publicly. We will continue to support staff meetings at schools to present designations, the explanation of the ISBE process of designation and the process forward for schools.

Please continue to consider your vital role in our work to accelerate student growth and how your collaboration with colleagues can expedite this work. How can all of us support the conditions for learning in our buildings? We want to make sure our students arrive safely, to be welcomed by learning environments that support optimal student growth and make each day a great day to learn in U-46!

Dr. Suzanne Johnson

Kudos

Send Kudos directly by clicking [HERE](#) or using Let's Talk. Remember, only Kudos with the sender's name will appear in the Weekly; no anonymous messages. Kudos are due by **5 p.m. each Tuesday**.

Kudos to Ingrid Reyes in Specialized Student Services, from Mayra Ortiz, at Kenyon Woods Middle School

It's incredible to have a psychologist who's so willing to help with complex topics like non-discriminatory assessment strategies. Ingrid is knowledgeable and willing to help staff understand this topic. This reflects her commitment to equity in education and to ensuring every student has a fair chance. Her expertise is invaluable in navigating the sensitive and nuanced aspects of assessment for students with special needs and English Learners. Kudos to her for being such an insightful resource for the district.

Kudos to Griselda Villegas, in Health Services, from Brandy Rajabali, at Independence Center for Early Learning

Thank you Zelda for all of your hard work these last few weeks while screening our students for Vision and Hearing! You were so patient and calm; it put our little students at ease. I really appreciate all that you do! We can't wait to see you next year!

Kudos to Nick Corn and the Plant Operations Team, from Heather Heatley, at Wayne Elementary School

Thank you for putting up the fence to keep our students safe on the playground. We appreciate your hard work!

Kudos to Jesseka Rutherford, from Melissa Neal, both in Health Services

Thank you for being an awesome coworker and for your help and collaboration when I needed you. You are always willing to step in and help! You are appreciated!

Kudos to Patrick Hillebrand, from Heather Rocen, both at Larsen Middle School

We are hosting our second annual Winter Clothing Drive at Larsen Middle School on Dec. 7. Patrick and family hosted a family party, and participants were asked to bring in new or gently used winter gear. Patrick and his family donated multiple giant garbage bags full of winter gear for our students and their families. Thank you so much for donating to our community.

Kudos to David Aleman, at Otter Creek Elementary School, from Melisa Creighton, U-46 Parent

Thank you to Otter Creek Principal Aleman for your communication and compassion with a recent issue. We appreciate all you do!

Kudos to Michelle Baldwin, Mandy Byrne, Elia Sanchez and Monica Estrada, from Catherine Fletcher and Dr. Angel Brooks, all at Heritage Elementary School

A shout out for their help with our fabulous Fall Fest last week! We appreciate you always stepping up!

Kudos to Paraeducators at Centennial Elementary School, from Nicole Bryan, at Centennial Elementary School

I want to extend a huge thank you to Centennial's incredible paraeducators for their unwavering dedication and commitment. Every day, they go above and beyond to support our students, creating a positive learning environment and making a lasting impact. Their hard work and passion are truly valued, and I am so grateful for everything they do! Thank you!

Kudos to Jessica Harrison, in Specialized Student Services, and Marisa Herrell, in Culture and Climate, from Nicole Bryan, at Centennial Elementary School

A huge thank you to Jessica and Marisa for their invaluable support in joining our Individualized Learning Plan teams to observe, collect data, and help problem-solve. Your expertise and commitment to collaboration are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for the guidance you continue to provide. Thank you for making a tremendous impact!

Kudos to Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite and Rosalind Cobbs in Equity & Innovation, Tiffany Jourdan at Central School Programs, Kevin Seal and Amelia Velazquez in Specialized Student Services, and Mike Grondin, David Smith, Jonathon Miquelon, and Anthony Venetico, all at South Elgin High School, from Tara Burghart, in Communications and Community Relations

Thank you all for your recent help with the Care Solace project. Some of you had to devote time to prep and scheduling in advance, others accommodated the crew on the day of filming. All of you played an important role in what I'm sure will be an impactful finished product. I really appreciate your flexibility and collaboration.

Kudos to Angelica Kobylinski, at Ontarioville Elementary School, from Norma Bandel, at Bartlett High School

Thank you Angelica, for your dedication, hard work and contribution to School District U-46 for more than 20 years. You are leaving a legacy of commendable work ethic and excellent service.

You always went out of your way to help parents, students and your coworkers, especially the Home School Liaisons. Congratulations Angelica! May this retirement be the best part of your life.



School District U-46

