

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON WITH RAHM EMANUEL

SUBJECT: CHICAGO MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL WILL DISCUSS "MOVING FORWARD IN CHICAGO" INCLUDING NEW INITIATIVES FOR EDUCATION AND OTHER PROGRAMS.

ANDREA EDNEY: OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

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ANDREA EDNEY: Welcome to the National Press Club, the place where news happens. My name is Andrea Edney. I'm part of the Breaking News Desk at Bloomberg News. And I'm Vice President of the National Press Club. Before we get started I would like to remind everyone again please to, in our in-house audience to please silence your telephones if you haven't already. For our viewing and listening audience feel free to also follow along on Twitter using the hashtag #Pressclub. For our CSPAN and public radio audiences please be aware that in our audience today are members of the general public, so any applause or reaction that you may hear is not necessarily a reaction of the working press. Now I would like to introduce our Head Table. Please hold your applause until each Head Table member has been introduced. Head Table participants, please stand up when I say your name. We have Jamal Abdul-Alim, Senior Staff Writer at *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. We have Jerry Weller, former U.S. Representative from Illinois's 11th District and a President, and President of the Illinois State Society in Washington. We have Mike Hempen, a Supervisor for AP Radio here in Washington, D.C. We have Tony Tran, Star Scholar, Graduate of the Harry S. Truman College in Chicago and an incoming Northwestern student who is planning to study neuroscience. We have Katherine Skiba, Washington correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune*. We have Armando Rodriguez, President at the Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy High School in Chicago. We have Lisa Matthews, Vice-President of Media Relations at Hager Sharp and co-leader of the NPC Headliners Team. We're going to skip over our guest speaker for a moment, the only time we'll do it, I promise. We have Lynn Sweet, Washington Bureau Chief for the *Chicago Sun Times*. We have Dr. Gregory Jones, Principle at Kenwood Academy High School in Chicago. We have Bob Weiner, President of Weiner Public News, op-ed columnist, and the NPC Headliners team member who helped organize today's luncheon. We have Michael Smith, CEO of Green Smith Public

Affairs and a contributor to *Campaigns and Elections Magazine*. We have Caroline Hendry, Executive Director of the Education Writers Association. Thank you for joining us today.

[Applause]

ANDREA EDNEY: I would also like to mention additional members of the Headliners Team responsible for organizing today's event, Betsy Fisher Martin, Laurie Rousseau, Kristin Shremsky, Eleonore Herman, and Press Club Staff Liaison, Lindsey Underwood. Thank you all.

[Applause]

ANDREA EDNEY: So, long before today's guest became a politician he attended Sarah Lawrence College. He spent his first two years there, studying to become a preschool teacher. At college before politics and long before he was President Barack Obama's Chief of Staff, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel taught preschool. Mayor Emanuel's love of education followed him throughout his political career into his tenure as Chicago's Mayor where he oversees the third largest school system in the United States. He is credited with adding more than 200 hours to the school year, taking Chicago from having the least educational time of any large school district in the country to being on par with its peers. He implemented full-day kindergarten for every Chicago child and fought for and won new accountability measures. During his tenure the districtwide Chicago Public School System graduation rate has grown by 16 percentage points, more than three times the national average for growth. And Mayor Emanuel made Chicago the first city in the country to offer free community college for all high school graduates who earn a B average or better.

Chicago change hasn't been easy for this big-city Mayor. Early in his first term Chicago endured a historic teachers strike and the state budget impasse now entering its third year has had a devastating financial impact on Chicago's schools. He has also had to confront his city's persistent gun violence and grapple with how to run a police department facing questions about its treatment of African Americans. Even with these challenges the Mayor, or Rambo as he is known in some circles because of his tenacity and intensity, the Mayor has kept a steady eye on education. This year Mayor Emanuel introduced a plan called Moving Forward in Chicago. It views graduation not as an end point but as a pathway to further education and employment. Mayor Emanuel's initiative will require high school seniors to provide proof of college or trade school acceptance, a job offer, or military service in order to graduate. This starts in 2020. *The Atlantic* calls plans like the Mayor's a seismic shift in American education.

Rahm Emanuel served as a senior advisor to President Bill Clinton in 1993. In 2002 he was elected to Illinois's Fifth Congressional District. He served as President Obama's Chief of Staff from 2008 to 2010. A year later he became Chicago's Mayor and was reelected to that post in 2015. Of course education is not the only issue that Mayor Emanuel has faced while overseeing the nation's third largest city, and we look forward to hearing him address other matters as well as he works to move the Windy City forward. Please join me in welcoming Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to the National Press Club.

[Applause]

RAHM EMANUEL: Thank you. I just want you to know I started this job 6'2" and 250 pounds and now I'm 5'8" and 148 dripping wet after hearing that. Thank you for that introduction. A little over 30 years ago Secretary William Bennett of Education for Ronald Reagan called the Chicago Public School System the worst public school system in the United States of America. Let me give you the results today. Our graduation rate when I first became Mayor was 57% and our freshman on track is for 87%, a growth of 52%. Second, our ACT scores after being flat are up over the last five years 1.2%. Third, 42% of all our students today graduate with college credit. While 85% of our kids are at or below the poverty level as defined by the federal United States government, 42% of our kids go on and accepted to college equal to the United States of America, and trust me our demographics is not the United States of America. Another 21% go on to community colleges where the rate is 22% nationally. So even though the demographics for the city of Chicago is different, we match the United States of kids going from high school to college and community college. Third, our eighth graders led the United States in math gains. Our fourth graders were third in overall reading gains. There were only three school districts in the entire United States of America whose math and readings for fourth and eighth graders went up, Cleveland, Washington, D.C., and the city of Chicago.

