



Noticiero Bilingüe **LAWNDALE** NEWS

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WEST SIDE TIMES



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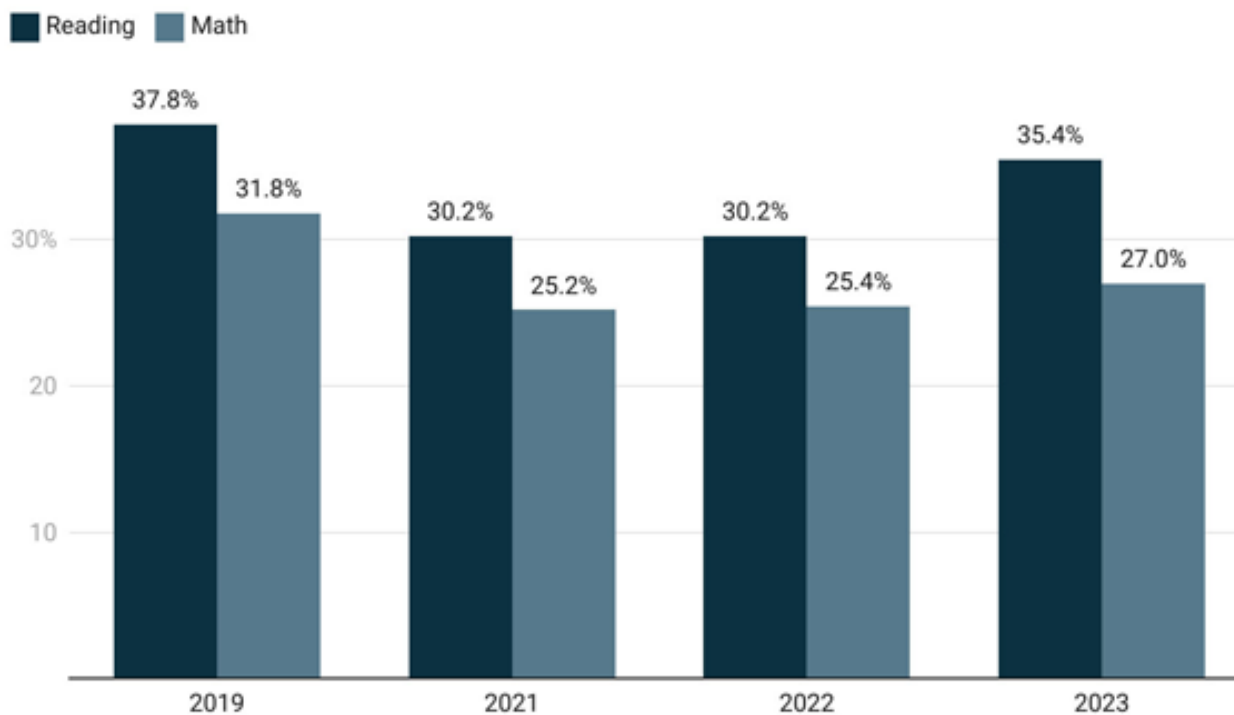
ESTABLISHED 1940

What to know as Illinois Students Head Back to School

As most Illinois students head back to school, reports show students are still struggling to meet grade-level standards in core subjects five years after the pandemic. Third graders' struggles to read are especially alarming. Without that skill their ability to learn and their futures are at risk. According to an Illinois Policy Institute analysis, only 35 percent of elementary students read at grade level and 27 percent met math standards in 2023. That remains below pre-pandemic levels, when the proficiency rate was 38 percent in reading and 32 percent in math. Illinois third-grade students unable to meet reading standards will likely struggle with other subjects too. Without that skill, experts fear their ability to learn and their futures could be at risk. Among 11th-grade students, 32 percent were proficient in reading on the 2023 SAT and 27 percent were proficient in math. Those

Illinois 3rd-8th grade proficiency below pre-pandemic levels

Proficiency rates for Illinois 3rd-8th grade students increased in 2023 but remain below 2019, the final test data prior to pandemic-era school closures.



2020 does not have test data because state assessments were canceled in spring 2020 because of COVID-19.

