

CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

OCTOBER 28, 2026



Career Navig8 Lake County



Eighth-grade students from Grayslake Middle School and Park Campus traveled to the Lake County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, October 20, for the Lake County Regional Office of Education Career Navig8 event. Navig8 immerses students in practical, real-world scenarios aligned with the county's goals for comprehensive workforce readiness.



Students gain a deeper understanding of various career pathways by visiting businesses from seven key career paths. They learn the tactical realities of a chosen career path through hands-on, real-world experiences, and connect with potential employers in the community. Students can also identify courses that align with their pathway and choose high school courses based on their interests.



Over 140 businesses joined the Navig8 event for 2026, representing Health and Public Services; Finance and Business Services; Information Technology; Manufacturing, Engineering, Trades, and Technology; Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Arts and Communications; and Military and Community Partnership sectors in Lake County.

UPCOMING EVENTS



NOVEMBER

- 02 - Institute Day - No Student Attendance
- 03 - Election Day - School Closed
- 04 - Board of Education General Meeting - Falcon Room, Frederick School, 6:00 pm
- 09 - Fall Band Concert 7th/8th Grade - Park Campus, 7:00 pm
- 11 - Half Day Early Dismissal - AM ECC Attends
- 12 - GMS Dine & Share - Twisted Burger, Grayslake, 4-8:00 pm
- 13 - Preschool Screening
- 13 - End of First Trimester
- 13 - GMS International Night, Grayslake Middle School, 5:30-8:30 pm
- 17 - MV Dine & Share - Chipotle, Grayslake, 4-8:00 pm
- 18 - Board of Education General Meeting - Falcon Room, Frederick School, 6:00 pm
- 24 - Report Cards Available Online
- 25-27 - Fall Break - No School

DECEMBER

- 09 - Half Day Early Dismissal - PM ECC Attends
- 09 - Board of Education General Meeting - Falcon Room, Frederick School, 6:00 pm
- 11 - Preschool Screening
- 11 - GMS Musical Performance, Grayslake Middle School, 7:00 pm
- 12 - GMS Musical Performance, Grayslake Middle School, 7:00 pm
- 13 - GMS Musical Performance, Grayslake Middle School, 2:00 pm
- 21 - First Day of Winter Break
- 21 - Jan 3 - Winter Break

EXELERATE ILLINOIS GOLD CIRCLE OF QUALITY



Congratulations to the staff of our Early Childhood Center for earning the Gold Circle of Quality Award from ExceleRate Illinois, the state's quality rating and improvement system for early learning and development programs. The ECC staff demonstrates a strong commitment to providing quality early childhood education to children in the district as indicated by the gold level rating. We are so proud of our early childhood program and our outstanding ECC staff!



STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

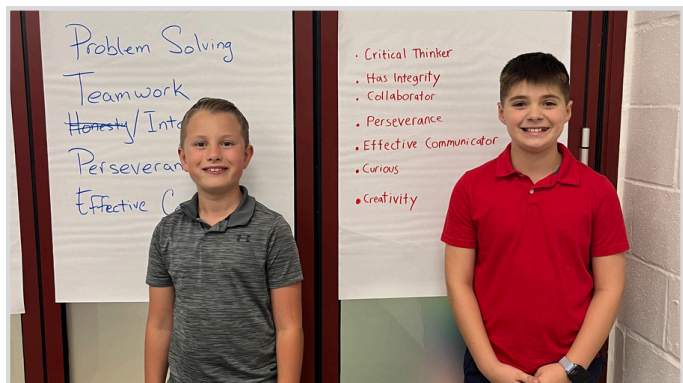


Portrait of a Learner Committee Meeting - October 13, 2026

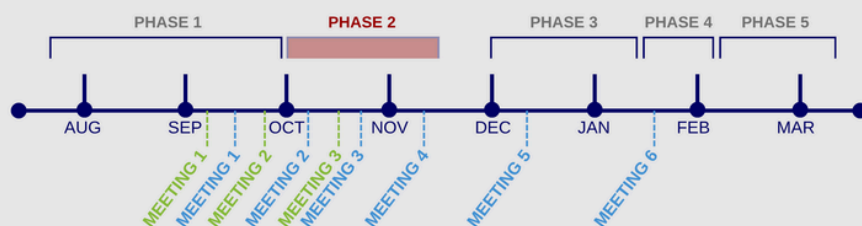
The final CCSD 46 Portrait of a Learner (POL) meeting on Tuesday, October 13, opened with a presentation of stakeholder feedback on the Portrait of a Learner terms.

