

Press Clippings 11/01/19

---Courier News---11/01/2019

Report: U46 spent \$12K per student last year

Board of Education adds categories to Illinois Report Card

By: Rafael Guerrero



Kimball Middle School Principal Charlotte Coleman helps a student on the first day of school. The school spends \$15,000 per student, among the highest in School District U46, according to the Illinois Report Card. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News)

School District U46 schools spent an average \$12,000 per student in the 2018-19 school year, according to financial data in the new Illinois Report Card released Wednesday.

Per-student spending is one of several categories added this year to the annual analysis of school information compiled by the Illinois State Board of Education. Also new in the report are line items for federal, state and local funding and district-centralized and school-specific expenditures.

In addition to income and spending, the report cards also provide detailed data on state assessment scores, graduation rates, class sizes, school designation rankings, teacher retention rates and other items.

Per-student spending in U46, the state's second-largest district, varied depending on a variety of factors, including if the school has a preschool, number of students transported by bus, number of special needs students and teacher salaries.

Kimball Middle School in Elgin was among the highest, spending just over \$15,000 per student, while Bartlett Elementary School was among the lowest at \$9,426 per student. The spread between the district's five high schools was closer, with per-student spending ranging from a low of \$11,227 at South Elgin to a high of \$13,728 at Larkin.

Like almost all school districts in Illinois, U46 pays a higher per-pupil rate for preschool, alternative education and special needs students. The district's full-day preschool program spent \$21,276 per student while the Central School program for special needs high school students was \$31,464, a higher cost attributed to specialized services that are generally more expensive, according to information provided with the data.

“You will see some fluctuations for a lot of reasons,” said Josh Carpenter, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. “Some programs may require more staff, which can change the per-pupil costs.”

An underutilized school will spend differently than an overcrowded school, he said. A school with a larger number of English-language learning students will likely spend more. Schools with more programs and more teachers are likely to spend more than a smaller school, he said.

“You think of the number of high school programs there are, there can be a variety of things that make a high school run that aren’t particularly available at an elementary school,” Carpenter said.

A building’s age, school bus transportation, square footage, building usage, percentage of students in special education programming, and the seniority and education of a school’s educator staff all factor into a school’s spending plan, district spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

District officials will provide more insight on the report card data at an upcoming school board meeting in November, Fergus said.

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act required schools to disclose per-student spending beginning this school year. In a media call last Friday, Sara Shaw, the state board’s senior manager of fiscal and academic solvency, said the hope is the school-specific spending data will encourage parents “to ask more questions about why and how and what does that mean for a district and decision making on how to use resources to support students.”

The 2018-19 report card data release marks the second year the state board has ranked schools as exemplary, commendable, under-performing or lowest-performing.

Two U46 schools, Bartlett Elementary School and Prairieview Elementary school in Bartlett, received exemplary designations, the first U46 schools to earn the ranking. Only 10% of the state’s highest performing schools receive the exemplary designation.

The majority of U46 schools were listed as commendable. Last year 45 fell into this category; this year the number was 46.

The five schools cited as under-performing were Elgin High School, Creekside and Ronald O’Neal elementary schools in Elgin, Hanover Countryside Elementary in Streamwood and Laurel Hill Elementary in Hanover Park.

One year earlier, eight schools were under-performing. Abbott and Larsen middle schools in Elgin, Canton and Tefft middle schools in Streamwood, and Parkwood Elementary School in Hanover Park were under-performing but moved up to commendable. Creekside and Laurel Hill moved from commendable to under-performing.

No U46 schools were listed as low-performing.

Schools earn a final score and designation based on categories including graduation rates, math proficiency, student academic growth, and chronic absenteeism. To review the Illinois Report Card data for your school and others in the state, go to www.illinoisreportcard.com/.

---WBBM NEWS RADIO---11/01/2019

Students Across The Country Petition For Day Off After Halloween, Elgin School District U-46 CEO Gives Sugary Response

By: Mike Krauser

OCTOBER 30, 2019 - 9:25 AM

CHICAGO (WBBM NEWSRADIO) -- Students across the country are joining what's become a tongue-in-cheek movement on change.org to get classes canceled the day after Halloween and some local students are on board.

On one petition a student wrote they are going to be "partied out after a night out with their bros."

Another [petition was started by a student at Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211](#). The student, Ryan Burton, wrote "School after Halloween is very inconvenient."

More than 4,700 people have signed that petition. The school district has yet to comment on the day-off request.

A similar petition was started for Elgin Area School District U-46, which received a response from district Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders.

"In honor of your petition, I will respond using candy names," Sanders posted. "You make me Snicker. You must think I'm one of the Dum Dums or maybe one of the Nerds. Take 5 and think about this. I'd be giving you a day Now & Later given the winter forecast. Sorry, but I'm a Milk Dud."



 **Tony Sanders**
@TonySandersU46

I particularly enjoyed replying to the Halloween petition using candy names. twitter.com/TonySandersU46...

Tony Sanders @TonySandersU46
Replying to @babygirl_em @bluetrashcan03

In honor of your petition, I will respond using candy names. You make me Snicker. You must think I'm one of the Dum Dums or maybe one of the Nerds. Take 5 and think about this. I'd be giving you a day Now & Later given the winter forecast. Sorry, but I'm a Milk Dud.

50 8:43 PM - Oct 28, 2019

[See Tony Sanders's other Tweets](#)

One student wrote "Everybody will be high on SUGAR!!!" While another wrote, "expecting us to pay attention in class the day after is just preposterous."

Other suburban districts named in petitions include Cary Elementary District 26, Naperville Unit District 203, Geneva Unit District 304, Huntley Unit District 158, Libertyville-Vernon Hills High School District 128, Mundelein High School District 120 and West Aurora Unit District 129.

Millions across the country have signed the petitions.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---11/01/2019

Girls volleyball: Hononegah ends South Elgin's season

By: Craig Brueske

South Elgin's girls volleyball team ran into a buzz saw in the form of Rockton Hononegah Thursday night.

Putting everything together at the right time, the 4th-seeded Indians (26-8) ended the season for the 5th-seeded Storm with a 25-13, 25-13 decision during their Class 4A Larkin regional championship match in Elgin.

Rockton Hononegah advances to Monday's Dundee-Crown sectional semifinals at 5:30 p.m. against top-seeded Huntley (32-5).

After taking a 1-0 lead on a back-row kill from freshman Alyssa Worden (5 kills, 1 ace), South Elgin dug itself a massive hole as the Indians rattled off the next 12 points, highlighted by 3 aces from senior setter Anna Tapia (20 assists, 4 aces).

"You can't play a team like that timid," said Storm coach Joni Plach. "We definitely came out timid hoping somebody else would make the play instead of being the person saying, 'I'm going to make the play tonight.'"

South Elgin tried to battle back, pulling within 17-10 on an ace from Emma Hunter before the Indians scored 8 of the next 11 points to take the opening game.

During one stretch late in the set, Rockton Hononegah recorded 3 consecutive blocks -- 2 from 6-foot-1 junior middle Alexis Lewis (4 kills, 4 blocks).