

Culture and Climate

May 4th, 2026

Mark Gonnella - Director

Dr. Colleen Evens - Coordinator



Agenda



1. Overview of Culture and Climate Team
2. Proactive Measures and Supports
3. Attendance Data
4. Referral Data
5. Out of School Suspension Data
6. Bullying Data
7. Student Code of Conduct

Culture and Climate Mission Statement

The U-46 Department of Culture and Climate is committed to supporting our students, staff, and parents in realizing our vision through providing professional development, collaborative partnerships, and ongoing conversations until all our systems measurably work for all students.

Goals for Student Success

GOAL #1



1

**Building
Early
Academic
& Social-
Emotional
Foundations**

GOAL #2



2

**Safety,
Sense of
Belonging,
& Inclusion**

GOAL #3



3

**Academic
Growth
& Mastery**

GOAL #4



4

**Ready to
Embrace
a Diverse
& Changing
World**

GOAL #2: Safety, Sense of Belonging, & Inclusion



Every student will contribute to and experience a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment that nurtures a sense of belonging.

OUR EQUITY COMMITMENT

We provide safe and inclusive environments that disrupt systemic inequities and ensure every student is valued, connected, and engaged.

MEASURES OF STUDENT PROGRESS

- 2.A Students experiencing and perceiving a supportive school climate that emphasizes safety, inclusion, positive student-staff relationships, and a sense of belonging
- 2.B Students attending at least 90% of school days
- 2.C Students participating in co-curricular/ extracurricular activities

Office of Culture and Climate Team



Social Emotional Response Team

- Marisa Herrell - Bartlett Network
- Elisabeth Ferrill - Larkin Network
- Zehra Ali- Elgin Network
- Kelli Walsh - South Elgin Network
- Robert Luck - Streamwood Network
- Melissa Nytko - Secondary Network (MS)
- Laura Smail - Secondary Network (HS)

- Adriana RayaVillagomez - Secretary

Tactical Assessment Team (TAT)

- Genevieve Lukes - Psychologist
- Robert Kirch - Cross Cat Teacher
- Anita Funkhouser - Social Worker
- Officer Daniel Fischer - SRO

- (Open) - Prevention Specialist



Proactive Measures and Supports



Provide District-Wide support for the following:

- ▶ Attendance: “Every Minute Matters” Campaign
- ▶ Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) instruction/support
- ▶ Crisis support
- ▶ Bullying referrals
- ▶ Bullying supports for victims and resources for staff
- ▶ Restorative Practices
- ▶ Suspensions
- ▶ Strengthen welcoming environments
- ▶ Conditions walks
- ▶ Classroom support to assigned teachers within the networks
- ▶ Communities of Practice (CoP) for Assistant Principals of Culture and Climate
- ▶ Community resources

Communities of Practice Topics

- **Conducting Crisis Team Meetings**
- **Restorative Practices**
- **Access to community resources**
- **Legal and ISBE updates**
- **Conducting Bullying Investigations**
- **Alternatives to Suspensions**
- **In-School Intervention practices**
- **Reducing Recidivism**
- **Boosting Attendance Ideas**
- **MTSS Practices**
- **FBA/BIP Information**
- **Data Analysis**
- **Restraint/Timeout Training and Assessment**
- **Team Collaboration among Assistant Principals**
- **Student Success Advocate Updates and Training**
- **Collective Efficacy among APs**
- **ACES Training and Trauma Informed Care**
- **Threat Assessment and Safety Survey Process**
- **Community Services Ideas**

