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School Learning Conditions Matter: U-46 Administers Seventh Illinois 5Essentials Survey to Improve Student Learning

Parents, students, and teachers play a role in school improvement

District U-46 will join the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) again in the seventh statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions. The survey provides a unique opportunity for parents, students, and teachers to have a voice in improving their schools. From November 15 through January 18, parents, students, and teachers have the opportunity to take a 15-minute research-based survey to provide feedback on school climate and learning conditions. This survey will serve as an opportunity for the District to reflect on growth since the last statewide implementation.

“We encourage every parent, student, and teacher to let their voice be heard by sharing what’s going great in their school and what areas need improvement,” said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. “The confidential survey results provide valuable feedback to help District and school leaders identify our strengths and those areas that need to be improved.”

[The Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#) provides a comprehensive picture of a school’s organizational culture in an individualized report focused on five elements or “essentials” that have proven to influence school success:

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

The survey has historically captured feedback from sixth through 12th graders. This year the Illinois State Board of Education has expanded the eligible student population to include fourth and fifth graders.

To take the survey, parents are instructed to visit survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/ and answer important questions about their child’s school. Parents can complete a survey for each child and their school. At least 20 percent of a school’s parent population must submit a completed survey in order for the state to generate survey results. The survey



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is mobile friendly and available in English and Spanish. Students and teachers will have the opportunity to take the survey while they are at school.

Those results can inspire a school to try new approaches or efforts to improve leadership, instruction, staff collaboration, or school climate and culture. At Sycamore Trails Elementary in Bartlett, for instance, the 5Essentials parental feedback led to the creation of a Safety Pledge to help keep students safe during arrival and dismissal, more after-school offerings, and a sixth grade parent panel to support students transitioning to middle school.

U-46 parents, students, and teachers with any questions on 5Essentials are encouraged to please use [Let's Talk](#).

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School District U-46 serves nearly 39,000 students from 11 communities within Cook, DuPage, and Kane counties. The 57 District schools and programs are located across 90 square miles. To learn more, visit the [U-46 website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).