

CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

AUGUST 26, 2026



Welcome to 2026-2027!



Dear CCSD 46 Community,

School has started and we are so excited to welcome everyone back!



Students in grades K-8 started school on Wednesday, August 19th, but work in our schools has been happening all summer long, with major construction at Meadowview, Prairieview, Frederick and Park Campus in their media centers and new makerspaces. Park and Frederick also now have a dedicated STEM lab. We will feature a closer look at these spaces in an upcoming newsletter.



Maintenance updates took place at all schools over the summer, and numerous planning and training meetings have taken place. We welcomed over 30 new staff members to our New Teacher Orientation in early August, and then welcomed our full staff back for two institute days last week.

We welcomed our youngest students to our Early Education Center on Monday, August 24. Be sure to watch for school and classroom newsletters coming home through ParentSquare. More information on ParentSquare is included in this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS



AUGUST

31 - Back to School Night - Frederick School 5th Grade 6:00- 7:15 pm

SEPTEMBER

1 - Back to School Night - Frederick School 6th Grade 6:00-7:15 pm

1 - Back to School Night - Park Campus Grades 5-8 - 6:30-7:00 pm or 7:15-7:45 pm

2 - Board of Education General Meeting - Falcon Room, Frederick School 6:00 pm

2 - Back to School Night - Grayslake Middle School 7th Grade 6:15-7:30 pm

3 - Back to School Night - Grayslake Middle School 8th Grade 6:15-7:30 pm

3 - Back to School Night - Park Campus Grades K-4 - 6:30-7:00 pm or 7:15-7:45 pm

7 - Labor Day - No School

9 - Half Day Early Release (AM ECC attends)

10 - Back to School Night - Avon, Meadowview, Prairieview, Woodview

11 - Early Childhood Center Family Engagement: Meet & Greet 1:00 pm

Join us! for Back-to-School Night!

back-to-school NIGHT

Fifth Grade
Monday, August 31
6:00-7:15 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

Sixth Grade
Tuesday, September 1
6:00-7:15 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

Grades 5-8
Tuesday, September 1
6:30-7:00 PM - 7:15-7:45 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

Seventh Grade
Wednesday, September 2
6:15-7:30 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

Eighth Grade
Thursday, September 3
6:15-7:30 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

Grades K-4
Thursday, September 3
6:30-7:00 PM or 6:40-7:10 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

All Grades
Thursday, September 10
6:00-6:30 PM or 6:40-7:10 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

Thursday, September 10
Third & Fourth Grade: 6:00-6:30 PM
MILE, K, First, Second Grade: 6:45-7:15 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

All Grades
Thursday, September 10
6:00-6:30 PM or 6:40-7:10 PM

back-to-school NIGHT

All Grades
Thursday, September 10
6:00-7:30 PM



STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER SURVEYS

CCSD 46 is beginning the important work of Strategic Planning and identifying our Portrait of a Learner this fall. We welcome student, staff, parent, and community member involvement on these teams to ensure that all voices, values, and aspirations are represented.

The **Portrait of a Learner** team is tasked with creating a shared vision of the key skills, mindsets, and character traits students need to develop in elementary school before transitioning to high school and beyond. The Portrait of a Learner team will include 10 students, 6 certified teachers, 2 support staff members, 2 administrators, 2 Board of Education members, 2 community members, and 10 parents.

Our Portrait of a Learner team meetings will take place on Tuesdays, from 5:00-7:00 pm, on the following dates:

- September 8, September 29, October 13

The **Strategic Plan** is a guiding document that sets the core goals and priorities that shape the future of our schools and district. The Strategic Planning team will consider data collected through collaborative engagement with stakeholder groups, learn about the district's major operational areas, and work to create a common vision, goals, and priorities. The Strategic Planning team will include 8 students, 8 certified teachers, 6 support staff members, 2 administrators, 2 Board of Education members, 4 community members, and 10 parents.

Our Strategic Planning team meetings will take place on Thursdays, from 5:00-8:00 pm, on the following dates:

- September 17, October 1, October 22, November 12, December 10, January 21

If you are interested in participating in either the CCSD 46 Strategic Planning team or the Portrait of a Learner team, please complete this simple [team interest survey](#) by Friday, August 28th, and indicate which team you'd like to join. Please choose only one: Portrait of a Learner or Strategic Planning. Each team has a set number of available seats. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of open positions, a lottery will be conducted to select committee members. If you are chosen for a team, please understand that you are committing to attend all meeting sessions.

Whether you choose to join a team or not, we value your feedback and welcome you to participate in our data-gathering survey. Your responses are anonymous, but we will share the overall survey results with the public.

