



The weekly newsletter from School District U-46

Dec. 6, 2023

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Calendar

Stay tuned for upcoming events with our District website calendar available [here](#).

- **Thursday, Dec. 7:** Community Advisory Council meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, Dec. 11:** Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).

Safety Tuesday on Wednesday

This is the time when we share our monthly Safety Tuesday topic and this month we want to remind you of the definitions of a few terms our School Safety department uses. This is an important part of safety preparedness is making sure everyone involved is using consistent terminology and understands exactly what the terms mean.

Hold in Place and Teach: This is a safety procedure that requires all students and staff to remain in their classrooms and out of the halls. This step is taken when a situation inside the school requires immediate action. Often, it



could be a medical situation involving a student or staff member, and a “Hold in Place and Teach” allows for medical personnel to quickly get inside and provide assistance.

Secure the Building and Teach: This is a safety procedure that requires students and staff who are inside the school to stay in their areas, and students and staff who are outside to move inside. Administrators ensure all doors are locked and that no one leaves or enters the building. This step is taken when there is a hazard outside the school, such as police activity in the area unrelated to the school.

Run, Hide, Fight: This is a situation in which students, under the direction of an adult, can assess the situation and determine which option is best. If there was a violent intruder inside the school, the response could be to run to a safer location or hide in a classroom, office, or staff bathroom equipped with lockdown locks that staff can secure from the inside. While hiding, people are directed to prepare to defend themselves with whatever means possible.

Evacuation: When there is an unsafe situation inside a building that requires everyone to exit – such as a fire, chemical spill, or gas leak – the evacuation procedure is used.

To help ensure everyone is prepared in the event of an emergency, each school in U-46 holds a number of safety drills each school year. These drills are held during the school day: Three fire drills (one with the local fire department present), one severe weather drill, one bus evacuation, and one run, hide, fight drill conducted with the local police department present to provide feedback and direction.

Safety is a top priority in U-46, and we appreciate that parents, guardians, students, and employees are partners with us on this important topic. If you have any questions about the terms outlined above, please contact Richard Bosh, Coordinator of School Safety, by using our [Let's Talk](#) online customer service tool.

CAC Roundtable Discussion

You won't want to miss Thursday night's Community Advisory Council, which will follow a roundtable format and provide a unique opportunity to talk to District leaders. Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson, members of her Cabinet, and members of the U-46 Board of Education will attend.



The meeting is being held virtually at 7 p.m. Breakout rooms will be offered in English and Spanish. We ask those who plan to attend to register in advance at info.u-46.org/CACDec23.

This annual meeting offers a fun and relaxed setting for U-46 parents and community members to learn more about the mission of the CAC and talk to U-46 leaders. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please visit [the CAC website](#).

African American Advisory Council

The next meeting of the [U-46 African American Advisory Council](#) is Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. It will be held virtually via Zoom.

The meeting will feature a presentation from members of U-46's Specialized Student Services department, and the team will discuss IEPs, 504 plans, and the resources offered by U-46's Health Services.

The latter portion of the meeting will be dedicated to a continuing discussion of "[Punished for Dreaming: How School Reform Harms Black Children and How We Heal](#)" as part of the council's "One Book, One Community" project.

All are welcome at the African American Advisory Council meetings and are asked to register in advance [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For questions, please use [Let's Talk](#).

Milk Update

Due to required maintenance by our milk vendor Prairie Farms Dairy, our U-46 Food & Nutrition Services will temporarily offer shelf-stable milk starting on Monday, Dec. 11.

Shelf-stable milk is a type of milk that is produced at a higher temperature and, therefore, has a longer shelf life and does not require refrigeration. However, our schools will be directed to serve the milk cold. We anticipate returning to perishable milk in January when the maintenance is complete.



Winter Weather

The first official day of winter is Dec. 21, but winter weather is already here, and U-46 sometimes must close schools due to inclement weather. We want to make sure you're ready and understand how to find out when schools must close.

When inclement weather is underway or expected, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson is in regular contact with our Transportation and Plant Operations teams for updates. Information is also gathered from the State of Illinois, authorities in our three counties (Kane, Cook and DuPage), local police and colleagues in other area school districts.

With that input, the Superintendent makes the decision on the status of schools, if possible, by 5:15 a.m. If classes are canceled for the entire day due to inclement weather, the District will send out a mass notification phone call, email, and text message to all parents and staff by 5:45 a.m. This is a good time to confirm your contact information is accurate in [Infinite Campus](#).

Closings will also be posted on the District website homepage at u-46.org, and posted on the District's social media channels.

When the regular school day is canceled, all before and after school activities are canceled as well.



For more information on the process, please read the District's [Emergency Closing Procedures](#) document, and for Dr. Johnson's thoughts about using e-learning days rather than emergency days, read her [latest newsletter](#).

Dress for the Weather

U-46 families are encouraged to ensure their children are dressed appropriately for the winter weather before leaving the house each morning. This includes a winter jacket, hat, gloves, scarf, and snow boots when there's snow on the ground.



School leaders have discretion in deciding whether students will be outdoors or indoors for recess and/or physical education. Schools are provided with [guidelines](#), including ensuring that students are not outside when the temperature or wind chill falls below 10 degrees.

More Resources



Careers

Have you considered becoming a part of the U-46 team? School District U-46 offers a number of [rewarding opportunities](#) for educators and support staff.



Care

[Care Solace](#) is a complimentary and confidential service provided by School District U-46 to help locate a provider for mental health care or substance use treatment. It's available to U-46 students, staff, and their family members.



Community

Visit our [U-46 Online Backpack](#) to find information on community events, activities, and resources for our U-46 families and students.

Board of Education

The Board of Education meetings are streamed on the District's [YouTube channel](#) and via Zoom. Written highlights from the meetings, as well as presentations delivered to the Board, can be found [here](#).

Weekly Message from Dr. Johnson

Each week, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson shares a message with U-46 employees and community members. You can read the latest message [here](#).



School District U-46

All means all.

