



The weekly newsletter from School District U-46

Feb. 7, 2024

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Calendar

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

- **Thursday, Feb. 8:** Unite U-46 meeting, hosted by the Community Advisory Council meeting. [Details here.](#)
- **Monday, Feb. 12-Thursday, Feb. 15:** Kindergarten Preview events. [Details here.](#)
- **Monday, Feb. 19:** President's Day holiday. No classes, offices closed.
- **Friday, Feb. 23:** End of 2nd trimester.

District, teachers agree to four-year contract

U-46's Board of Education on Monday approved a new four-year contract for more than 2,500 members of the Elgin Teachers Association (ETA).

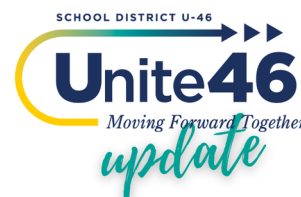
The contract boosts teacher starting salaries and also increases the amount of time teachers will have for planning and collaboration time. Some of the contract's other highlights can be found [here](#).

One change is that starting in August 2025, the elementary school day will be extended by 20 minutes. More details will be shared with elementary families in the future. The change won't occur until the 2025-26 school year.

At the high school level, one early release day per month will be built into the calendar starting with the 2024-25 school year; high school students will have two early release days per month starting with the 2025-26 school year.

Unite U-46

Attendees at Thursday night's Unite U-46 session, hosted by the U-46 Community Advisory Council, will help prioritize the boundary planning criteria and guidelines. They will also get to preview the tools and resources that help with attendance boundary mapping.



Everyone is welcome to attend, and while registration is not required, your RSVP [here](#) will be helpful for planning purposes. There will be light refreshments and interpretation for our Spanish speakers.

The session is being held at 7 p.m. in the library of Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive. More info is available at uniteu46.org.

Safety Tuesday on Wednesday

U-46 is fully committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students, and that includes online.

U-46 uses a digital safety service, called Securly, on the Chromebooks and iPads provided to students. The service alerts U-46 staff if there is activity that indicates a student may be considering self-harm, harming others, or be involved in cyber-bullying. More information about Securly, including an option for parents, can be found [here](#).



Of course, most students have online access on devices other than the ones provided by U-46. In fact, Tuesday, Feb. 6 was [Safer Internet Day](#), an international education and awareness-raising effort designed to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones.

Parents should supervise their children's Internet use, periodically checking their profiles, games, apps, and social media sites they visit.

The National PTA has a [number of resources](#) designed to empower families to use technology safely - and to inspire conversations between parents and children about guidelines for screen time, appropriate content, and online interactions. A Family Media Agreement, such as [this one](#) offered by Common Sense Media, can also help guide conversations about digital safety.

Newcomer Parent Support Group

Aimed at families who have arrived in the United States from another country, the Newcomer Parent Support Group is meeting on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin.



During the meeting, parents will learn more about the American educational system at the national, state, and district levels. They will also learn about the importance of regular attendance and healthy routines to support their children's academic success. Community resources will be available, and childcare will be provided.

The sessions will be interpreted in Gujarati, Hindi, Panjabi, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Urdu. Those families that do not speak these languages are also welcome to attend as we will offer an alternative way for them to engage in the session.

The sessions are being organized by the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, and questions can be directed through [Let's Talk](#).

Reminder about holiday snacks in the classroom

As a District, we encourage students to make good choices around healthy eating and physical activity to promote positive outcomes. With Valentine's Day coming up, U-46 will continue this practice by promoting holiday celebrations with non-food items. To stay aligned with the USDA's Smart Snacks requirements, food-related celebrations or distribution of snacks to students to eat in the classroom during the school day will not be allowed. The USDA-defined school day hours are from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the school day.

Holidays provide a good opportunity to talk to your children about not sharing food or snacks they bring from home with friends and, when offered home-baked goods, how to politely say no.

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers [this list](#) of 14 ways to show your child love on Valentine's Day and every day.

Early registration

U46 EARLY REGISTRATION for 2024-25 now open



Click here for more info

Save the date!

The first [Dual Language Informational Meeting](#) is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Gail Borden Public Library. It's aimed at families with an incoming kindergarten or 1st grade student.

The Community Advisory Council's Specialized Student Services committee is hosting a virtual presentation called "[Guide to Navigating Your Child's Transitions in U-46's Special Education](#)" at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

More Resources

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](#).



Board of Education

The Board of Education meetings are streamed on the District's [YouTube channel](#) and via Zoom.

[here.](#)



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 Coordination

[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.



Online Backpack
Mochila Digital

Community

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



School District U-46

All means all.

