

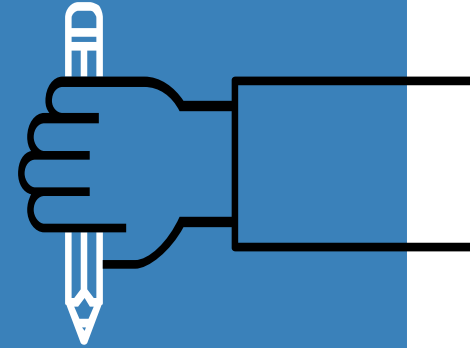


# 2026 U-46 STUDENT SUMMIT



# Strategic Plan Update

April 27, 2026



## Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Presenters:

Thomas Akeman - Larkin High School

Neha Ali - Bartlett High School

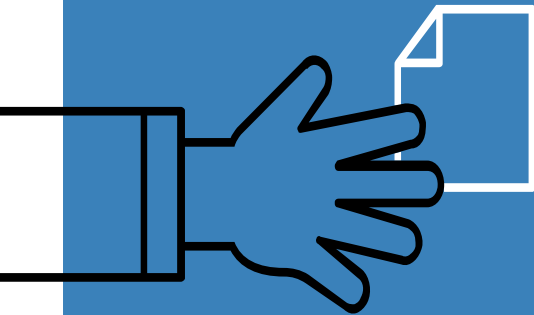
Jamison Baskin - Elgin High School

Diamond Schield - Bartlett High School

Victoria Stephen- South Elgin High School

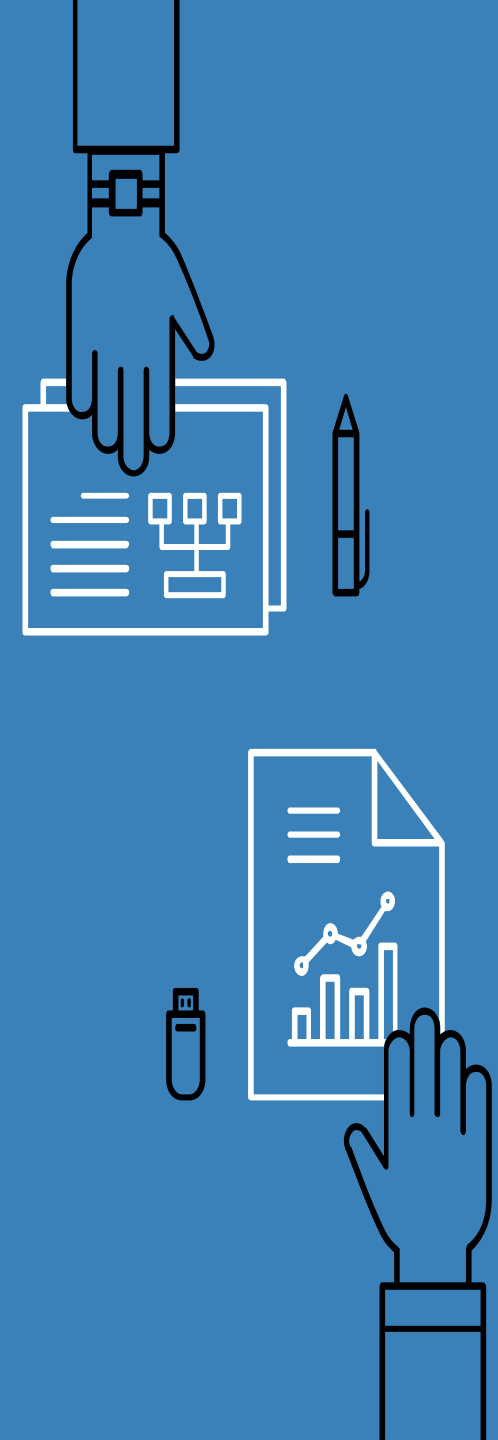
ISBE Student Summit Presenter:

Zach Schwartz - South Elgin High School



# Student Summit

- March 26, 2026
- Approximately 220 students participated from all 7 high schools
- Superintendent Advisors facilitated table top conversations in four areas:
  - ◆ Safety, Well-Being & Mental Health
  - ◆ Belonging, Equity & Student Identity
  - ◆ Relationships, Communication & School Culture
  - ◆ Readiness for the Future (Academic & Life Planning)



# SAFETY, WELL-BEING & MENTAL HEALTH

Based on feedback from all high schools, our biggest takeaways in the area of Safety, Well-Being & Mental Health:

## → Changes that can Improve Mental Health

→ Quarterly meetings w/ Social Worker

## → Student-Staff Relationship

→ Finding balance with Student-Staff relationships

→ Faculty and Student Events, such as game night

## → What to Implement Regarding Safety and Wellness

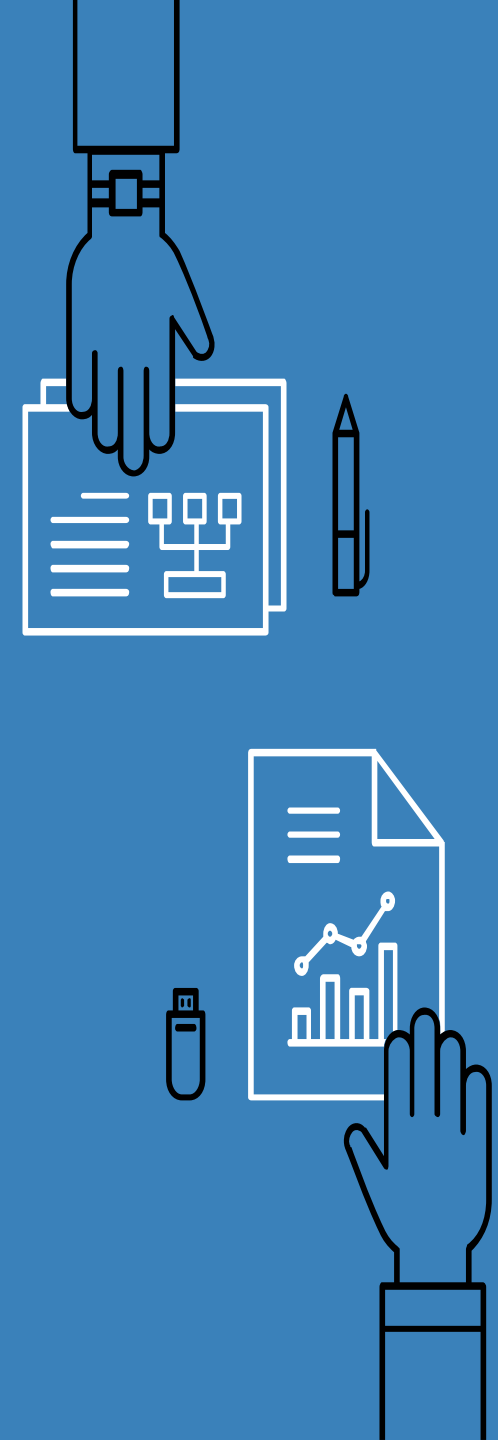
→ Implement appropriate consequences while addressing both sides of the root cause



# Belonging, Equity & Student Identity

Based on feedback from all high schools, our biggest takeaways in the area of Belonging, Equity & Student Identity were:

- **Involvement and communication for students**
  - Supporting students involvement with clubs and sports. Students want to have more involvement from teachers to get a better sense of belonging.
- **Recognizing all voices in schools**
  - Making sure that we get to hear from a variety of students. We want to hear opinions from everyone including special education students, parents, staff, freshman, academy and non academy students.
- **Preparing students for their future**
  - Aligning grading systems with other districts to help prepare students for college, trade schools, careers and for life in general.



# Relationships, Communication & School Culture

Based on feedback from all high schools, our biggest takeaways in the area of Relationships, Communication & School Culture were:

## Greater Engagement from Staff and Teachers

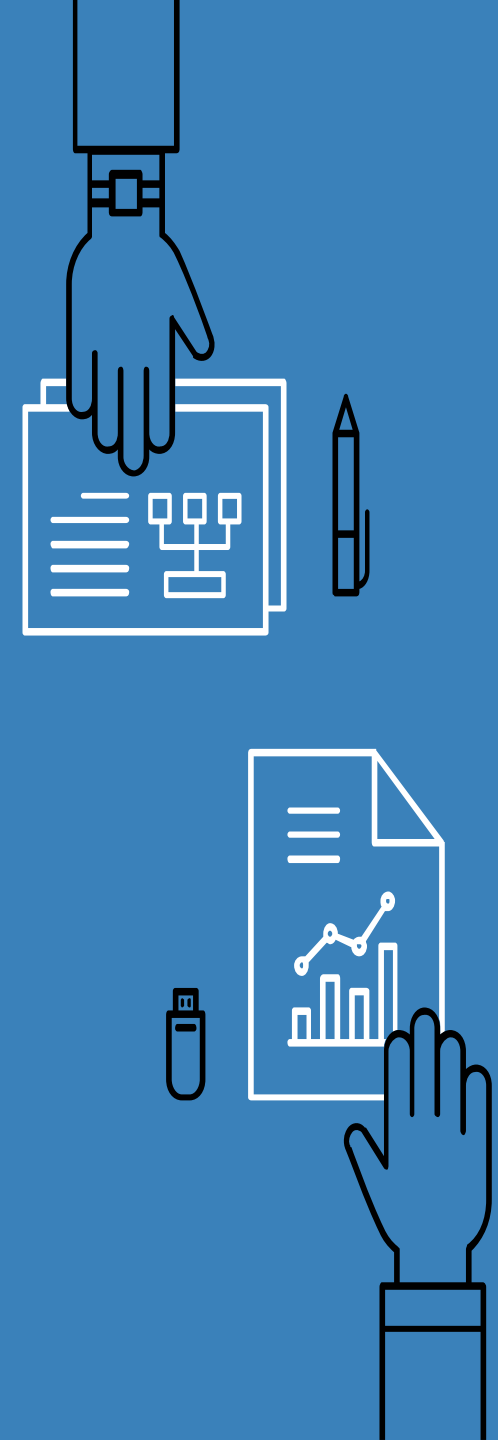
- Staff should be more focused on building collaborative relationships with students.
- Regular check-ins with students would be beneficial.

