

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U46Engage Sessions to Welcome Parents of Early Learners to District

Sessions Aimed at Parents of the Class of 2031

ELGIN - School District U-46 will host informational sessions starting this week for parents and guardians of the District's more than 2,500 Full-Day Kindergarten students, the Class of 2031. The sessions, called U46Engage, are designed to help parents confidently navigate their young learner's educational journey through the state's second-largest district.

Parents will learn about the various academic programs, services and opportunities available in the District's K-12 schools, such as gifted programming and Dual Language education, as well as ways they can support their child's education at home, school or at the District level.

"U46Engage informs and inspires kindergarten parents to lead their children through a successful K-12 educational experience in U-46," said CEO Tony Sanders. "We know that parental involvement supports student success, leading to better academic outcomes, higher attendance rates and stronger social and emotional growth."

The 90-minute English-language sessions begin at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20, while Spanish-language sessions will be offered at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25. Both sessions will be in the library of Elgin High School, [1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin](#). Free childcare will be available. To help with planning, parents are asked to RSVP for the session they would like to attend. They can do so here: <https://goo.gl/Zd7Xtm>.

The event will feature an expert panel made of a U-46 parent, student, principal and U-46 Board of Education member who will share tips for making the most of a

student's K-12 education. The panel will offer candid discussions about their experience and expectations. A roundtable conversation will then allow parents to ask questions and learn more about the District's schools and programs. The District will showcase the talent of U-46 students at the start of each session with Kiersten Larsen, a South Elgin High School student singing on Sept. 20, and Isaiah Mercado, an Ellis Middle School student singing on Sept. 25.

Parents at U46Engage will also be encouraged to fill out the Parent Volunteer Promise, a tool created by the U-46 School & Community Relations Department to inform and encourage parents to be involved with their child's education. During the 2017-18 school year, more than 1,000 (41 percent) of kindergarten parents submitted a completed Promise, agreeing to be involved in their child's education for at least five hours during the school year through activities such as reading at home with their child, attending their school's PTO/PTA or being a part of a District advisory group. A copy of this year's Promise can be found in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).

WHO: Parents and guardians of current Full-Day Kindergarten students.

WHAT: Presentations on U-46 programs and how parents can become involved at the school or District level.

WHEN: 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20 (English presentation) and 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25 (Spanish presentation).

WHERE: Elgin High School Library, [1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin](#).