[English Survey](#) | [Spanish Survey](#)

Act fast - these surveys close on Friday, August 28th! We look forward to hearing from you.
Thank you for your continued support of CCSD 46 schools.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Motorized Vehicles on District Property

Electronic bikes (e-bikes) and electronic scooters (e-scooters) have become popular modes of transportation for many. However, their presence on the roads and on district grounds poses significant safety risks. Many of them can travel at high speeds, are often difficult to control in crowded areas, and can cause serious injuries in the event of a collision.

In June, the Village of Grayslake shared that the Grayslake Police Department will take a proactive approach to enforcing the changes made under Senate Bill 3484 which governs micromobility vehicles, including e-bikes and e-scooters. The changes to the Illinois regulations began on July 1, 2026. That message can be found [here](#). Grayslake has ordinances in place regarding motorized vehicles and sidewalks/bike paths which can be found under 10.08.100 - Motorized vehicles in the greenbelt.

- The use of e-scooters is prohibited within the Village of Grayslake by individuals under 18 years of age
- The use of gas-powered bikes is prohibited within the Village of Grayslake
- The use of e-bikes must be in accordance with all applicable State of Illinois laws

We are a school district that encompasses many villages. The above information has been specifically shared by Grayslake.

Please note that, as per state law, people who are under the age of 16 may not operate electric scooters, skateboards, or unicycles anywhere. Children must be 15 years old to operate a low-speed electric bicycle (Class 1 and 2, up to 20 mph), and 16 years old to operate a high-speed electric bicycle (Class 3, up to 28 mph).

Due to these state laws and safety concerns, students are not permitted to ride e-scooters, e-skateboards, or e-bikes to school. In addition, as always, any time a student rides a wheeled vehicle to school (e.g., a regular bicycle, skateboard, or scooter), the vehicle must be walked while on school property.

Our top priority is maintaining a safe and welcoming environment where all students can focus on learning. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school community safe. If you have any questions, please contact your school's principal.



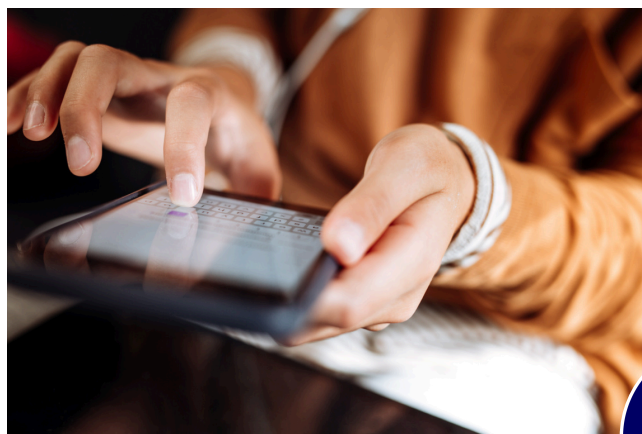
TECH UPDATES

SOPPA NOTIFICATION

CCSD 46 takes the privacy and online safety of our students very seriously. We have always taken steps to guard closely the student data collected within our networks or by the online resources we use in our schools. Student data is protected through comprehensive privacy policies and security measures such as firewalls, secure servers, intrusion detection software, and other methods. The district adheres to the following applicable laws regarding student data and privacy:

- **Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA)**, which guarantees that student data is protected when collected by educational technology companies, and that data is used for beneficial purposes only. ([Annual Notice](#))
- **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**, which restricts the collection of personal information from children under 13 by companies operating websites, games, mobile applications, and digital services that are directed to children or that collect personal information from individuals known to be children.
- **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**, which ensures schools protect children from harmful online content while promoting access to the educational resources available on the internet.
- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**, which governs information in a student's education record, restricting access and use of student information.

CCSD 46 values your child's privacy and strives to ensure that parents are aware of what web-based tools and applications are being used for educational purposes. A list of approved web-based tools, written agreements with operators, and a list of data elements shared can be found and reviewed [on the CCSD 46 - SDPC Page](#).



TECH UPDATES

CYBER SECURITY/PHISHING SCAMS

Phishing is when you get emails, texts, or calls that seem to be from companies or people you know. But they're actually from scammers. They want you to click on a link or give personal information (like a password) so that they can steal your money or identity, and maybe get access to your computer.

Scammers use familiar company names or pretend to be someone you know. They ask you to click on a link or give passwords or bank account numbers. If you click on the link, they can install programs that lock you out of your computer and can steal your personal information. They pressure you to act now - or something bad will happen.

