



December 4, 2024

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Calendar

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

- **Thursday, Dec. 5:** Community Advisory Council Roundtable. [Details here](#).
- **Wednesday, Dec. 11:** High School Early Release Day. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Dec. 12:** African American Advisory Council meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, Dec. 16:** U-46 Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).

Safety Tuesday

In this month's "Safety Tuesday on Wednesday" feature, 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 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, Director of School Safety, by using our [Let's Talk](#) online customer service tool.

REMINDER: Meet with U-46 Leadership



Don't forget about this Thursday's unique opportunity to meet with the District leaders at 7 p.m. at the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin or join us virtually. The event offers a fun and relaxed format for U-46 parents and community members to get to know your district leaders, ask questions, and learn about the work being done to support our students and schools.

All are welcome! The event will be in English and Spanish. While registration is not required, it helps us plan and gives you the opportunity to submit questions in advance, as well as receive a unique Zoom link to join virtually. You can register at info.u-46.org/CACDec24

High School Early Release Day

Next Wednesday, Dec. 11, is an early release day for students in our five comprehensive high schools - Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, and Streamwood. High schoolers will be dismissed at 1:59 p.m. to allow teachers time for planning and collaboration.

Please note that this schedule change does not apply to elementary or middle school students as well as Dream Academy and Central School students - they will follow their regular dismissal times.

High school students who rely on bus transportation or participate in after-school activities are expected to remain at school until the regular dismissal time of 2:55 p.m. They will be supervised during this period. Students may use this time to complete homework, study, or explore other options offered in the building.

A copy of the 2024-25 school year calendar with all high school early release dates is available at u-46.org/calendar.

Unite U-46 - Mapping Our Future

U-46 families and community members who want to be a part of shaping the future of our schools are encouraged to attend one of five upcoming sessions. Called "Unite U-46: Mapping Our Future," these open houses will include information about preliminary attendance boundary recommendations and a chance for attendees to ask questions and share their feedback.

Here are the details for the two sessions being held before the winter recess:



Elgin Network Focus

Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin. (This is being held in conjunction with the Newcomer Parent Support Group.)

Bartlett Network Focus

Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Bartlett High School Commons, 701 W. Schick Road, Bartlett.

To learn more, including about how the networks are organized, visit uniteu46.org. If you plan to attend, please [RSVP here](#); while it's not required, it is appreciated for planning purposes.

African American Advisory Council



The African American Advisory Council's next meeting will be held virtually at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12. The focus of the meeting will be a presentation on hate speech; attendees will also get a chance to provide input on other topics they'd like addressed in meetings later this year.

The Zoom link to join is available [here](#), and more information is available [here](#). All are welcome.

Preparing for 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 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.

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.



Public Sky Show



"The Geminids and Jupiter" is the name of the next program being presented at the U-46 Planetarium as part of its series of [Public Sky Shows](#).

There will be two hourlong shows on Friday, Dec. 13, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Doors will open at 4 p.m., and seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Event admission for the 2024-25 school year is free. The Planetarium is located at 312 Watch Street in Elgin, and there is free parking at Raymond Street and National Street, one block away. Find more information [here](#).

SchoolLinks

Parents and guardians of middle and high school students in U-46 now have access to a college and career readiness platform called SchoolLinks. Parents and guardians who access their SchoolLinks account will be able to message their child's school counselor and conduct research on colleges, careers, financial aid, and scholarships, allowing for informed conversations about post-secondary goals and plans after high school. More information is available [here](#), including directions on how to access the parent accounts.



More Resources

We're Hiring

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.



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. Written highlights from the meetings, as well as presentations delivered to the Board, can be found [here](#).



Care Solace

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. Learn more [here](#).



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.