In total, nearly 3,000 survey responses from community stakeholders informed the work of the District's Portrait of a Learner team, which also includes school community stakeholders, especially our students. Based on a follow-up survey designed to refine the Portrait of a Learner team's work, working groups spent 30 minutes narrowing the Portrait of a Learner terms to six. Each group selected students to help present its choices, and we tabulated the top terms.

Groups then jigsawed the terms and began drafting descriptors for each one. We closed with a whole-group discussion of the draft description statements. Student-Centered Services and district administration will finalize the descriptions before presenting to the Board of Education.



Portrait of a Learner | Strategic Plan Timeline



STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Strategic Plan Committee Meeting - October 22, 2026

Stakeholders on the strategic planning committee were divided into three groups and rotated through presentations on Finance, Student Services, and Facilities and Technology. In each round, a member of the district office team presented background information, strengths, and opportunities for improvement, and group members had the chance to ask questions.

Each group then brainstormed a list of suggested priorities for that area. The committee will collect these lists and review them at a future meeting.

This process helps stakeholders learn about the district while giving them a real opportunity to provide input and influence its strategic direction.

This meeting provided the sixth set of district data presentations to complement the district's strategic planning surveys and interviews, which have generated nearly 3,000 responses from students, staff, parents, and community members. In meetings four through six, the strategic planning team will review additional district data before finalizing priorities based on all inputs to provide the foundation for the final strategic plan.



More information on both the Portrait of a Learner and the Strategic Plan committees can be found on the district website: <https://d46.org/strategic-plan-2026/>



Share Your Thoughts!

Your feedback goes directly to our planning team.
Visit the d46.org/strategic-plan-2026 webpage.

STRONGER TOGETHER: A Multicultural Celebration

The CCSD 46 Multicultural Department hosted “Stronger Together: A Multicultural Celebration” on October 16 at Prairieview School, bringing families together to celebrate the rich diversity of our community. The evening featured engaging activity stations promoting unity, inclusion, and respect for different cultures.

Students proudly wore traditional attire and showcased their heritage through a cultural fashion and talent show. Twelve students participated and received certificates of appreciation from Mr. Jose Zires, Director of Operations, Maintenance, and Safety for the district. The event welcomed 32 families and was made possible by the support of district staff and parent volunteers.



The celebration was a wonderful reminder that
embracing our differences
makes us
stronger together!



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: Talking Online Privacy & Safety with your Family

Talking to kids about online privacy is like talking to them about not opening the front door to strangers. Help them set strong passwords and use privacy settings. When we explain what personal information is OK to share and whom to trust, we protect them against grooming, AI companions, and other risks. And even when new apps pop up and platform settings change, our basic human skills remain the same. Critical thinking and knowing how to assess tricky situations—and when to get a trusted adult—is the best way to stay safe and ahead of the game.

CHECK OUT THESE 5 TIPS

1

Discuss personal vs. private info.

Talk about the difference between what's OK to share online (favorite color) and what's not (home address).

2

Use privacy settings.

Together, go through the settings on all new apps to make sure you both know what information your kids are sharing. Especially in the beginning, it's better to share very little.

3

Avoid location tracking.

Location-aware apps can be super helpful. But apps that use a device's location to help people find your kid or offer them ads for nearby businesses should be used with caution. Turn them off if you can.

4

Power up passwords.

Work together with kids to help them come up with complex passwords. Think outside the dictionary. Use phrases and special characters that make passwords hard to guess but easy to remember. Remind kids to keep passwords private and change them regularly.

5

Skip quizzes.

Help kids identify and avoid clickbait, quizzes, special offers, and anything that asks for personal or private information. This helps keep information secure and devices safe.



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: Talking Online Privacy & Safety with your Family

Teaching Kids to Protect Their Data and Privacy Online

When kids start to use tech or go online, it's important to teach them the basics of online safety and privacy. Whether they're using educational apps or social media, **a lot of their information is collected by companies**. Help your children be mindful of their digital lives by sharing some guidelines on how to protect their personal data.