Every Minute Matters



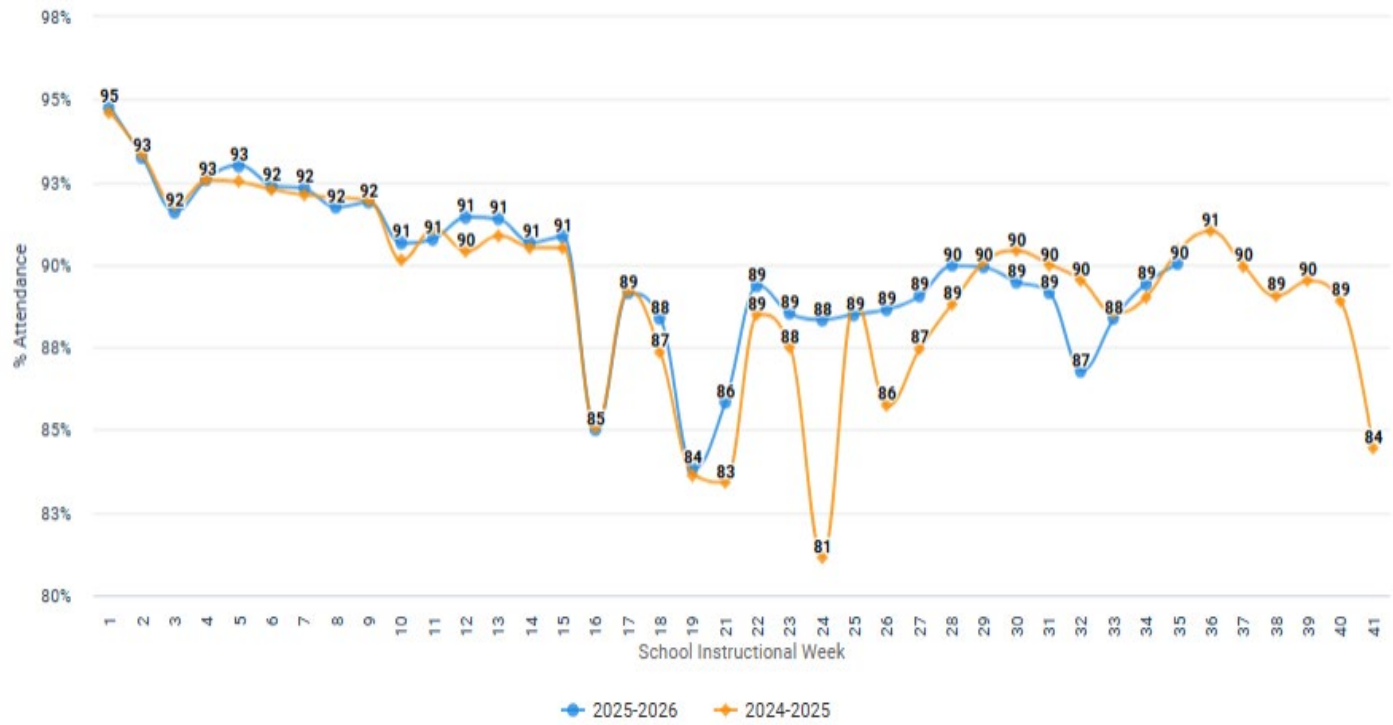
2025-26 School Year Focus Calendar

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	
Focus	Preparing For the School Year: Establishing Routines	Setting Family Attendance Goals	National Attendance Awareness Month	Prioritizing Wellness	Planning Ahead	Staying the Course	New Year, Better (Improved) You	Importance of Self Care	March Madness	Be Present Be Powerful	Mental Health Awareness	
Resources*	<p>The Importance of Family Routines</p> <p>Spanish- The Importance of Family Routines</p> <p>Parent Resources for routines</p> <p>Internal</p> <p>Drop guidance</p> <p>Required letters</p> <p>Benchmarks</p> <p>Coding/secretaries</p>	<p>Logging into IC - Attendance Webpage</p> <p>How to check contact info scanning</p> <p>Reviewing our materials to know expectations</p> <p>- Attendance Tracker Magnet</p> <p>- How Sick is Too Sick Postcard</p> <p>Spanish-Healthy Sleep</p> <p>Healthy Sleep</p>	<p>Parent resources</p> <p>Letters</p> <p>U-46 branded attendance materials</p> <p>HS</p> <p>First attendance recap</p> <p>Spanish- Teaching Time Management</p> <p>Teaching Time Management to Teens: Less Stress, More Balance</p>	<p>Hygiene</p> <p>When to keep student home-Magnet/papers</p> <p>Keep your child healthy and in school</p> <p>Mental Health Resources for Teens</p> <p>Lab for Scalable Mental Health</p>	<p>Build awareness of vacation being unexcused</p> <p>Being prepared for vacations</p> <p>Secondary Attendance Recap letter</p> <p>Anxiety Handout</p> <p>Spanish- Anxiety in Children and Teens</p> <p>Anxiety in