



## Union Community School District

200 Adams St.

La Porte City, IA 50651

Phone- 319-342-2674

Fax- 319-342-2393

[www.union.k12.ia.us](http://www.union.k12.ia.us)

#UKnighted

**“Education to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges”**

Greetings from the Union Community School District! Please find below the October 2026 stakeholder communication.

### **Enrollment**

Unfortunately, Union CSD is experiencing another significant decline in enrollment. While the numbers are not yet finalized, our current figures indicate that we will be down approximately 30 students district-wide compared to October 2025, which will impact state funding in next year’s budget. There is, however, one important piece of context worth sharing. Based on the numbers alone, we would have expected to see a decline of 31 students simply by comparing our graduating Class of 2026 (84 students) with this year’s kindergarten class (53 students). In that respect, our overall enrollment has essentially held steady with what we would have anticipated given those two classes.

### **SAVE Project Updates**

The first phase of the district’s SAVE projects, which included parking lot improvements and resurfacing the LPC playground, is now complete. I am pleased to report that this phase was completed **more than \$300,000 under budget**, which is outstanding news for the district and our taxpayers! We are currently in the design phase of the second portion of the project, which includes HVAC upgrades in all district buildings, fire alarm updates at UHS, and roofing improvements. The design process is expected to be completed next month, with competitive bidding scheduled for December in accordance with Iowa law and board policy. Construction is anticipated to begin in May 2027, allowing the majority of the work to take place when students are not in the buildings. The HVAC improvements represent, by far, the most extensive and time-consuming portion of the entire SAVE project, as they also require significant planning and coordination for major electrical upgrades, particularly at UHS.

For additional information regarding the SAVE projects, including projected costs, project summaries, and timelines, I encourage you to visit the district website at [www.union.k12.ia.us](http://www.union.k12.ia.us). Simply select “**District**” and scroll down to “**SAVE Project Information.**” We remain committed to completing these important improvements responsibly, efficiently, and with careful consideration of the district’s financial resources.

### **South Parking Lot- UHS**

The south parking lot was designed differently than the previous lot, but it has the same number of parking spaces. Rebuilding an exact copy of the old lay out would have raised the district’s cost by an estimated 125-150 thousand. On a typical school day, about 15 vehicles use the lot. For varsity football games and track meets, the south lot is reserved for visiting teams, officials, coaches and players. The district is putting steps in place so the lot can be managed more consistently and efficiently going forward.

### **FAST Scores**

Our Fall 2026-27 FAST screening results, once again, provide several reasons to be encouraged about student learning in our district!

#### Literacy

- **Districtwide**— 71% of students met the literacy benchmark this fall, matching the previous two years and remaining above the 69% recorded in 2023-24.



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Math

- **Districtwide- 77% of students met the math benchmark this fall**, exactly matching last year's 77% and demonstrating that we continue to maintain a strong level of performance.

### **Thank You**

I want to sincerely thank all of our parents and guardians who took the time to attend parent-teacher conferences. One of the district’s greatest strengths is the partnership between our families and schools. When we work together, our students benefit! I also want to thank our outstanding teachers for their preparation, dedication, and commitment to making these conversations meaningful. We truly are stronger together!

### **No School Reminder**

There will be No school on the following dates for students:

- Monday, November 16th
- Wednesday-Friday, November 25th-27th

Thank you, as usual, for your support of the Union Community School District! Go Knights!

John Howard, Superintendent



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