



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2023

Contact: Karla Jiménez

Phone: 847-888-5000, ext.4211

School District U-46 Takes Part in First 'Enhanced Reporting' Assessment Workshop

Illinois educators gather to review and improve new assessment reporting tools

ELGIN - Math and English teachers from School District U-46 and two other districts participated in a workshop to improve how state assessment scores are reported to educators, parents, and other stakeholders.

The workshop was part of the Enhanced Item Release Program created by New Meridian, a nonprofit assessment design company. The program goes beyond the common practice of releasing sample test questions and "maps" those questions to how students in a state performed. The resulting reports provide examples of what students likely can and cannot answer correctly, which can help improve instructional planning and teacher-parent communication.

"U-46 appreciates the opportunity to be a part of this effort," said U-46 Interim Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson. "Assessment plays a vital role in improving student learning, and parents are empowered and engaged when they better understand their child's progress."

The Enhanced Item Release Program is part of a broader New Meridian effort to enhance what is known as "assessment literacy," the ability that parents, teachers, and other stakeholders have to read and understand assessment results. Better understanding can help guide classroom instruction and resource allocation.

"We are thrilled to have worked directly with Illinois teachers to derive richer, more meaningful reporting from the Illinois Assessment of Readiness," said Arthur VanderVeen, founder and CEO of New Meridian. "By releasing actual test items to illustrate what students can do at each score level, we can



better help families, teachers, and students understand the results and support students' learning and growth."

The workshop, conducted for New Meridian by the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO), took place Jan. 30-31 at the U-46 Welcome Center in Elgin. Elementary and middle school teachers from U-46, as well as from districts in Rockford and Chicago, participated.

###

About School District U-46

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 35,000 preschoolers 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](#).

About New Meridian

New Meridian is a mission-driven nonprofit committed to advancing equity in education by developing assessments that focus on the skills that matter most: critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication. Since 2016, our diverse team of assessment design experts have collaborated with classroom teachers to develop high-quality assessments that give educators the information they need to ensure all students grow to be life-long learners. We partner with states and districts to develop innovative assessment solutions that provide educators and policy makers with the data and insight they need to improve educational outcomes and ensure students from every background have an equal opportunity to learn and to succeed.