



**March 26, 2025**

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## Calendar

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

- **Friday, March 28:** Deadline for 5Essentials Survey. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, March 31-Friday, April 4:** Spring recess. No classes. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, April 7:** Classes Resume Following Spring Recess

## Spring Recess



U-46's spring recess will begin on Monday, March 31, and last through Friday, April 4. Students also have a non-attendance day on Thursday, April 17, which is a professional development day for staff, and Friday, April 18, which is U-46's spring holiday. After that, classes for students are scheduled through Friday, May 23, which is the last day for students if no additional emergency days are used.

When classes are in session, it's extremely important that our students are in school and on time to class every day, for the entire school day.

[Each day in school counts](#) and helps build the foundation for your child's academic success. It is an important opportunity for students to learn as well as collaborate with their peers on rigorous,

standards-aligned tasks that require critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication. When your child is absent, they miss out on this collaboration.

We hope you plan your Spring Recess vacation in time for your child(ren) to return to school on Monday, April 7. We'll look forward to seeing them back in class!

## 5Essentials Survey Closes Soon

If you are a parent or guardians and haven't taken the [5Essentials Survey](#), yet, please do before the end of the week!



The results of this research-based survey help schools drive change and create new opportunities for students and families. At one elementary school, it resulted in a parent-led safety program. At one high school, it prompted the creation of a program that connected students to a trusted adult in the building they could go to for help when struggling.

The survey closes on Friday, March 28. It's confidential, available in both English and Spanish, and can be taken using a computer, mobile phone, or tablet. [Click here](#) to get started.

## Summer Connection



As in previous years, School District U-46 is offering a variety of summertime experiences, under the program name "U-46 Summer Connection."

Enrollment is now open for most of the offerings available, including a new [Kinder Camp](#) available to incoming kindergarten students attending one of 10 elementary sites.

In addition, The Boys & Girls Club of North Central Illinois and Right at School will offer [summer camps](#), for a fee, at several U-46 elementary schools.

Details and sign-up links can be found at [u-46.org/summerconnection](http://u-46.org/summerconnection).

There are limited seats available for many of these opportunities, so don't delay in signing up. If you have questions, please contact your school directly or use [Let's Talk](#).

## Help finding local mental health-related programs and resources

U-46 has partnered with Care Solace, a mental health care coordination service, to better connect students, staff, and their families to quality care. This is a free resource provided by U-46. If you are looking for help with mental health or substance use, Care Solace will quickly and confidentially find available partners matched to your needs.



Students, staff, and families may access Care Solace in two ways:

1. Call 888-515-0595 at any time on any day. A Care Solace coordinator will help you research options, secure appointments, and follow up to make sure it is a good fit.
2. Visit [caresolace.com/u46](https://caresolace.com/u46) to answer a few questions and get matched with an extensive list of care providers. The website also has more information about Care Solace's relationship with community partners, how it keeps information confidential and securely stored, and more.

## TalentFest Winners

Congratulations to all the very talented students who participated in the 2025 U-46 TalentFest program last week at the Hemmens Cultural Center. It must have been a tough night for the judges, who noted that the difference between 3rd and 4th place was less than 1 point! But when all the votes (from the audience and the judges) were tallied, the prizes were awarded to three entries:

- The third place winner was the Larkin High School Dance Academy, including seniors Anthony Merlo and Addison Kuttner, junior Mia Satterfield, and sophomores Elizabeth Bellock, Cayle Johnson, London Fitch, and Emily O'Hearn.
- Second place went to the talented pianist from Elgin High School, senior Sebastian Siwec.
- First place winners were Elgin High School's BFH, featuring freshmen Maya Hernandez and Marcos Hernandez, and junior Luz Zambrano Hernandez.

The TalentFest Trophy is also awarded that night to the school that collected the most votes overall, and it went to Elgin High School.

TalentFest received a community partner grant from the [U-46 Educational Foundation](#) to support the event, which was a wonderful evening of celebrating our students and their talents in the arts! See more photos from the evening on the TalentFest Facebook page [here](#).





# 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](#).



## 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.