Chart: @illinoispolicy • Source: Illinois State Board of Education • Created with Datawrapper

compare to 36 percent in reading and 34 percent in math during 2019. Lackluster results persist despite more money: Illinois' most recent budget for K-12 public education reached a record \$10.9 billion in 2024. That is over \$2 billion more than since before the pandemic. Facts about education:

- In 81 of Illinois' public schools, not a single third-grade student could read at grade level. Chicago Public Schools accounted for 51 of those.
- Public school enrollment is dropping year-over-year: the state has seen declines during 13 of the past 15 years.
- About 28% of Illinois students were chronically absent in the 2022-2023 school year. That compares to a rate of 17.5% in the last full school year before the pandemic.

To learn more about how Illinois schools are performing, visit illin.is/school.

Lo que Hay que Saber Cuando los Estudiantes de Illinois Vuelven a la Escuela

Cuando la mayoría de estudiantes de Illinois regresa a la escuela, los reportes muestran que los estudiantes luchan aún por alcanzar las normas de nivel de grado en

las materias principales, cinco años después de la pandemia. Las dificultades de los alumnos de tercer grado para leer son especialmente alarmantes. Sin esa habilidad, su ca-

pacidad de aprender y su futuro corren peligro. De acuerdo a un análisis de Illinois Policy Institute, solo el 35 por ciento de estudiantes de elemental leen al nivel de grado y 27

por ciento alcanzaron las normas de matemáticas en el 2023. Eso sigue siendo debajo de los niveles pre-pandémicos, cuando el índice de habilidad era de 38 por ciento en lectura y 32

por ciento en matemáticas. Los estudiantes de tercer grado de Illinois no pudieron alcanzar las normas de lectura y probablemente tienen problema con otras materias también. Sin esa

habilidad, los expertos temen que su habilidad de aprender y su futuro pueden estar en peligro. Entre los estudiantes de 11° grado, 32 por ciento

Pase a la página 5

Morton Arboretum Shares Gardening Tips During Heat Wave

With the excessive heat, Morton Arboretum's Plant Clinic offers up a few tips to help trees and garden plants survive waves of heat in the 90s and above. **Make sure plants have enough water.** Water is necessary for all of a plant's life processes. The only way plants can cool themselves is by allowing water to evaporate through

pores in their leaves. In late summer, when vegetable and perennial plants have grown full, with many leaves, they use water faster than in early summer. Water must soak into the soil for plants to absorb it. **Check for soil moisture.** Rather than watering on a set schedule, check the garden soil for moisture. This practice is better

for the plants and helps conserve water. Since plants absorb water through their underground roots, the amount of water in the soil is what matters to them. Dig down a couple of inches, and if the soil feels dry, it's time to water. Bear in mind that soil conditions may not be the same in all parts of a yard. Water each area

deeply enough so the soil feels moist 3 to 4 inches below the surface.

Mulch. A layer of mulch over the roots of plants helps in two ways: It insulates the soil against extremes of temperature, and it prevents moisture from evaporating. Mulch can be applied at any time. Make a layer 1 to 2 inches deep on perennial beds and 3 to 4 inches around trees and shrubs. Spread the mulch out evenly, rather than piling it up against the trunk or stems. Try to keep mulch clear of the bark of a tree or shrub.



More information about how to water trees and shrubs and keep plants healthy amid the excessive heat is available on the mortonarb.org website.



Happy Labor Day

From Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar and his Office!



Morton Arboretum Comparte Consejos de Jardinería Durante la Ola de Calor



Con el calor excesivo, la Clínica de Plantas de Morton Arboretum ofrece unos cuantos consejos para ayudar a los árboles y plantas del jardín a sobrevivir las ondas d calor en los 90s y más.

egúrese de que las plantas tienen suficiente agua. El agua es necesaria para todo el proceso de vida de una planta. La única forma en que las plantas pueden enfriarse por si mismas es permitiendo que el agua se evapore a través de los poros de sus hojas. A fines del verano, cuando los vegetales y las plantas perennes han crecido en su totalidad, con muchas hojas, usan el agua más de prisa que a principios del verano. El agua debe em-

parar la tierra para que las plantas la absorban.

