

Press Clippings for January 31, 2023

– Chicago Tribune –

Tony Sanders of District U-46 named new state superintendent of education

Jan. 31, 2023

By Zareen Syed



U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders bumps elbows with kindergartener Aleyna Contreras at Oakhill Elementary School on May 6, 2021, in Streamwood. (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune) The Illinois State Board of Education announced Tuesday that **Tony Sanders, superintendent of Elgin School District U-46**, was named the new state superintendent of education.

The Illinois State Board of Education announced Tuesday that **Tony Sanders, superintendent of Elgin School District U-46**, was named the new state superintendent of education.

Carmen Ayala — the first woman and person of color to hold the position — announced in November that she would be retiring as the state’s top education official in February.

In 2007, **Sanders joined U-46** as the district’s chief communications officer and then held a chief of staff role before being appointed to lead the district in 2014.

“**Dr. Tony Sanders** is an extraordinary choice for State Superintendent of Education,” Governor J.B. Pritzker said in a news release. “**Dr. Sanders’** breadth of experience as superintendent of **School District U-46** and his entire background have prepared him to take

on this role. His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick.”

Sanders accomplished a number of things during his tenure at the second-largest school district in Illinois, including the expansion of the dual language program, the launch of full-day kindergarten and the creation of a dual credit program with Elgin Community College, according to a news release from **District U-46**.

Sanders also pushed for career pathways programs for high school students.

“The **U-46 School Board** is sad to see **Superintendent Sanders** leave, but knows that the children of the state of Illinois will benefit from his leadership at the Illinois State Board of Education,” said **U-46 Board of Education Board President Sue Kerr** in a statement.

Sanders will step in to the role in late February.

– Daily Herald –

U-46 Superintendent Sanders leaving district to become state superintendent of education

Jan. 31, 2023

By Alicia Fabbre



Elgin Area School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders will be leading the state as its top education official starting in February. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

Elgin Area School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders Tuesday was named the next state superintendent of education.

Sanders will assume his new duties in late February.

"The **U-46 school board** is sad to see **Superintendent Sanders** leave, but knows the children of the state of Illinois will benefit from his leadership at the Illinois State Board of Education," **U-46 school board President Sue Kerr** said in a statement. "We wish him the best in this next chapter of his life."

Sanders was appointed to lead the state's second-largest school district in 2014.

Kerr noted **Sanders'** numerous accomplishments including expansion of the district's dual language program, launching a full-day kindergarten program, starting a dual credit program with Elgin Community College, undergoing a facilities study to identify building needs and growing the career pathways programs for high school students.

"**Dr. Tony Sanders** has distinguished himself as a visionary leader and passionate advocate for students and educators," said Steven Isoye, ISBE board chairman. "As the superintendent of one of Illinois' largest school districts, he intimately understands the strengths, the policy history and the challenges of our public schools.

"At **U-46**, he has championed equity, expanded opportunities for students, and brought innovative new programs to the district. The board looks forward to his leadership; we are confident he will build on our record-high graduation rates and college and career readiness to continue leading Illinois' schools in a positive direction."

Sanders replaces Carmen Ayala, who concluded her four years as state superintendent Tuesday. Ayala, who was named state superintendent in 2019, was Illinois' first female and first Latina to serve as state superintendent of education. She is retiring after 40 years in public education.

ISBE Deputy Education Officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim state superintendent during the transition.

– ABC News Channel 20 –

ISBE names Dr. Tony Sanders new state superintendent of education

Jan. 31, 2023

By WICS/WCCU Staff



Tony Sanders, (Courtesy of the Illinois State Board of Education)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (WICS) — The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) today named **School District U-46 Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders** the new state superintendent of education.

Sanders will take over in late February.

ISBE Deputy Education Officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim state superintendent of education during the transition. Dr. Carmen I. Ayala’s term as state superintendent of education concludes on Jan. 31. She announced her retirement after 40 years of service and leadership in Illinois public schools.

*“**Dr. Tony Sanders** is an extraordinary choice for State Superintendent of Education,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “**Dr. Sanders’** breadth of experience as superintendent of **School District U-46** and his entire background have prepared him to take on this role. His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick. I can think of no better person to lead the Illinois State Board of Education as we continue to invest in, support, and elevate our students and educators.”*

Prior to becoming the **U-46 superintendent** in 2014, **Dr. Sanders** served as the district’s chief of communications and accountability and then chief of staff. He also previously served as the chief communications officer for St. Louis Public Schools and in communications and governmental relations roles within Illinois government, including at ISBE. **Dr. Sanders** received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois Springfield, his Master of Business Administration from the New York Institute of Technology, his Chief School Business

Official Endorsement from Northern Illinois University, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Judson University, and his Doctor of Education from Aurora University.

Dr. Sanders also has advocated at the state and federal levels as a member and past chair of the Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium. He supported the effort to reform Illinois' school funding formula and enact Evidence-Based Funding and pass the Every Student Succeeds Act.

