

Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



January 25, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your support and flexibility as we continue to navigate the winter weather. Your commitment to our students, facilities, and grounds is appreciated. The late nights and early mornings filled with weather watching, clearing snow and ice, and extended commute times have become commonplace, but your efforts have been extraordinary.

The January weather challenges often align with the opening of the annual Illinois 5Essentials Survey, which was delayed to Tuesday, Jan. 30, and will remain open through **Friday, March 29**. I encourage our school leaders to make time for students and teachers to take the survey during the school day, and urge parents to take this bilingual survey at home, school, or via their mobile device. As a reminder, the survey is completely confidential and will never be connected to a parent, teacher, or student.

Although the required threshold to generate a parent report for each school is 20 percent, let's aim to achieve at least 35 percent parent participation to obtain meaningful feedback. For staff and student participation, our goal is to have 95 percent participation from 4th through 12th grade students and 90 percent staff participation in this year's survey at each building.

To take the survey, please visit www.5-essentials.org and select the appropriate survey to begin. For more information, please visit www.u-46.org/5Essentials. The 5Essentials Survey is based on five components found to be critical for school success:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction.

These components are closely tied to our goals for the 2023-24 school year, which are:

- School District U-46 will maximize resources available to accelerate student growth in alignment with the U-46 instructional clarity framework.
- School District U-46 will update and enhance the wide range of college and Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways and magnet school programs.
- School District U-46 will increase access to and enrollment in high quality early childhood programs.
- School District U-46 will establish and operate inclusive, efficient, safe and equitable learning environments.

Once the survey opens, I will certainly take a moment to complete it as a proud parent. Please consider joining me in completing or promoting the survey. Your feedback and support are essential to guiding our school improvement efforts and making sure...

It's a great day to learn in U-46!

Dr. Suzanne Johnson

Kudos

Send Kudos directly by clicking [HERE](#) or using Let's Talk. Remember, only Kudos with the sender's name will appear in the Weekly; no anonymous messages. Kudos are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Kudos to the Transportation Maintenance Team, from Marcy Murphy, Director, Transportation Department

I would like to send a shout out to our amazing Transportation Maintenance Team! They have worked long hours in extreme temperatures to ensure that our parking lot at 500 Shales is cleared and safe as well as ensuring that our fleet is running. This large task included long hours in the extreme cold. I received many compliments for our team from their co-workers as well. We have an amazing group of hard-working, dedicated individuals.

Kudos to Mike Prehm, Tom Thode, Barry Paxton, Josh Beu, Pat Waldau, and the rest of the team in the Plant Operations Department, from Ashley Talip, Assistant Principal, Century Oaks Elementary School

Thank you for rushing over to Century Oaks to help when a pipe burst. Thank you for continuing to follow-up to address the situation. We appreciate you!

Kudos to Mark Gonnella, Assistant Principal at Horizon Elementary School, from Dr. Jennifer Schwardt Principal at Horizon

Thank you Mark for your amazing leadership at Horizon! You have been a Sun-sational support for staff, students, and families, and I value all that I have learned from you. Congratulations on your new role as Coordinator of Climate and Culture; I am excited all of U-46 will get to work with you now.

Kudos to All the Members of the Transportation Department, from Marcy Murphy, Director, Transportation Department

Thank you to the dedicated men and women who make up the Transportation Department. We have worked in extreme conditions this month, and you all are equal to the task. Your dedication to the students as well as your co-workers is awe-inspiring. I am very proud to be a member of this hardworking team. Thank you very much for your commitment and dedication.

Kudos to Jessica Hayes, Sara Uribe, Heather Stout, and Erin Purser, in Special Education, from Heather Heatley, Assistant Principal, at Wayne Elementary School.

Thank you to Jessica, Sara, Heather, and Erin, our Vision and O&M Itinerants. You have a small and mighty (and growing!) population of students you support here at Wayne and other buildings. You ensure students are supported and can have a safe school experience each and every day they enter this building. Thank you for working with our staff and students, and advocating with the District to ensure our students with vision and mobility needs are getting the support they need across all areas of their school experience.

Kudos to our Culinary Teachers, Nicolle Giliana and Nicole Betourney both at Streamwood High School, from Lisa Baran Janco, Assistant Principal of Humanities at Streamwood High School

Thank you to Nicolle and Nicole for helping clean up a classroom "flood" after a heating coil failure. They were so positive and took pride in doing a great job in record time. We appreciate their dedication to their program and students!

Kudos to Pat Waldau, Director, Plant Operations, and Tim Sheehan, Head Custodian, Educational Services Center, from Mary Mangione, Principal, Dream Academy

On behalf of Dream Academy faculty and staff, I would like to thank Pat and Tim for their tireless effort and commitment to making sure that our school is a safe place to teach and learn. We had some significant weather challenges this month and without your continued communication and work toward ensuring that all classrooms have adequate heat, we would not have had a successful week welcoming students and teachers back into our building. Special thanks to Tim for working tirelessly to ensure that our parking lot and sidewalks are safe. Your hard work is not going unnoticed! We appreciate you so much!

Kudos to Renae Young Martin, Technology Specialist, and Jonathan Quinones, Level 2 Tech, both in Information Services, from Alec Barlow, Digital Communications Specialist, School & Community Relations

Thank you, Renae and Jonathan, for spending the last week and a half working on the District radio station's computers and troubleshooting various roadblocks along the way. Your help, professionalism, and dedication were greatly appreciated!



School District U-46