Here's what to do:

Check it out

- Look up the website or phone number for the company or person who's contacting you.
- Call that company or person directly. Use a number you know to be correct, not the number in the email or text.
- Tell them about the message you got.

Look for scam tip-offs

- You don't have an account with the company.
- The message is missing your name or uses bad grammar and spelling.
- The person asks for personal information, including passwords.
- But note: some phishing schemes are sophisticated and look very real, so check it out and protect yourself.

Protect yourself

- Keep your computer security up to date and back up your data often.
- Consider multi-factor authentication – a second step to verify who you are, like a text with a code – for accounts that support it.
- Change any compromised passwords right away and don't use them for any other accounts.

Report Phishing

- Forward phishing emails to spam@uce.gov and reportphishing@apwg.org.
- Report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

For more information, visit ftc.gov/phishing
aba.com/phishing



STUDENT HANDBOOK

As part of the school registration process, parents are prompted to read the CCSD 46 Student Handbook to familiarize themselves with general district operations and guidance to ensure an enriching experience for students. The online handbook offers electronic bookmarks to make referencing important information easy.

One important section is titled “**Wireless Communication Devices**” which relates to cell phones and other communication devices like smartwatches and AI enabled devices. Use of these devices is not permitted, including, but not limited to, turning the device on, checking messages, text messaging, instant messaging, playing or recording voice or video, listening to music, internet use, photography or video, etc.

Students who bring wireless communication devices to school will be required to keep their devices off and out of sight at all times. Storage units are provided in classrooms for grades 5-8 for students who bring wireless communication devices to class. The school district is not responsible for any loss, theft, or damage that may occur to a student’s personal wireless communication device.

Much more information is available in the Student Handbook, available on the district website: <https://d46.org/student-handbook/>.

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dolly Parton Imagination Library provides FREE books to Lake County residents

All Lake County families can now enroll in Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, thanks to the Lake County Regional Office of Education Foundation (LCROEF). This cherished program delivers free, high-quality books each month to children from birth to age five, regardless of income.

[Enroll a child here.](#)



Enroll your child for FREE BOOKS

How it Works
Enroll your child online at ImaginationLibrary.com

In 8-12 weeks, your child will receive their first book in the mail, 'The Little Engine That Could'.

Plus special birthday and graduation messages from Dolly!

Books arrive in the mail monthly until your child's 5th birthday.

The month your child turns 5 they will receive 'Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!'



Register your child today at ImaginationLibrary.com



COMMUNICATIONS: ParentSquare Account Activation

CCSD 46 utilizes ParentSquare as our primary means of school to home communication. This unified communications platform is designed to keep parents and guardians informed and encourage greater engagement and connection with our teachers, schools, and the district.

While all families will receive our messages in their email, families who sign up for a ParentSquare account on either their mobile device or desktop computer will have additional options for receiving messages, including language selection and frequency. If you do not have a ParentSquare account, you can scan the QR code to register your account. You can also download the ParentSquare App to receive messages directly in the App. ParentSquare is available for both iOS and Android devices.

More information on activating ParentSquare and the CCSD 46 Communications program is available on the District website: <https://d46.org/departments/communications/>

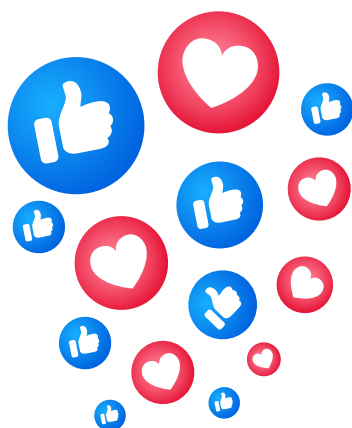
Register Your Account



Then Download the App



STAY IN TOUCH!



In addition to our ParentSquare newsletters, you can find information on the district and our schools on the district website: <https://d46.org/>, and on our social media channels. We're on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and live-stream our Board of Education meetings on [YouTube](#).

Are there other platforms you'd like to see us on? Let us know!



