

## In the News: CPS grads to get city hiring preference

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High school graduates of Chicago Public Schools would receive an upper hand when [applying for the jobs with the city](#) under a new initiative announce Saturday by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

“This new hiring preference encourages our students to stay in school and get their diploma so they are prepared for college and a career,” Emanuel said. The city’s Department of Human Resources plans to make sure at least 20 percent of candidates considered for jobs with the city are CPS graduates, according to a written statement from the Mayor’s Office. When applying, candidates can provide a diploma or transcript as proof of graduating from a CPS school, the release said.

To make up for a seven-day teachers’ strike, most [Chicago Public School students will have classes](#) on Presidents Day, see their winter break trimmed back and end the school year later than expected in June. (Sun-Times)

And because of that calendar change, phones at CPS headquarters were ringing off the hook Friday [after parents learned of the new student calendar](#) that unexpectedly moves spring break up a week, the Sun-Times also reported.

A leading bond-rating agency [downgraded Chicago Board of Education's debt](#) last week. "The negative outlook reflects our view that the district will be hard-pressed to make the budget adjustments necessary to close an estimated \$1 billion budget gap for fiscal 2014," Moody's Investors Service said in a news release, the Tribune reported.

A former educator in the Chicago Public Schools who is now a clergyman told a gathering of African-American parents Saturday that the way for them to protect their children from the problems of urban life is to [take an interest in their education](#). Winston Johnson, keynote speaker of the Ministers Conference of South Cook County held at Thornridge High School in Dolton, said all parents should be aware of what their children are doing in school. (nwitimes.com)

### IN THE STATE

[Declining student enrollment in a southwest suburban high school district](#) is causing friction as officials try to balance a shrinking student population among its three schools. The Consolidated High School District 230 school board voted unanimously last week to send some of its future students who traditionally would attend Sandburg High School in Orland Park to Andrew High School in Tinley Park instead. (Tribune)

### IN THE NATION

An astonishing one in every seven Americans ages 16 to 24 is neither working nor in school—5.8 million young people in all, according to a [report](#) released by Measure of America, a Project

of the Social Science Research Council. These disconnected youth find themselves adrift at society's margins, unmoored from the structures that confer knowledge, skills, identity, and purpose.