Children and Teens</p>	<p>Goal setting</p> <p>Resolutions</p> <p>Routines</p> <p>Spanish-8 Parenting Goals to Start the New Year Strong</p> <p>8 Parenting Goals to Start the New Year Strong</p>	<p>Spanish-Stress-Free School Breaks: How to Plan for a Relaxing Reset</p> <p>Stress-Free School Breaks: How to Plan for a Relaxing Reset</p> <p>Seasonal Affective Disorder</p> <p>Keep Your Child Healthy and In School</p>	<p>Mental Wellness Month</p> <p>Goal setting</p> <p>Resolutions</p> <p>Routines</p> <p>Spanish-8 Parenting Goals to Start the New Year Strong</p> <p>8 Parenting Goals to Start the New Year Strong</p>	<p>Spanish-Importance of Self-Care: Why Parents Need Time Out to Recharge</p> <p>Importance of Self-Care: Why Parents Need Time Out to Recharge</p> <p>Spanish-How Taking Care of Yourself Makes You A Better Mom</p> <p>How Taking Care of Yourself Makes You a Better Mom</p>	<p>Review Attendance Stats and Set a Goal for the Remainder of the School Year</p> <p>Stress-Free School Breaks: How to Plan for a Relaxing Reset</p> <p>Spanish-Stress Free School Breaks: How to Plan for a Relaxing Reset</p> <p>How Purpose Changes Across Your Lifetime</p>	<p>Fourth Attendance Recap letter</p> <p>Power up with: Sleep</p> <p>Nutrition</p> <p>Staying Helpful</p> <p>How to Teach Mindfulness in a More Social Way</p>	<p>SAMHSA Toolkit Mental Health Awareness Month</p> <p>Healthy Minds, Thriving Kids Pre-K</p> <p>https://childmind.org/healthyminds/elementary-school/</p> <p>https://childmind.org/healthyminds/middle-school/</p> <p>https://childmind.org/healthyminds/high-school/</p>