## Balance in Recognition Among All Students

- Students who abide by the rules go unnoticed while the attention is focused on those who don't.
- Reward systems encourage all students to work hard.

## Academic Involvement

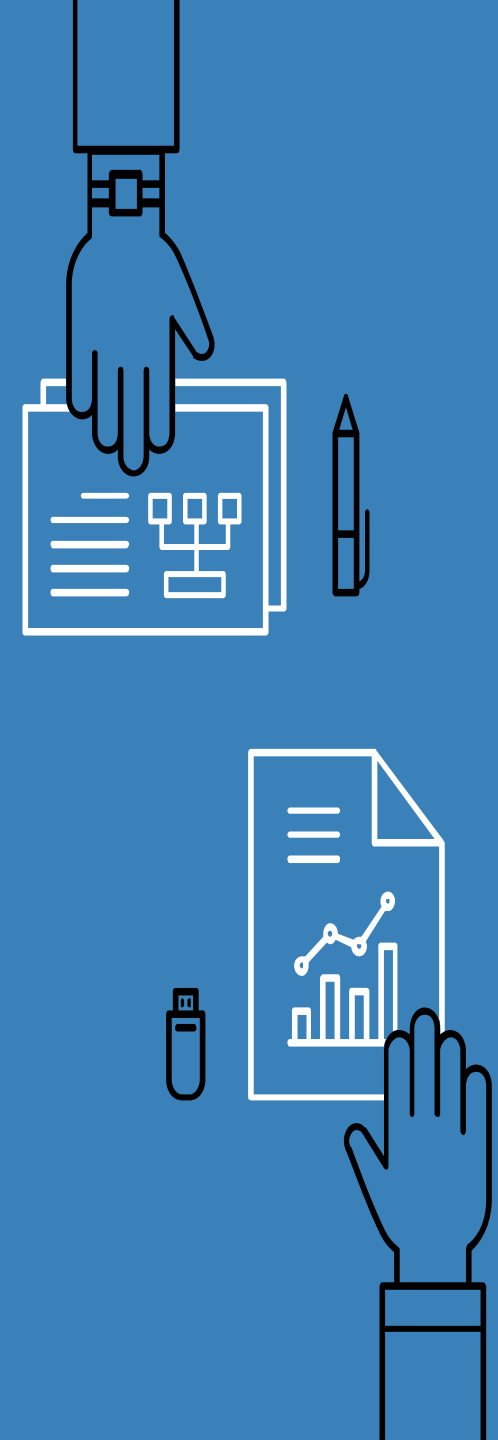
- Teachers should focus more on creating a collaborative learning environment.
- Teachers should be more available during school hours and after hours to provide assistance.



# Readiness for the Future (Academic & Life Planning)

Based on feedback from all high schools, our biggest takeaways in the area of Readiness for the Future (Academic & Life Planning) were:

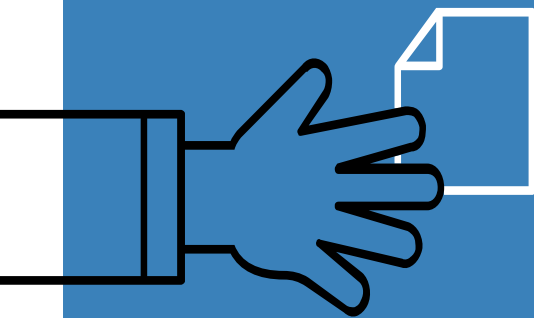
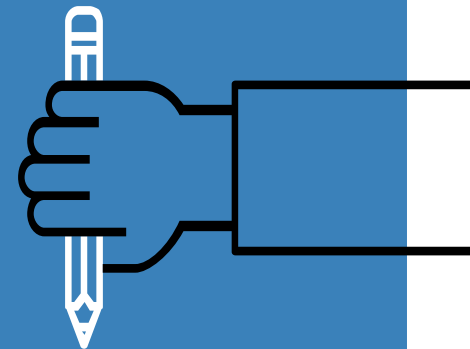
- **Career + Post-Secondary Exploration**
  - 8th/Freshmen Year: introduce pathways, high-school planning, and basic career awareness
  - Sophomore Year: focus on structured planning, more serious conversations about post-high school plans
  - Have courses with outside classroom connections
- **Improvement of Learning**
  - Provide structured learning, teach real-world skills, return with final exams (or a concept of it)
- **After U-46 Skills**
  - Financial Literacy: exposure to taxes, budgeting, and cost of living, for example.
  - Life Skills: networking, effective communication, and professionalism.



Illinois State Board of Education  
Student Summit Member:

Zach Schwartz - South Elgin High School

ISBE Student Summit Date  
March 13, 2026



# Illinois State Board of Education Student Summit

## Student Summit Topics

### → Attendance

- Chronic Absenteeism

### → Student Engagement in School

- Start Time

### → Technology & AI Usage

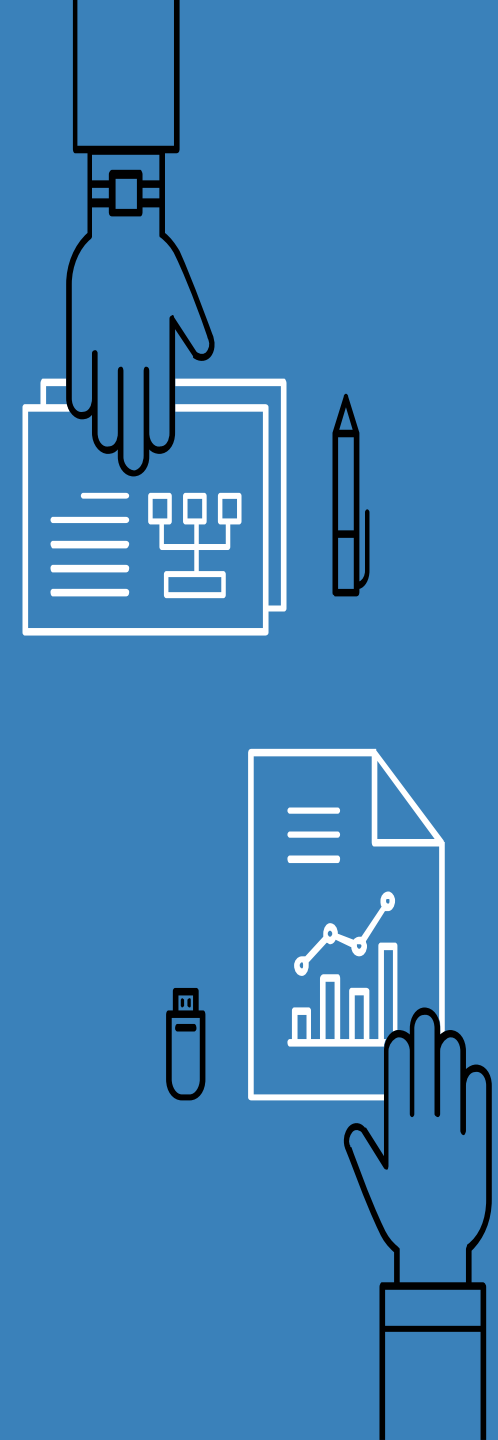
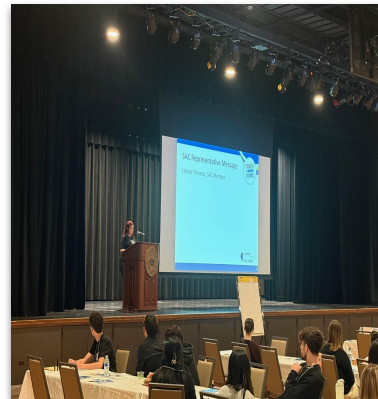
- Research Tool

### → College & Career Readiness

- Standardized Tests (Final Exams)
- Grading Systems Across Illinois
- Guidance Counselors

### → CTE Programs & School Activities

- Funding for CTE Programs, Clubs & Sports





# 2026 STUDENT SUMMIT



**DREAM Academy**



**Bartlett HS**



**Elgin HS**



**Larkin HS**



**South Elgin HS**



**Streamwood HS**