visar la humedad de la tierra. En vez de regar las plantas en un programa fijo, revise la tierra del jardín a ver si está húmeda. Esta práctica es mejor para las plantas y ayuda a conservar el agua. Como las plantas absorben el agua a través de sus raíces subterráneas, la cantidad de agua en la tierra es lo que les importa. Escarbe un par de pulgadas y si la tierra se siente seca, es hora de regarla. Tenga en cuenta que las condiciones del suelo pueden no ser las mismas en todas las partes del jardín. Riegue cada área lo suficiente para que la tierra se sienta húmeda 3 o 4 pulgadas bajo la su-

perficie. **Mantillo (Mulch)** Una capa de mantillo sobre las raíces de la planta le ayuda en dos maneras: Aísla la tierra contra la temperatura extrema y evita que la humedad se evapore. El mantillo puede aplicarse en cualquier momento. Haga una capa de 1 o 2 pulgadas sobre los lechos de plantas y arbustos perennes. Extienda el mantillo uniformemente en vez de apilarlo contra el tronco o brotes. Trate de mantener el mantillo libre de la corteza de un árbol o arbusto. **Para más información sobre como regar apropiadamente árboles y arbustos y mantener las plantas saludables durante el calor excesivo, disponible en la red de mortonarb.org**



Maria Pappas Column

Your Property Taxes with Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas Illinois Expands Property Tax Breaks for Veterans to Include World War II Vets

By Maria Pappas

Illinois lawmakers have enacted significant changes to property tax exemptions benefiting veterans, including a landmark provision for those who served during World War II. These amendments, effective for the 2024 tax year, underscore our commitment to supporting our veteran community.

The newly expanded legislation, Public Act 103-0596, amends the Illinois Property Tax Code to make veterans who served during World War II exempt from paying property taxes on their primary residences, regardless of their disability status. The new law also extends the benefit to unmarried, surviving spouses of World War II veterans, certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation due to service-connected death. Veterans with service-connected disabilities qualify based on the severity of their disability as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It is important for property owners to know key information about the exemption:

1-Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities:

1-Those with a disability rating of 30% to 49% receive a \$2,500 reduction in their home's equalized assessed valuation (EAV).
2-Veterans with disabilities rated 50% to 69% receive



a \$5,000 exemption.

3-Veterans with disabilities rated 70% or more receive a 100% exemption from property taxes on up to \$250,000 of EAV.

2-Renewal and Transferability:

1-An automatic renewal of this exemption due to the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. Applicants must re-apply for the exemption annually.

2-Surviving spouses can retain the exemption or transfer it to another primary residence after the veteran's passing.

3-Application and Information:

1-Detailed eligibility criteria and application procedures are available on the Cook County Treasurer's website at cookcountytreasurer.com.
2-Veterans and their families are encouraged to visit the website for step-by-step guidance through the application process.

This exemption is not just about financial relief; it's a testament to our commitment to honor and recognize the service of our veterans. By expanding access to property tax exemptions, we are providing stability and financial security to those who have dedicated their lives to our nation's defense.

These changes ensure that our veterans and their surviving spouses receive the benefits they deserve without the burden of frequent re-application, reaffirming our collective responsibility to support those who have sacrificed so much for our country. For more information on property tax exemptions and to determine eligibility, I encourage you to visit my website at cookcountytreasurer.com. Together, let us continue to uphold our duty to honor and support our veterans.

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708-656-6400

BACP Launches 'Behind the Business License' Video Series

The Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) announced the launch of "Behind the Business License." The video series will feature in-depth conversations between City of Chicago Chief Small Business officer Lotika Pai, a Neighborhood Business Development Center and a small business owner. The individuals will offer insight and expertise on business resources available to current and future business owners. Each episode details a business owner sharing their real experiences of working with the City of Chicago and their local business service organization. The first episode will air on Tuesday, September 3 at 10a.m. on Cable 25 and



will also be uploaded to the BACP YouTube Channel. New episodes will air every other Tuesday, and re-runs will occur continuously on Cable 25. For more information, visit Chicago.gov/SmallBusinessAdvocacy. The first episode will feature Jennifer Aguilar, Executive

Director of Little Village Chamber of Commerce and Aldo Rios, Owner of El Churro Shop in Little Village. The conversation includes timely topics on site selection, community engagement, and industry trends. To learn more about the NBDC program, visit Chicago.gov/NBDC.