Attendance Overview - Weekly



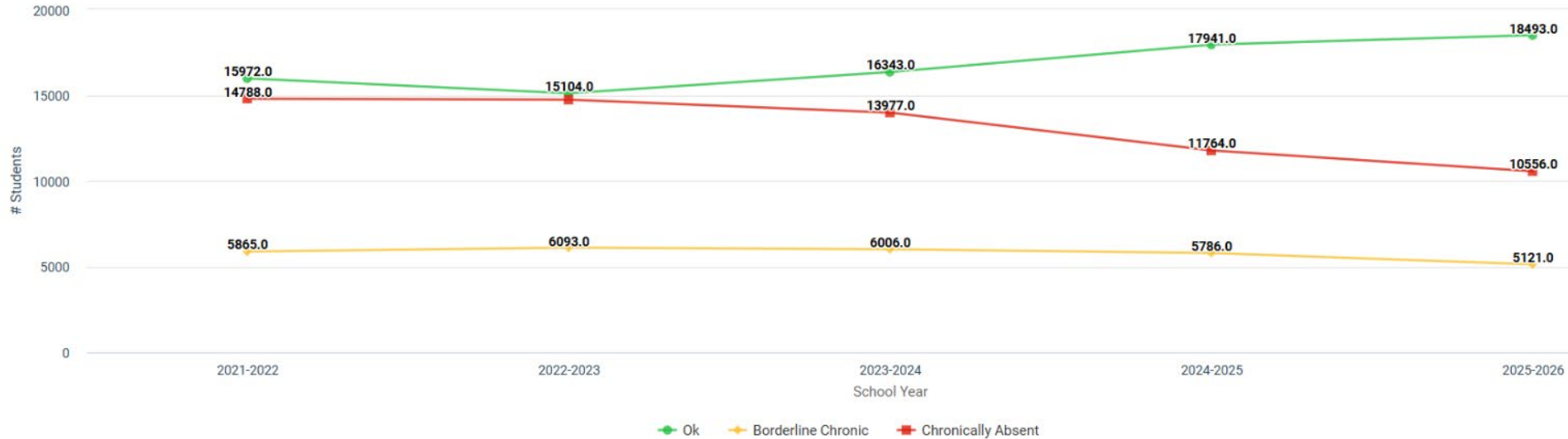
Weekly Attendance %



Chronic Absenteeism Trends



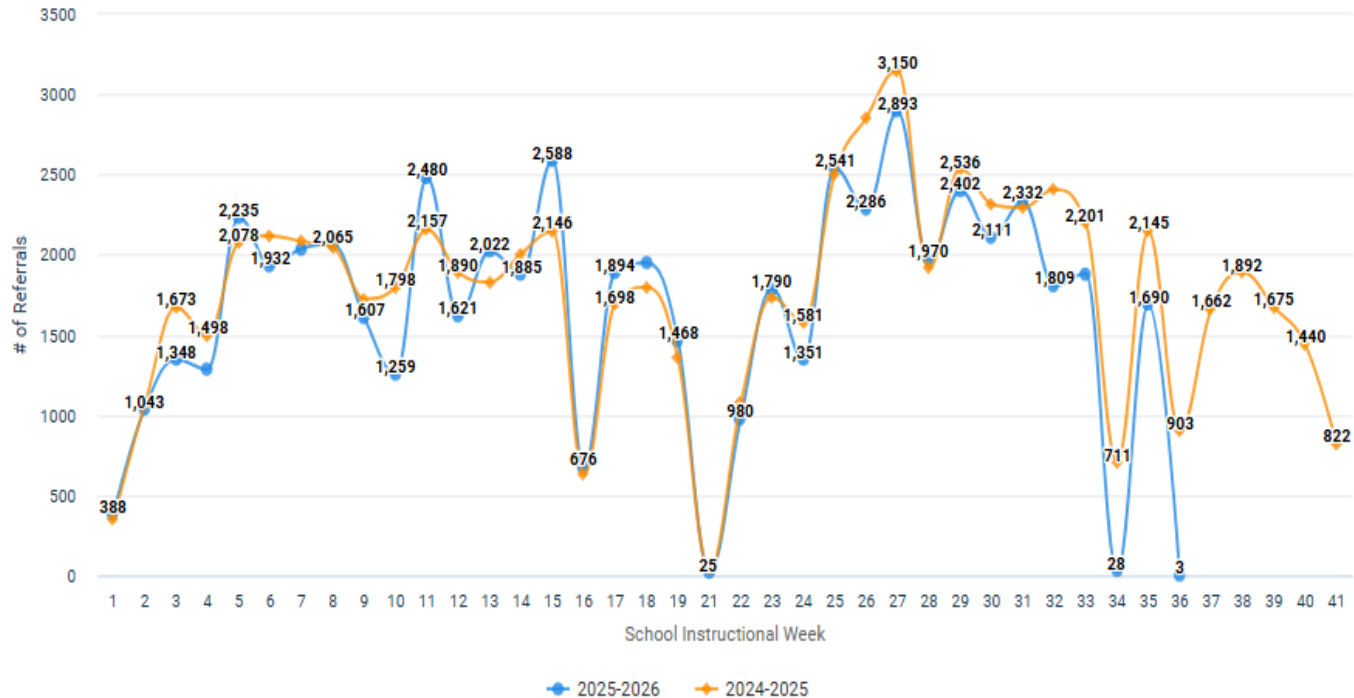
What is our chronic absenteeism trend?



