

## Press Clippings 07/17/20 to 07/21/20

---ABC7--- 07/21/2020

### U-46 Elgin School District proposed plan calls for remote learning until October

By: ABC 7 Chicago Digital Team

ELGIN, Ill. (WLS) -- Elgin's U-46 School District unveiled its plan for a safe return to school.

Administrators Monday night said they will start the school year on August 24 with distance learning through October 9.

They're also recommending that small groups of students would be invited back to school on a limited basis throughout the quarter.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said remote learning will be improved from the spring. There will be more live, interactive sessions and students will be graded for their work.

The plan calls for a hybrid model of remote learning and in-class learning to begin on Oct. 12 for elementary and middle school students, with most high school students remaining on remote learning.

Families of elementary and middle school students can also choose to attend a Distance Learning Academy the entire first semester.

"This plan allows us some flexibility and gives us time to bring smaller groups of students back to school, even in the first quarter, for critical in-person learning and so that they can be accustomed to new safety provisions such as wearing a mask during the school day, washing hands frequently and maintaining social distance," Superintendent Sanders said.

For more information on the plan, [visit the school district's website.](#)

---WBBM NewsRadio--- 07/21/2020

### Elgin District U-46 To Likely Start New School Year With Distance Learning

By: Bernie Tafoya



**CHICAGO (WBBM NEWSRADIO)** -- The 39,000 students enrolled in Illinois' second largest school district will likely be starting their new school year learning from home.

Elgin District U-46 Supt. Tony Sanders outlined his back-to-school recommendations Monday night during the school board's meeting via Zoom.

He and his team are recommending pushing back the start of school from Aug. 12 to Aug. 24 and to begin instruction for all students via distance learning through Oct. 9. He said that, throughout the first quarter, small groups of students will be invited back to school on a limited basis to get used to new coronavirus prevention protocols.

"Rather than flipping a switch like we usually do at the beginning of a school year where all the buses roll out of the transportation department, where every classroom teacher is back in the classroom, what I see this year going as is more of a dimmer switch," he said.

Supt. Sanders said hopes to be able to have a hybrid instructional system begin Oct. 12, depending upon the state of the coronavirus pandemic and recommendations from public health officials.

After that date, Sanders recommends elementary and middle school students spend a couple of days a week learning in-school and a couple of days learning online from home.

The superintendent envisions most high school students learning online from home through the second quarter.

Supt. Sanders said the safety of students and staff is the top priority.

"I continue to ask myself how would I deal with the loss of a student or a staff member as a result of my decision to reopen? My answer to that question is that I cannot accept the loss of life," he said.

The school board votes on the recommendations next week.

Read below Supt. Sanders' letter to families and staff in District U-46:

District-U46 Superintendent Tony Sanders' Update on Reopening Schools

July 20, 2020

Dear Students, Families and Staff,

School District U-46 remains committed to ensuring the safety of our students and staff as we plan for teaching and learning to resume for the 2020-21 school year. Tonight, July 20th, members of our administration presented our recent reopening schools survey results, as well as our recommended reopening plan to our Board of Education. You can see the presentation here and watch the live Zoom meeting on our Youtube channel.

We have considered several scenarios, including some that I have previously shared with you. There are risks and benefits to each and we weighed those factors as we developed our framework for reopening. Here are the key highlights for families from tonight's presentation:

--The proposal is considered a recommendation until next week when the Board of Education will vote on it as well as the related calendar changes.

--We have moved back the first day of school for students to Aug. 24.

--We will start the school year for all students with Distance Learning through October 9. Small groups of students will be invited back to school on a limited basis throughout the quarter.

--This Distance Learning Model will be improved from last spring with more live, interactive sessions. Students will be assessed and issued grades aligned to standards. All student work will count towards the determination of the student's performance level. All teachers and students will be using the same learning platform, called "Canvas," for remote learning.

--Assuming our state remains in Phase IV with the same restrictions, we will begin a hybrid model on Oct. 12 for elementary and middle school students while the majority of high school students will remain in distance learning through the second quarter. The exceptions include students who are English Language Learners, students with special needs and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), those who need additional social and emotional support, and students taking specific hands-on science lab and Career Technical Education (CTE) courses.

--Separate from the above model, we will develop a Distance Learning Academy that elementary and middle school students and families can choose to attend for the entire first semester.

--We will determine when we can resume full in-person instruction based on state guidance.

This plan allows us some flexibility and gives us time to bring smaller groups of students back to school, even in the first quarter, for critical in-person learning and so that they can be accustomed to new safety provisions such as wearing a mask during the school day, washing hands frequently and maintaining social distance. The plan gives our faculty time to hone their online teaching skills and plan for a school year that will be unique to students here in U-46 and across the globe.

We know you have more questions. We will be providing consistent communication updates throughout the remainder of summer and into the school year. The school day, from beginning to end, will look different. In the hybrid model, there will be new protocols for riding school buses, using the restrooms, meal service, hallway interaction, after-school activities, and more. Many of those details continue to be discussed and determined and we will share those procedures as soon as we have made decisions in consultation with state and local health and education bodies including our State Board of Education, Regional Offices of Education, state and local health departments.

We continue to receive updated guidance from these entities on a regular basis, and that guidance will impact our plans. This remains a challenging time for all of us but we will do our best to be agile and responsive as we work to provide high-quality instruction within a safe learning environment for our students, faculty and entire staff. I hope that you and your families are healthy and well.