CONSOLIDATED ELECTION: April 6, 2027

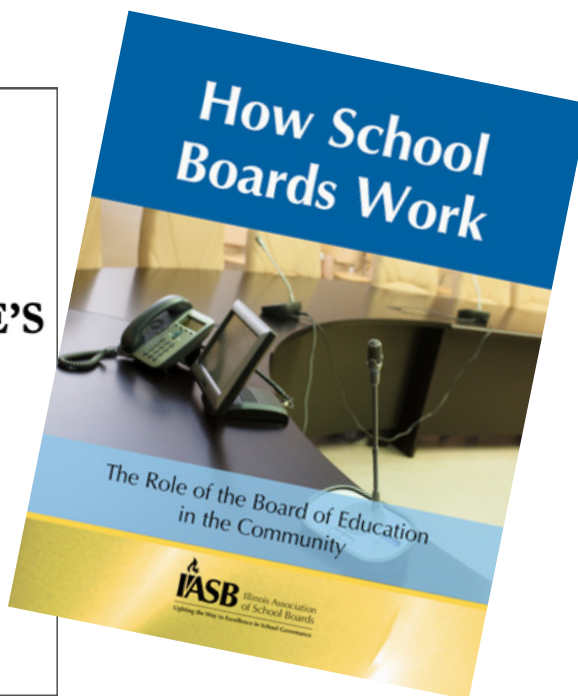
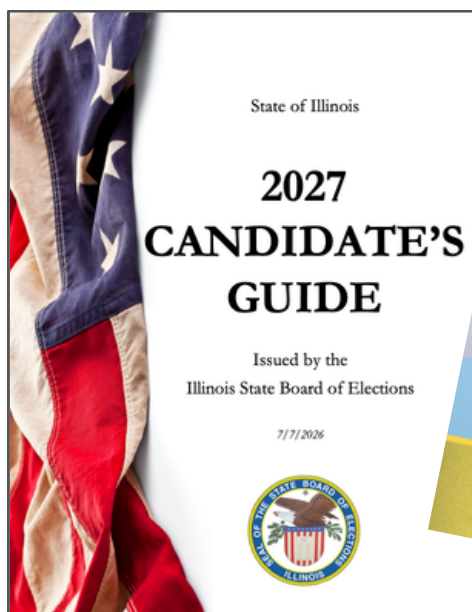


Tuesday, August 25, 2026 is the first day to circulate nomination papers for those interested in running for the Board of Education in the 2027 Consolidated Election. The election will be held on April 6, 2027. Nominating petition forms and Statements of Candidacy are now available from the Lake County Clerk. Petitions may be circulated from August 25 - November 23, 2026. The filing period is November 16-23, 2026. All documents including political maps, petition packets, and more are available on the [Lake County website](#).

Circulation period and filing information for the 2027 Elections are available in the [2027 Candidate's Guide](#) and the [2027 Election Campaign and Finance Calendar](#) published by the Illinois State Board of Elections. Other information, as well as suggested forms, is also available on the [Illinois State Board of Elections website](#).

The Illinois Association of School Boards also provides helpful information for people considering running for the Board of Education, including:

- [2027 Candidates Guide](#) (downloadable PDF)
- [How School Boards Work](#)
- [A School Board Member's Approach to the Job](#)
- [School Board Candidate Qualifications](#)



FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL 2026-2027



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING REVIEW

CCSD 46 Board of Education Meeting Review is a brief summary of events and topics of discussion that occur at general board meetings.

We welcome you to join us at our meetings or watch our live video stream on the CCSD 46 website. We have two opportunities for public comments at our meetings. Board meeting schedules, agendas, video links, and minutes are available on the [BOE webpage](#).

Upcoming Meetings: September 2 | September 16 | October 7 | October 21

All meetings are held at Frederick School, 595 Frederick Road, Grayslake.

GENERAL MEETING: August 12, 2026

The CCSD 46 Board of Education held a general meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in the Falcon Room of Frederick School.

President Stephen Mack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of the agenda, visitors to the meeting were invited to address the board for the first of two public comment opportunities. A community member commented on the District's renewal of the OrganicLife Foodservice contract and expressed concerns over the District's budget and School Report Card.

The Board and Superintendent reports were then presented.

Dr. Stephen Mack, Board President, welcomed everyone back for the new school year and provided an update from SEDOL.

Mrs. Kristy Braden shared that she listened to the latest episode of the Discovering Grayslake podcast featuring Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Carmona.

Mr. Jim Weidman shared that the Village is considering three new subdivisions that could bring additional students to Avon, Meadowview, and Woodview schools. He also shared that Grayslake Days will take place this weekend, with the parade scheduled for Saturday evening.

Dr. Alfonso Carmona, Superintendent, shared that professional development will be handled somewhat differently in the buildings this year. Building leaders will have greater flexibility to identify and address their specific professional development needs while continuing to align the "what" and "why" with District initiatives. Building leaders will have the flexibility to determine the best way to differentiate professional development for their staff.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Carmona shared that the four media centers undergoing transformation are approximately 95% complete and have received occupancy approval. He thanked the custodial teams at each building for their hard work in preparing the schools for the start of the school year.

Dr. Carmona expressed his excitement for the start of the new school year and shared that he sent a survey to each school leader asking what support they may need from the District Office during the first few days of school. He emphasized that this support should continue throughout the year as needed, reinforcing the importance of working together as one team to support the schools and staff.