Here are a few things to look for when you and your kid create profiles for devices, apps, games, social media platforms, and internet-enabled toys:

- **Create strong usernames and passwords.** To keep your account secure, never include personal details in your account name or password. Consider your digital footprint and select appropriate, inoffensive usernames.
- **Use strict privacy settings.** Whenever you can, opt out of sharing your location and data. [Here's how you can up a secure account.](#)
- **Be careful with personal info.** Encourage your kids to ask you for help when filling out online forms. If they create profiles on devices at home or in school, make sure they know what data to keep private. This can include identifiable information like phone numbers, birthdays, addresses, and Social Security numbers, depending on the situation and its requirements.
- **Look for a safe URL.** Does the URL (also known as the link) begin with "https"? The "s" at the end means the website is secure. Make sure that "s" is there both before and after your kid signs in.
- **Do a password check.** Pretend your kid has forgotten their password and try to recover it online. Does the site display the password or email it? If so, the password is not securely protected. Sites that send a link asking you to create a brand-new password are safer.
- **Check sharing settings.** If kids are sending messages or creating content online, you could change the privacy settings so their posts are only shared with trusted people.
- **Skip anything that's not required.** If you can create your account without giving away certain personal information, don't offer it up.
- **Be careful with downloads and other links.** Spyware, malware, and other harmful software can be embedded in what seem like regular downloads. Consider using antivirus software and apps to keep your devices safe.



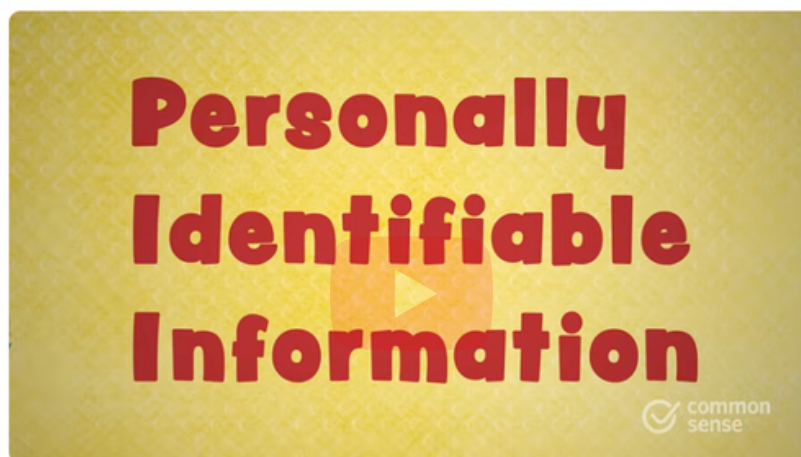
DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: Talking Online Privacy & Safety with your Family

Teaching Kids to Protect Their Data and Privacy Online

Finally, share these tips on creating strong passwords with your kids:

- **Make it long, unique, and memorable.** Your password should be easy for you to remember, but hard for others to guess. Plus, it's harder to crack passwords that have eight or more letters and characters.
- **Avoid recognizable words and personal information.** Use a random mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Don't include your name, phone number, birthday, or address.
- **Update your passwords regularly.** In case someone does guess a password, they won't be able to get into your account for long.
- **Consider sharing your password with a parent or caregiver.** Sharing your password with your friends can be risky. If you forget your password, a trusted adult can help you recover it.
- **Store passwords away safely.** Consider using a password manager to store your passwords.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: Talking Online Privacy & Safety with your Family

Family Activity Cards

These family activity cards are designed to spark fun and meaningful conversations about topics such as online safety and kindness, healthy relationships, responsible AI use, and identifying credible information. Each card includes a fact, a prompt, and a follow-up question based on simple verbal games with a twist. Since every family has different rules and expectations around media and technology, you can choose the cards that fit your family best. The goal is to encourage open dialogue, curiosity, and empathy while helping both kids and adults share their perspectives and learn together.

Grades K-2: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Grades 3-5: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Grades 6-8: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

DISTRICTWIDE DINE & SHARE FUNDRAISER

Join us for a very special districtwide Dine & Share event benefiting the **CCSD 46 Early Childhood Center!**

Thursday, October 29, from 4:00-8:00 pm, Pizza Ranch in Round Lake Beach will donate 10% of all qualifying sales to benefit our littlest learners in our early education program. The ECC is home to students from across the district, and all of the D46 PTO/PTF organizations are pitching in to make this event a success!



The fundraiser includes dine-in and carryout sales, along with all cash tips collected during the event! Pizza Ranch coupon books will also be available for purchase for \$15 each.

Enjoy a fun dinner with tasty food and know you are also supporting the CCSD 46 school community's Early Education Center. Pizza Ranch is located at 780 E Rollins Road in Round Lake Beach.