– **WTTW** –

Elgin School District U-46 Leader Tapped as Illinois' New Education Superintendent

Jan. 31, 2023

By Matt Masterson

The Illinois State Board of Education has named the chief of the state's second-largest school district as its new superintendent of education.

The board on Tuesday announced **Tony Sanders**, who currently serves as **superintendent of Elgin's School District U-46**, will take over as state superintendent next month [following the retirement of Carmen Ayala](#).

“Dr. Tony Sanders is an extraordinary choice for State Superintendent of Education,” Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a statement. “His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick. I can think of no better person to lead the Illinois State Board of Education as we continue to invest in, support, and elevate our students and educators.”

The board said it conducted a nationwide search to find a replacement after Ayala — who was both the [first woman and person of color to hold the position](#) — announced her plans to step down when her contract expired at the end of January.

According to ISBE, while he was leading **School District U-46, Sanders** added full-day kindergarten, grew the district's dual language program and created a new alternative high school to reduce expulsions and better serve students in need of trauma-informed care.

“At U-46, he has championed equity, expanded opportunities for students, and brought innovative new programs to the district,” ISBE Board Chair Steven Isoye said in a statement. “The Board looks forward to his leadership; we are confident he will build on our record-high graduation rates and college and career readiness to continue leading Illinois' schools in a positive direction.”

While **Sanders** is set to take over toward the end of next month, ISBE Deputy Education Officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim state superintendent of education during the transition.

Contact Matt Masterson: [@ByMattMasterson](#) | mmasterson@wttw.com | (773) 509-5431

– WAND TV –

ISBE names Dr. Tony Sanders new State Superintendent of Education

Jan. 31, 2023



SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (WAND) - The Illinois State Board of Education named **School District U-46 Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders** the new state superintendent of education after a nationwide search.

He will take over in late February.

ISBE Deputy Education Officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim state superintendent of education during the transition. Dr. Carmen I. Ayala's term as state superintendent of education concludes Jan. 31. She is retiring after 40 years in Illinois public schools.

“**Dr. Tony Sanders** is an extraordinary choice for State Superintendent of Education,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “**Dr. Sanders**’ breadth of experience as superintendent of **School District U-46** and his entire background have prepared him to take on this role. His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick. I can think of no better person to lead the Illinois State Board of Education as we continue to invest in, support, and elevate our students and educators.”

“**Dr. Tony Sanders** has distinguished himself as a visionary leader and passionate advocate for students and educators,” said ISBE Board Chair Dr. Steven Isoye. “As the superintendent of one of Illinois’ largest school districts, he intimately understands the strengths, the policy history, and the challenges of our public schools. At **U-46**, he has championed equity, expanded opportunities for students, and brought innovative new programs to the district. The Board looks forward to his leadership; we are confident he will build on our record-high graduation rates and college and career readiness to continue leading Illinois’ schools in a positive direction.

“We are also very grateful to have Krish Mohip serve as interim state superintendent. Krish has a wealth of education leadership experience and will provide important guidance and oversight for the agency during this transition.”

ISBE sent the following information about **Dr. Sander's** background:

"**Dr. Sanders** expanded the district’s offerings during his tenure in **U-46**, which is headquartered in Elgin and is the second-largest school district in Illinois. He added full-day kindergarten for all students and implemented a developmentally appropriate play-based instructional program. **Dr. Sanders** grew the district’s dual language program and created a new alternative high school, the **DREAM Academy**, to reduce expulsions and better serve students in need of trauma-informed care. He also invested in a grow-your-own educator initiative to provide educational support professionals the ability to return to school to earn their teaching credentials. The initiative has supported more than 60 **U-46 employees** in receiving full tuition reimbursement as they work toward their teacher licensure. **Dr. Sanders** improved the district’s financial standing, while overseeing a \$660 million operating budget.

Dr. Sanders also has advocated at the state and federal levels as a member and past chair of the Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium. He supported the effort to reform Illinois’ school funding formula and enact Evidence-Based Funding and to pass the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Prior to becoming the **U-46 superintendent** in 2014, **Dr. Sanders** served as the district’s chief of communications and accountability and then chief of staff. He also previously served as the chief communications officer for St. Louis Public Schools and in communications and governmental relations roles within Illinois government, including at ISBE. **Dr. Sanders** received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois Springfield, his Master of Business Administration from New York Institute of Technology, his Chief School Business

Official Endorsement from Northern Illinois University, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Judson University, and his Doctor of Education from Aurora University."

Copyright 2023 WAND TV. All rights reserved.

– Chalkbeat Chicago –

Tony Sanders named next Illinois State Superintendent of Education

Jan. 31, 2023

By Samantha Smylie



Tony Sanders, Elgin's U-46 Superintendent, has been named as Illinois' next state superintendent. His term starts later in February.

Elgin's U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders has been named Illinois' next State Superintendent of Education. He will begin his term on Feb. 23.