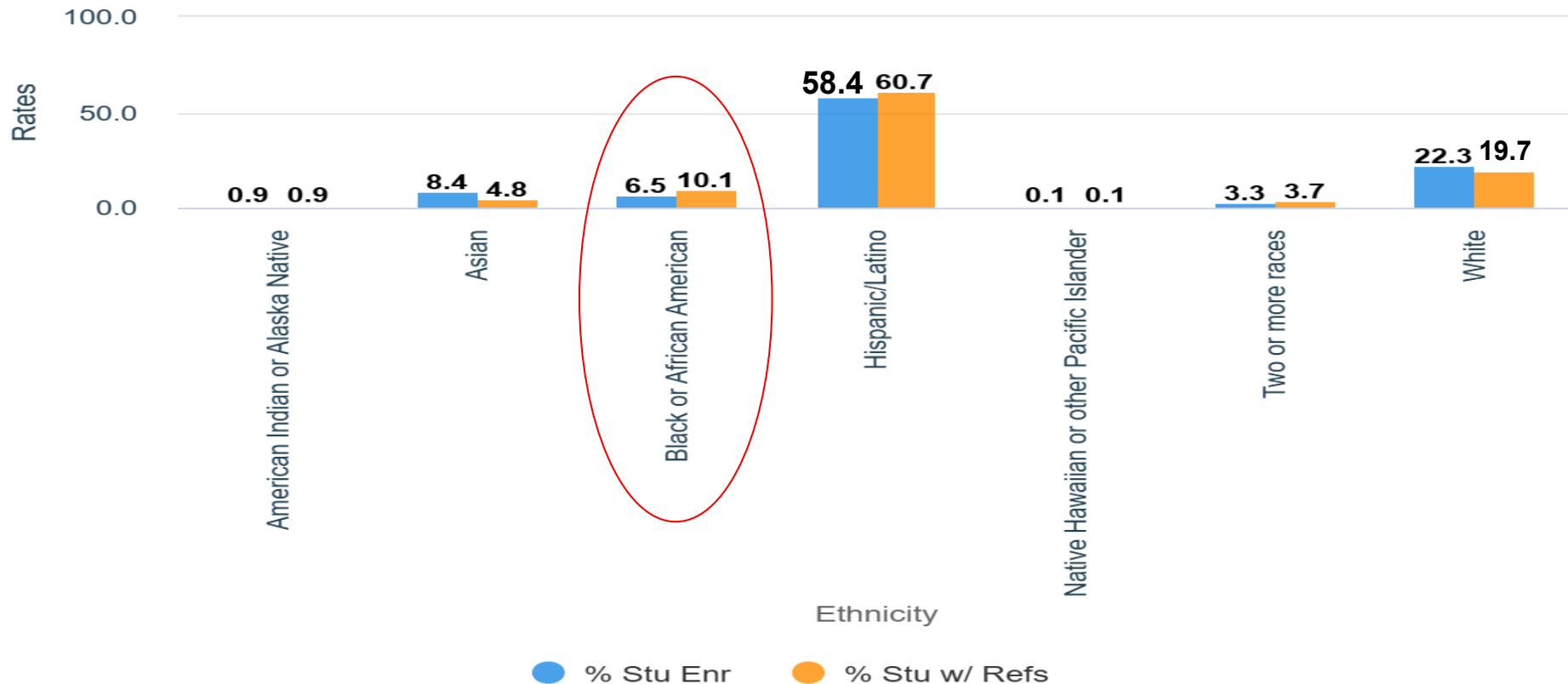
Behavior Referral Data



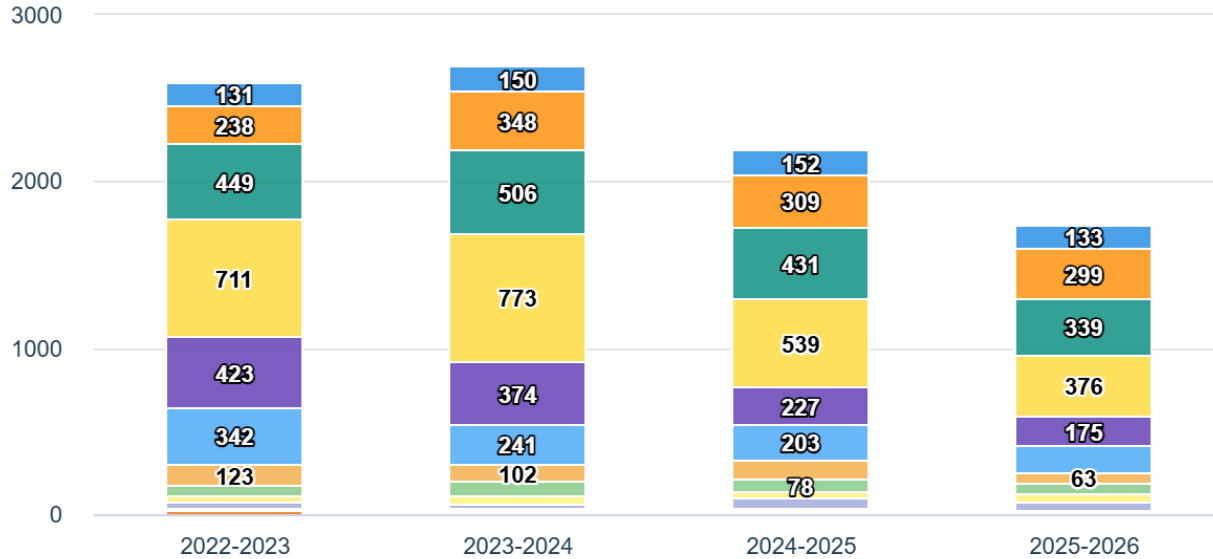
Weekly # of Referrals



Enrollments/Referrals for 2025-2026 School Year

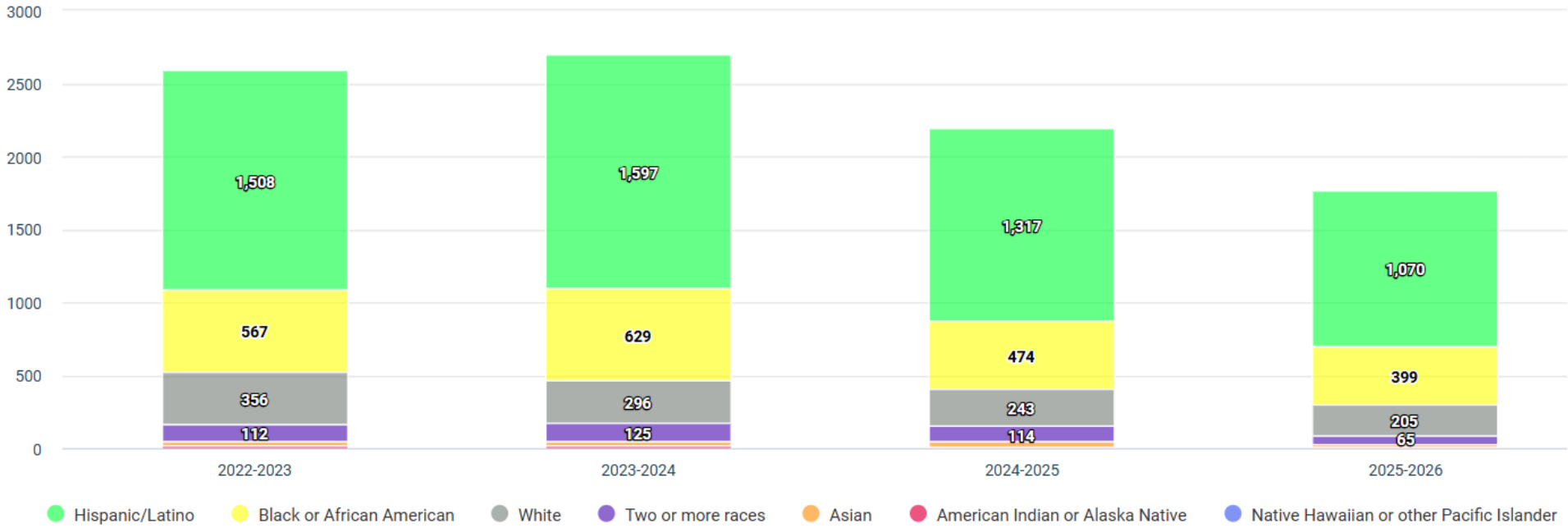


Out-of-School Suspensions by Grade Level



- Grade 12
- Grade 11
- Grade 10
- Grade 9
- Grade 8
- Grade 7
- Grade 6
- Grade 5
- Grade 4
- Grade 3
- Grade 2
- Grade 1
- Kindergarten
- Prekindergarten

Out-of-School Suspension Incidents by Ethnicity



Reported Bullying Cases



August 2024 - April 2025 100 Reported Bullying Cases	August 2025-April 2026 83 Reported Bullying Cases
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 3-Bartlett Network○ 18-Elgin Network○ 13-Larkin Network○ 10-South Elgin Network○ 9-Streamwood Network○ 35-MS Network○ 12-High School Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 12-Bartlett Network○ 10-Elgin Network○ 10-Larkin Network○ 7-South Elgin Network○ 9-Streamwood Network○ 28-MS Network○ 7-High School Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 67 cases unfounded● 33 founded cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 55 cases unfounded● 20 founded cases● 8 pending