¡Que agusticidad de una semana larga!

Maneja Pacheco, Consigue un DUI.



Visita la página para aprender más.

ItsNotaGamellinois.com

IT'S NOT A **GAME**

Illinois Department
of Transportation

Chicago Public Schools Welcomes Back Students for First Day of School

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students returned to classes on Monday for a school year that promises continued academic growth, skills development, extra curricular opportunities and time with new and old friends. As a District, CPS continues to see improvement across many academic metrics, from higher reading and math scores to ever-increasing high school graduation rates as well as operational progress,

including more students routed on yellow school buses. "Thank you to the parents, guardians, caregivers and families who have helped prepare our students for the year ahead," said Mayor Brandon Johnson. "A passion for knowledge, and care for our young people is at the heart of every neighborhood school in Chicago, and as a CPS parent, I hold a deep gratitude for our teachers and staff today, with a big

thank you to our parent mentors, school leaders and volunteers who go the extra mile." Mayor Johnson and CPS CEO Pedro Martinez started the first day together at Sharon Christa McAuliffe Elementary where they rang in the school year before proceeding to Chalmers STEAM Elementary School, one of three schools in the North Lawndale neighborhood that are rolling out aligned STEAM

lessons and programming this year. CEO Martinez, in collaboration with District and school leaders, teachers, parents and community members, set new foundational standards of excellence for all schools in the 2022-23 school year that have continued and promise to be even more integrated in School Year 2025. "I am thrilled to ring in the 2024-25 school year and continue to build on our gains in literacy, graduation rates, capital investments, and college and career success," said CEO Martinez. "We are looking forward to students' continued academic growth and well-being



while also ensuring our staff and faculty have the support and resources to maintain healthy, safe, and welcoming school environments."

Las Escuelas Públicas de Chicago dan la Bienvenida a los Estudiantes en su Primer Día de Clases

Los estudiantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Chicago (CPS) regresaron a clases el lunes para un año escolar que promete continuar el crecimiento académico, el desarrollo de destrezas, oportunidades extracurriculares y pasar tiempo con nuevos y viejos amigos. Como Distrito, CPS continúa viendo mejoría en muchas métricas académicas, desde mejores calificaciones en lectura y matemáticas a un siempre creciente índice de graduación de secundaria y progreso operativo, incluyendo más estudiantese utilizando los autobuses escolares amarillos. "Gracias a los padres, tutores, cuidadores y familias que han ayudado a preparar a nuestros estudiantes para el año que comienza", dijo el Alcalde Brandon Johnson. "La pasión por el conocimiento y el cuidado de nuestros jóvenes está en el corazón de cada escuela del vecindario en Chicago, y como padre de un alumno de CPS, hoy siento un profundo agradecimiento por nuestros maestros y personal, con

un gran agradecimiento a nuestros padres mentores, líderes escolares y voluntarios que hacen un esfuerzo adicional".

El Alcalde Johnson y el CEO de CPS, Pedro Martínez, empezaron el primer día juntos en Sharon Christa McAuliffe Elementary, donde dieron inicio al año escolar antes de dirigirse a Chalmers STEAM Elementary School, una de las tres escuelas en el vecindario de North Lawndale que están implementando lecciones y programas STEAM alineados este año. El CEO Martínez, en colaboración con el Distrito y líderes escolares, maestros, padres y miembros de la comunidad, fijaron nuevas normas de

excelencia para todas las escuelas en el año escolar 2022-23 que ha continuado y promete ser aún más integrado en el Año Escolar 2025. "Estoy muy emocionado de dar inicio al año escolar 2024-25 y continuar desarrollando nuestros logros en alfabetización, tasas de graduación, inversiones de capital y éxito universitario y profesional", dijo el director ejecutivo Martínez. "Esperamos que los estudiantes sigan creciendo académicamente y se sientan bien, al mismo tiempo que garantizamos que nuestro personal y profesores tienen el apoyo y los recursos suficientes para mantener entornos escolares saludables, seguros y acogedores".