Tony Sanders. Courtesy of the Illinois State Board of Education

After a nationwide search to replace [outgoing superintendent Carmen Ayala](#) who is [retiring after 40 years in education](#), the Illinois State Board of Education announced [Sanders'](#) appointment during a special board meeting on Tuesday.

“[Dr. Sanders'](#) breadth of experience as superintendent of [School District U-46](#) and his entire background have prepared him to take on this role,” Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a statement. “His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick. I can think of no better person to lead the Illinois State Board of Education as we continue to invest in, support, and elevate our students and educators.”

[Sanders](#) has been [superintendent of Elgin's U-46](#) since 2014. It's the second largest school district in Illinois serving over 35,000 students.

– Daily Herald –

Wilder, Ivy spark Larkin's win at Fenton in new roles

Jan. 27, 2023

By Gregg Voss

Up until about a week ago, Darnell Wilder had been starting for the [Larkin](#) boys basketball team.

Then [Royals coach Deryn Carter](#) decided to sit Wilder, but not because of poor play.

Rather the contrary. Carter wanted some spark off the bench, and that proved to pay off big time Friday.

Behind Wilder's 19 points -- all in the first half, including five 3-pointers -- the **Royals** beat host Fenton 59-37 to improve to 11-14 and 8-5 in the Upstate Eight.

Normally, being relegated to the bench would be a tough pill to swallow. But not for Wilder.

"I knew that when he told me he wanted somebody to come off the bench to keep the energy up and score points, I took that role very seriously," he said. "It's whatever it takes to win.

"I just want to win, so I got to do what I got to do. If he tells me to come off the bench, I come off the bench."

Wilder's first point was a 3-ball from the top of the key late in the first quarter.

He was just getting started.

Wilder scored **Larkin's** first 11 points in the second quarter as part of a 20-1 **Royals** run that essentially sealed the game early. He hit on four 3-pointers in that spurt, including back-to-back NBA-distance shots from basically the same spot on the floor.

"Just this week I took him out of the starting lineup," Carter said. "He's our captain. I just felt like with the rotations that we were having we weren't getting any scoring punch off the bench.

"What he needs to understand is because he's coming off the bench, we don't want anything different from him."

Another off-and-on **Larkin** starter, senior Armani Ivy, came off the bench to score 14 and grab three rebounds. He, too, was totally fine missing out on a start.

"(Coach) told me the same thing he told Darnell," Ivy said. "He told me I'm the most flexible player, I can come in for all five spots. I can come in for rebounding, I can come in for shooting the ball."

If there was a tough pill to swallow Friday, it was for Fenton, second place behind **South Elgin** in the Upstate Eight. The Bison fell to 18-6 and 10-3 in league, though junior Alejandro Diaz was stellar as usual, with 16 points and five rebounds.

Diaz led off a Bison 11-2 run midway through the third quarter that cut a 39-15 halftime deficit to 43-28 with 3:53 to go, and at that point, it looked just Fenton might have enough to pull back into the game.

Didn't happen, though senior Nicholas Tinajero added eight points and six boards.

– Daily Herald –

Boys basketball: Top 20

Jan. 30, 2023

Boys basketball

Records through Jan. 29

Team Comment

1. Benet (23-1) Has emerged as clear-cut No. 1
2. Rolling Meadows (21-4) Nikolich-Wilson shines in Moline loss
3. Hinsdale Central (22-3) Fourteen straight wins
4. WW South (21-2) Held Geneva to 24 points
5. Downers North (20-3) Not that far away from 22-1 or 23-0
6. Libertyville (19-4) Tied with Stevenson for NSC lead
7. Stevenson (17-4) Ambrose reaches 500 victories
8. Burlington Central (21-4) Scharnowski hits 1,000 in style
9. Prospect (14-9) One of hottest teams around
10. Geneva (20-4) WWS ends Vikes' 15-game win streak
11. Fremd (14-7) Avenged 2-point L to Barrington. w 2-point W
12. Palatine (18-6) May scores 31 vs. Warren

13. Barrington (16-3) Nichols scores 33 in Fremd loss
14. Neuqua Valley (19-7) Leads tight DVC race by half game
15. Naperville North (15-9) Beat host East Aurora at Kivisto Shootout
16. Lake Park (15-8) Tripped up by Conant
17. Glenbard West (14-8) Love the Scales Mound matchup Saturday
18. Metea Valley (18-7) Has to recover from Waubonsie beatdown
19. Huntley (19-5) Tied with Burlington C. for FVC lead
20. Warren (14-12) Panek nails winning FTs vs. Lake Zurich

Others to watch: Grayslake Central 21-3, Conant 12-9, Waubonsie Valley 13-11, Marmion 14-9, Kaneland 21-5, Hersey 14-11, Lake Zurich 13-9, West Aurora 15-12, Crystal Lake South 17-7, **South Elgin** 15-9