Mrs. Amy Gluck, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, shared an overview of the professional learning opportunities that took place over the summer. Professional learning included co-teaching, Dual Language, and New Staff Orientation. She noted that New Staff Orientation provided new staff members with opportunities to build relationships and connections with colleagues as they prepared for the upcoming school year.

President Mack then requested a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes Minutes from previous meetings, the Personnel Report, FOIA Review, Exception Report, Accounts Payable Report, and Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

The meeting continued with the Finance Committee Tentative Budget presentation.

Mr. Scott Wold, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the District's 2026-2027 Annual Tentative Budget to the Board of Education. The presentation reviewed the budget development process, including the review of the preliminary and tentative budgets, the public display period, and the timeline for adoption and filing of the FY 2027 Final Budget. The tentative budget will be publicly displayed from August 13 through September 16, 2026, with a public hearing and adoption of the final budget scheduled for September 16, 2026. The adopted budget must be filed by September 30, 2026.

The Board reviewed the District's fund balances, anticipated revenues, and projected expenditures as part of the tentative budget presentation. The presentation also included information regarding Evidence-Based Funding, property tax limitations under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Equalized Assessed Value and tax rate history, and summaries of revenues and expenditures. The tentative budget summary for the operating funds projects total expenditures of \$77,420,829 and total revenues of \$73,602,418, resulting in a projected operating fund deficit of \$3,818,411. The Board also reviewed budgetary considerations, including the expectation that expenditures will continue to increase due to contractual agreements and inflation.

Administration will continue to review the District's long-term facilities plans and update the associated timeline as needed.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Items voted on by the Board for this meeting included:

- Motion to approve the Public Notice for the Budget Hearing on September 16, 2026
Approved 5-0
- Motion to approve the District Office Basement Sealing
Approved 5-0
- Motion to approve the Right at School Contract Extension
Approved 5-0
- Motion to approve the Miscellaneous Rates Substitute Pay
Approved 5-0
- Motion to approve the Evolve Service Agreement SY 26-27
Approved 5-0
- Motion to approve the One-Year Waste Management Contract Extension
Approved 5-0
- Motion to approve the Resolution for Hazardous Road Conditions
Approved 5-0
- Motion to approve the Access Control Additional Scope
Approved 5-0

Unfinished Business, which are unresolved issues that were previously brought before the Board to be discussed further included:

- None

New Business, which are new issues for the Board to discuss, included the following:

- None



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

As the meeting drew to a close, topics for future agenda items were discussed, and the public once again had an opportunity to address the Board of Education. No comments were made.

The Board adjourned the general meeting at 6:52 p.m.

The next scheduled Board of Education general meeting on September 2, 2026, will be held at 6:00 p.m. and live-streamed online.

Please visit d46.org/board-of-education for more information.



Stephen Mack, EdD, President

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2016

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Kristy Braden, Vice President

Term: 2023-2027

Member Since: 2018

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Tamika Nash, Secretary

Term: 2023-2027

Member Since: 2019

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Hillary Halverson, Member

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2025

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Maureen Heun, Member

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2025

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Kristy Miller, Member

Term: 2023-2027

Member Since: 2019

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Jim Weidman, Member

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2013

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CCSD 46 CALENDAR

2026-2027 HIGHLIGHTS



First Day of School

Grades K-8, Half-Day Attendance



First Day of School

Early Childhood Center



Last Day of School

If no emergency days are used

SCHOOL BREAKS



FALL BREAK

November 25-27



WINTER BREAK

December 21-January 3



SPRING BREAK

March 22-26

OTHER CLOSINGS & HALF-DAYS

SEPTEMBER

07 - Labor Day
09 - Half-Day AM ECC Attends
21 - No School

OCTOBER

08 - Half-Day PM ECC Attends
09 - Half-Day AM ECC Attends
12 - Indigenous Peoples' Day
14 - Half-Day PM ECC Attends

NOVEMBER

02 - Staff Institute Day
03 - Election Day
11 - Half-Day AM ECC Attends

DECEMBER

09 - Half-Day PM ECC Attends

JANUARY

13 - Half-Day AM ECC Attends
18 - ML King, Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

10 - Half-Day PM ECC Attends
11 - Half-Day AM ECC Attends
12 - Staff Institute Day
15 - Presidents' Day

MARCH

10 - Half-Day PM ECC Attends
19 - No School

APRIL

14 - Half-Day AM ECC Attends

MAY

12 - Half-Day PM ECC Attends
31 - Memorial Day

Visit the CCSD 46 website
for more information
d46.org/calendar