REBOZOS & GUAYABERAS

Join Us to Celebrate
Little Village Rotary Club's
12th Year Anniversary

Installation of LEO RIOS-President
Celebration of Little Village Youth
Organizations
Mexican Culture and Cuisine
Grant Awards

Thursday, September 12th, 2024
5:30 PM - 10 PM

Mi Tierra Restaurant
2528 South Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623

Tickets \$70.00
Open Bar
Dinner & Cocktails
will be served
Tax deductible



Rotary



CLUB OF CHICAGO
LITTLE VILLAGE

Lo que Hay que Saber Cuándo los Estudiantes...

Viene de la página 1



fueron competentes en lectura en el SAT 2023 Y 27 fueron competentes en matemáticas. Esto comparado con el 36 por ciento en lectura y el 34 por ciento en matemáticas durante el 2019. Los resultados mediocres persisten a pesar de contar con más dinero: el presupuesto más reciente de Illinois para la educación pública K-12 alcanzó un récord de \$10,9 mil millones en 2024. Eso es más de \$2 mil millones más que desde antes de la pandemia.

Hechos sobre la educación:
•En 81 de las escuelas públicas de Illinois ningún estudiante de tercer grado

podía leer a nivel de grado. Las Escuelas Públicas de Chicago representaron 51 de ellos.

•La inscripción en las escuelas públicas está bajando año con año: el estado ha visto una disminución durante 13 de los últimos 15 años.

•Aproximadamente 28% de estudiantes de Illinois estuvieron crónicamente ausentes en el año escolar 2022-2023. Eso comparado a un índice de 17.5% en el último año escolar completo antes de la pandemia.

Para más información sobre el desempeño de las escuelas de Illinois, visite illin.is/school.

Blood Drive at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

American Red Cross is excited to hold the Brookfield Zoo Chicago Blood Drive on Thursday, August 29, 2024, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Each day, the American Red Cross strives to collect more than 12,500 blood donations to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,500 hospitals across the country and they are sensitive that the decline in blood donations during the summer may impact the blood supply. All pre-registered blood donors will receive:

- Free general zoo admission** the day of the drive for one adult and up to two children
- Free parking** in the Discovery Center Parking Lot
- A \$20 Gift Card** by email
- A special edition Red Cross hat** (This cap



complements the t-shirt presenting donors received in June!)

The blood drive will take place at the Brookfield Zoo Discovery Center, 3300

Gold Road, Brookfield, IL.
Photo Credit: American Red Cross

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3900 West 26 St. (773) 522-0300

**NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID TO**

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly as described in the Invitation to Bid by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on the stated bid opening date below for:

CONTRACT 24-638-21

HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Estimated Cost Group A:	\$18,443,000.00	Bid Deposit Group A:	\$737,000.00
<u>Estimated Cost Group B:</u>	<u>\$701,325.00</u>	<u>Bid Deposit Group B:</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>
Total Estimated Cost:	\$19,144,325.00	Total Bid Deposit	\$765,000.00

Voluntary Technical Pre Bid Conference: Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 10:30 am Chicago Time via ZOOM Link.

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D, Appendix V, Appendix K, and the Multi Project Labor Agreement are required on this Contract.

Bid Opening: October 8, 2024

CONTRACT 24-665-12

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS SERVICE AREAS (RE BID, GROUP D)

Estimated Cost:	\$196,500.00	Bid Deposit:	NONE
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Voluntary Technical Pre Bid Conference: Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 10:00 am Chicago Time via ZOOM Link.

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D, Appendix V, Appendix C, and the Multi Project Labor Agreement are required on this Contract.

Bid Opening: September 24, 2024

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice Invitation to Bid. A full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found on the District's website, www.mwrd.org; the path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at www.mwrd.org

(Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: contractdesk@mwrd.org or call 312-751-6643.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et.seq.), where it is stated in the Invitation to Bid Page.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the public's best interest.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
August 28, 2024

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HOUSES FOR SALE



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53 HELP WANTED

53 HELP WANTED

53 HELP WANTED

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tenant heated, \$790 + 1 1/2 month security deposit

45th / Wallace- 5 rms, 2 bdms, 1st fl., very clean, ceil-
ing fans, hardwood floors, tenant heated, \$980 per month
+ 1 1/2 month security

ARCHER/ASHLAND 5 1/2 rms, 3 bdms, 2 baths, 1st
fl., appliances incl, newer building, very clean, C/A, coin
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SECTION- 8 OK.

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