



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46
Educational Services Center
355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543
Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007
Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 10, 2020

Contact: Mary Fergus

Phone: 847-888-5000, ext.4160

African-American Student Leaders to Host Forum on Equity and Race

Event to be live streamed onto YouTube

ELGIN - Two School District U-46 organizations are hosting a forum this month for high school students to share their questions, concerns, and reflections about equity and race. "Breaking Barriers in Education: An African American Student Leader Forum" will be filmed in person at the South Elgin High School library and streamed live to the District's [YouTube channel](#).

"Open conversations about race and equity help address the inequities that persist across our district, state, and our nation," said U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders. "Listening to the concerns of our high school students and learning more about their experiences is a valuable opportunity, and I hope many of our families will participate in this event."

The student leadership organizations, [Brothers Rise Up](#) and [Living Elegantly Ambitiously and Dauntlessly \(LEAD\)](#), will facilitate the event from noon to 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14. Both organizations have enhanced student life for more than a year, and the forum aligns with their mission to elevate students' leadership skills and voice. The forum is also one way the District is responding to [2020 Equity Survey results](#) in which only 13 percent of students surveyed said they engage in important conversations about race at school.

Two student representatives from each high school: Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, Streamwood, and the Dream Academy, will respond to questions submitted in advance from other high school students.

Students from the Beacon Academy of Media and Digital Arts at South Elgin High School will record the forum. All secondary students (7th through 12th graders) and their families are invited to listen and learn.



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46
Educational Services Center
355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543
Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007
Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

Jim Cook, a Dean's Assistant at Kenyon Woods Middle School, will moderate the hour-long discussion. Cook also facilitates the Brothers Rise Up leadership program for 3rd through 9th graders.

Even though most attendees will need to participate remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions, organizers believe students are eager to join the national dialogue on race and social justice.

"It is critically important that we listen to the voices of our students, especially our most marginalized students," said Dr. Teresa A. Lance, U-46 Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Innovation. "Our Black and Brown students offer a unique perspective from their lived experiences. Our hope is that we, as a community, will not just hear from our African American young men and women, but more importantly we will be propelled to act."

###

School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 38,000 pre-K through 12th graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).