Sincerely,

Tony Sanders  
Superintendent

**---The Courier-News--- 07/21/2020**

## **New plan for U-46 schools: Students to start year with remote learning; first day delayed two weeks**

**By: Rafael Guerrero**



School District U-46 board members, officials, and members of the public gathered virtually for Monday's school board meeting. A final vote on the revised recommendation and altered 2020-21 school year calendar is scheduled for next week. (Rafael Guerrero / The Courier-News)

The majority of School District U-46's 38,000-plus students will learn remotely during the first seven weeks of the upcoming school year, Superintendent Tony Sanders said Monday.

As a result of the updated reopening plan, the first day of classes will be pushed back nearly two weeks from Aug. 12 to Aug. 24, pending final school board approval of the reopening plan and 2020-21 calendar change next week.

"I cannot accept the loss of life. So rather than flip a switch like we usually do at the beginning of the school year...what I see this year as is more of a dimmer switch," Sanders told the school board and virtual public audience at Monday's school board meeting. "We will remain predominantly distance learning through the first quarter."

Small groups of students will be invited back to their schools on a limited basis during the quarter. Officials said the goal is for every student to come in at some point during the first quarter to acclimate them to a school life of face coverings and social distancing. Priority access will be given to high-needs students like those requiring specialized services, English language learners, preschoolers and kindergartners.

Sanders said they are working with their after-school services provider Right at School and community partners like the Alignment Collaborative for Education to provide families with childcare services from the district's high school buildings.

Elementary and middle school families and staff are also being given the option to enroll or teach in a U-46 distance learning academy for the entire fall semester, which ends in December. Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Suzanne Johnson said they would send information to families later in the week on this option.

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**---Press Clippings---07/20/2020**  
**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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**---The Daily Herald--- 07/19/2020**  
**U-46 equity leader says students need to see themselves in those educating them**



Teresa Lance

Children need to see excellence represented in every level of an organization, says Teresa Lance, Elgin Area School District U-46's new assistant superintendent for equity and innovation.

"If I am only seeing African Americans or Latinx individuals serving my food or cleaning the classroom, that hits you," Lance said.

Lance says there's value in employing people of color in a variety of roles from paraprofessionals and classroom teachers to school principals and top-level administrators.

U-46 is a majority-minority district with Latinos constituting nearly 55% of the district's 38,395 students, followed by whites 26%, Asians 8%, Blacks 6% and two or more races 3%. Its teachers are roughly 72% white, 24% Latino, and less than 2% each Asian or Black, Illinois Report Card data show.

Beyond implicit bias: Lance's role at U-46 includes oversight of innovative strategies and programs across the state's second-largest school district.

She has been engaging district administrators and employees on one key question — what do they believe is the greatest inequity in U-46 — and plans to have a similar exchange with parents this fall. The district also needs to be more deliberate and intentional in educating employees about implicit bias, she said.

“Implicit bias training independent of some other systemic things changes little,” said Lance, adding that the training might not resonate with all of the district’s 4,500 employees. “We have to do some additional work.”

Lance said educators should be proficient in at least two cultures — their own and someone else’s.

**Equity town hall:** Hanover Park officials will conduct a virtual town hall discussion titled “Peace together our community” on delivering services equitably. It will be from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday. Panelists include Lisa Jackson, Elgin Area School District U-46 assessment and accountability coordinator, Hanover Park Deputy Police Chief Andy Johnson, and village human resources director Barry Kurcz. Village trustees Sharmin Shahjahan and Herb Porter will moderate the discussion. To register, visit [bit.ly/HPTownhall2](http://bit.ly/HPTownhall2).

**Women’s art:** Oakton Community College in Des Plaines is seeking entries for a women’s virtual art exhibition by Aug. 14.

Professional artists are invited to submit entries in all media for the “Where Are We Now?: Activism of the Everyday” exhibition, sponsored by the Women’s and Gender Studies department. It will run online from Oct. 19 through Nov. 20. This year’s exhibit examines how women have continued to evolve and change. Submit entries at [bit.ly/32w8arP](http://bit.ly/32w8arP). Visit [oakton.edu](http://oakton.edu).

**Service challenge:** Thirty-one Chicago area mosques have received a \$1,000 grant each to create a service project benefiting their community as part of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago’s service challenge.

The four-week, social-justice-themed challenge requires participating mosques to send in photographs and videos highlighting the progress of their projects, leading to a final video and a public voting day. Winners, including one mosque that will be awarded the grand prize of \$5,000, will be announced in August after the Islamic festival of Eid al-Adha on July 30.

“The pandemic and the senseless killing of Black men and women has highlighted the racial and economic injustices in our nation, and this challenge is a way for the Muslims of Illinois to come together and empower our communities to address the issues at hand,” said organization board Director Sabina Qadir, of Naperville.

Participants include 17 suburban Islamic centers including mosques in Bridgeview, Bolingbrook, Des Plaines, Libertyville, Mundelein, Naperville, Rolling Meadows, Wheaton, Willowbrook and Villa Park. Visit [ciogc.org/ciogc-social-justice-service-challenge/](http://ciogc.org/ciogc-social-justice-service-challenge/).

- Share stories, news and happenings from the suburban mosaic at [mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com](mailto:mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com).

**Free COVID-19 testing:** Free COVID-19 testing will be available in Lake Zurich, Mundelein and Round Lake starting today through Sunday, July 26, due to a recent outbreak among teens and younger adults in those communities.

Illinois Department of Public Health mobile testing sites will be set up at Lake Zurich, Mundelein, and Round Lake high schools on the following days:

- 9-11 a.m. for students and employees and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday for the public, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Lake Zurich High School Performing Arts Center parking lot, 300 Church St.
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Mundelein High School parking lot, 1350 W Hawley St.
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 26, Round Lake High School parking lot, 800 High School Drive.

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**---Press Clippings---07/18/2020**  
**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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**---Press Clippings---07/17/2020**  
**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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