Safety Council



- In partnership with ETA 2nd-Vice President and Safety Council (comprised of ETA and Administration), provided six roadshows for all staff on the Student Code of Conduct and referral writing.
- Described referrals as data points.
- When and How to write a proper referral.
- Guidelines for students with special needs.
- Ideas for interventions over consequences for prevention.
- We continue throughout the year presenting during staff meetings at schools.
- Increasing clarity and decreasing office referrals.

Student Code of Conduct



- **2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct (SCC) seeking approval by the Board of Education in May 2026.**
- **Publicly accessible via the U-46 internet page.**
- **Review/revision process began in the fall 2025 through the work of the Safety Council, which includes community representatives.**
- **Parent feedback portal on SCC is available on the U-46 website.**
- **2027-2028 edition will be brought forward to the Board of Education for approval by May 2027.**

Staff Guide to the SCC



- Provides district staff and administrators with additional information on procedures related to documentation, intervention, and management of student behavior to support student success and create a safe and positive culture in every building.
- Topics include: step-by-step instructions for documenting student behavior and attendance in Infinite Campus, investigations, threat assessments, alternative placement referrals, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and Crisis Response Team Procedures.
- Available to all staff and administrators via the U-46 intranet.
- Monthly Safety Council meetings held with elementary, middle, and high school Administration and staff devoted to reviewing and clarifying the Staff Guide to build consistency in practice across the district.
- Monthly Deans meetings held with high school Deans on strengthening their leadership toward student behaviors.

Get U-Connected

SAVE THE DATE



Get **U** Connected

Saturday, August 15
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- Connect with resources
- Build community
- Prepare for the school year!



Thank You!