

**RIGHT AT SCHOOL & SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46  
ELGIN, ILLINOIS**



**RIGHT AT  
SCHOOL**

**CASE STUDY**



# Mission Accomplished: How School District U-46 Partnered with Right At School to Fulfill a District-Wide Vision



a place to  
**BE A  
KID!**





RIGHT AT  
SCHOOL



## School District U-46, located in the Chicago suburbs, is guided by a clear and compelling mission:

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**TO BE A GREAT PLACE FOR ALL STUDENTS TO LEARN, ALL TEACHERS TO TEACH, AND ALL EMPLOYEES TO WORK. ALL MEANS ALL.**

Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Lela Majstorovic puts special emphasis on that final point. “All means all,” she affirms. “That gets to the heart of what we are charged with each and every day as educators and administrators. We live by a moral imperative here: to continue to effect change until all systems measurably work for all students.”

Serving nearly 34,000 children from preschool through grade 12 across 11 communities, U-46 is the second-largest district in Illinois.

With 38 elementary schools, eight middle schools, and five high schools, the district faced the immense challenge of meeting student needs at scale — particularly in the wake of pandemic-driven learning loss.

When the district looked for a partner to help carry out its mission, Right At School stepped up with a clear commitment to support all students, every day.

**“All means all.”**



# Stepping Up and Stepping In

U-46 had long recognized the value of before- and after-school programming as part of a whole-child approach.

“We fully embrace and promote the value that effective after- and before-school programming has on meeting the needs of the whole student,” says Majstorovic. “The positive effects that such programming has on academics, attendance, socialization and enrichment are demonstrable and obvious.”

Still, like many districts, U-46 struggled with staffing shortages and limited resources. Their self-operated SAFE (Supervised Activities For Children of Employed Parents) program was effective but difficult to scale.

During the 2020–2021 school year — amid the turbulence of COVID-19 — the district decided to bring in outside support.

After a thorough vetting process, U-46 selected Right At School to help deliver high-quality care and enrichment.

“Our initial goal was to offer a safe place for students to go before and after school — playing off of our existing SAFE programs,” Majstorovic explains. “But more than simply having a place to go, we wanted students to realize all of the benefits of a well-structured and expertly executed after-care program.”

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**This imperative has absolutely been met by Right At School.”**

— Lela Majstorovic,  
Deputy Superintendent of Instruction



## From Launch to Long-Term Success

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the launch was smooth and intentional. Surveys gathered input from families, and a comprehensive communication plan ensured parents understood what was coming. Logistics like space, facilities, and staffing were tackled collaboratively.

“There was a thoughtful plan and timeline,” Majstorovic recalls. “By the time the program was officially launched, not only did district families fully understand and welcome the addition of Right At School into the district and our school, everything was in place for a smooth roll-out, literally from Day One.”



# Expanding the Impact: Summer Programming

In 2021, the district expanded its partnership with Right At School to include summer programming. This expansion addressed a critical need: helping students recover from pandemic-related learning disruptions.

After soliciting proposals from various community organizations, U-46 selected Right At School to lead a robust summer enrichment program. By 2022, their full-day programming was integrated alongside U-46's summer school, offering a seamless, full-day experience for students.

## Aligned Goals, Shared Vision

Right At School has become a true strategic partner to U-46. The partnership extends beyond programming to include instructional alignment and strategic planning.

"When we have ideas around how we can extend instructional priorities to their programming, they've always been ready, willing and able to collaborate," says Majstorovic.

Acevedo adds, "They often reach out and want to make sure they're responsive to our goals. Their involvement in our strategic planning demonstrates their commitment to our mission."

"Both the after-care programming and summer camp offerings provided by Right At School are effective in providing the full spectrum of enrichment so drastically needed in our school districts," says Assistant Superintendent Dr. Annette Acevedo. "It's not just a place to put students for convenience's sake... Right At School's programs provide physical activity, social-emotional connections, and academic learning opportunities and support. It truly is serving the needs of the whole child."



**"That's a big deal. For our district to invite Right At School into the process of developing School District U-46's strategic planning process says a lot about the faith we have entrusted in them."**

— Lela Majstorovic,  
Deputy Superintendent of Instruction



# Facing Challenges Together

Early in the partnership, communication gaps emerged — particularly around student behavior protocols. Rather than let issues linger, both parties leaned in.

“Particularly in areas like student behaviors and concerns, we realized the need for tighter protocols than what previously existed,” Majstorovic explains. “Now, the communication

between building administrators and site leaders is very strong, and we’ve had very few incidents because of it, if any.”

She adds, “Right At School’s willingness and ability to rise to this and every challenge has been a welcome addition and an uncommon breath of fresh air.”

## Meaningful, Measurable Results

The results speak for themselves: better access, improved attendance, more student engagement, and stronger community support.



### **FREEING UP RESOURCES**

“I often joke that ‘Right At School programs run themselves,’” says Majstorovic. “They’re experts in what they do... something that would’ve been extremely taxing on our internal resources, had we not had a partner to rely upon.”



### **COMMUNITY-WIDE VALUE**

“It’s not just about safety, although that’s a top priority... These programs enrich their lives in ways that extend far beyond the classroom. They enrich the entire community.”



### **EQUITY & INCLUSION**

The commitment to “all means all” is more than a motto. Right At School helped U-46 expand access, offer reduced-cost options, and proactively connect families with community resources.

“Right At School helps us deliver equitable access to before- and after-school care,” Majstorovic notes. Acevedo adds, “They don’t wait for us to call them... They reach out to us first.”



### **ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMICS**

“Students having access to before- and after-school care clearly impacts their attendance rates,” Majstorovic says. “These programs provide a structure and a sense of belonging... And those two factors alone — attendance and social-emotional well-being — we know, are positive contributors to educational outcomes.”

## Strategic Partners in Student Success

The U-46 and Right At School partnership is more than a service arrangement — it's a shared mission. With a foundation of trust, mutual respect, and aligned goals, this collaboration stands as a model for how schools and community partners can work together to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.



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“Right At School provides excellent care and service to our families, communities and students. We value this partnership and appreciate the collaboration it brings.”

Because at U-46... “all” means all.

— Lela Majstorovic,  
Deputy Superintendent of Instruction

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