Every measure of the city of Chicago's educational gains are pointing in the right direction and surpassing, and I'll go back to high school for a second, our graduation rate for the last five years every year was triple the national average. So, if William Bennett could get through TSA I would like him to come back to the city of Chicago and see what is happening. But every measure on high school, college acceptance, college attendance, as well as in reading and math scores at fourth and eighth grade levels, Chicago is exceeding the norm of the United States progress, while the demographics of the city of Chicago students are not the norm for the United States of America.

Now, some of the things that were noted earlier point to that direction of what was happening. When I became Mayor half our kids had a full school day, I mean half our kids had a full day of kindergarten, half did not, and if you looked at the map the ones that were getting the full day could have deserved to get a half day and the ones that were getting a half day needed a full day. I did not think it was determinate upon the fact that you should have parents lobbying on your child's behalf for kindergarten. Every child in the city of Chicago today has a full day of kindergarten. We have had a 60% increase in our pre-K, full day pre-K for all our children. We ran the first Race to the Top for our early childhood so parents can compare educational models of early childhood education, and we have dramatically also increased the funding, as I said, for full day pre-K for the city of Chicago for all four year olds.

And the reason is we could see all the data of full day pre-K, what it does for kindergarten, kindergarten what it does for first grade and onward. Now I have a fundamental view, shared also by our schools, that kids drop out of college in third grade. They do not drop out freshman year. And if they're not reading and doing math at third grade level in

third grade it's not like fourth grade is a lot easier. What Chicago is now expanding upon is I do not believe that the kindergarten to 12th grade model, it's an anachronism from the 20th century. We are going towards a pre-K to college model. I have told you a couple things that we have done on the earlier side, universal full day kindergarten, a Race to the Top model for pre-K, a 60% increase in our education for full day pre-K, one of the online portals that is now being praised by the United States government for its ability of transparency and appearance to evaluate quality, and we give quality scores on early childhood providers.

I have and asked with me so you'll understand on the other side, which is where I want to get to the high school and post-high school, because we're in a process right now of a major reinvention of our high school education and what it prepares for. I just finished graduation. I did about five or six different schools across the city of Chicago. Crane High School, which is on the west side near our Illinois Medical District where Rush Presbyterian Hospital and another, Stroger Hospital, Cooke County Hospital which is Stroger, 100% college acceptance. Fenger all the way on the far south side in the Rosalind community 100% college acceptance. Chicago Bulls Noble Charter 100% Chicago acceptance. We have with us Armando from Sarah Goode. It's a P-Tech school associated with IBM. IBM, to graduate they have a little over 90% of their students have graduated, seven of their students have graduated already with their Associate's degree in hand, they have won over 4.4 million dollars in scholarships for their students. And we can go on another time. But all of them are going on to post-high school education to college. That's on the far south side.

I have also Gregory Jones from Kenwood. Kenwood is also on the south side of the city of Chicago. It's just north of the University of Chicago. 94% of their freshmen are on track to graduate. More than half the students are earning college credit while they are in high school. He said to me 72%. They earned this year 70, they earned 35 million dollars in scholarships at their school. They have the largest dual credit, dual enrollment in the city of Chicago.

Now, what we are about and what we're trying to do is take our high school graduation, which was at 57%, by the class of 2019 we're on track for 87%. That's a 52% growth rate. We're triple the national average. We have a series of things we are doing to ensure that every child is college ready and college bound. We live in a period of time where you earn what you learn. You get a high school degree, that's probably going to be your income. You earn a two year Associate's degree. You earn a college degree. You own a Post-Doctorate degree. We live in a period where you earn what you learn. And the question in front of me as Mayor, in front of the Principals that are here is what are we doing to better prepare our students for that economy? Over 60% of all future job openings will require a minimum of two years post-high school education. We all know this. It's studied ad nauseam, which is a high school degree is not ready for the 21st century economy, yet every educational model at the urban level, I don't care where you are, is in a 20th century prism of time, K through 12. We're a pre-K to college model.

First and foremost, while you're in high school we have the largest international Baccalaureate program in the United States of America, and it's a fancy way of saying a liberal arts education. In fact we have more desires now for people to get, have schools

become IB in Chicago than we can keep up with, because when you take that test you already graduate with college credit under your belt. Your parents don't have to pay for it and you're better prepared for college. Second, dual credit, dual enrollment. The Chicago community college system in our city, Mayoral directed, is the second largest in the United States of America. So we, when I became Mayor there was about 400 to 600 students in dual credit, dual enrollment; today we're north of 4,000. So, kids are already graduating not only in high school getting a high school degree, they're graduating with college credits under their belt. In fact, at Kenwood Greg has more students involved in that dual credit and dual enrollment than any other of our high schools, over 110 of them, in the country, so they're not only graduating with high school degrees, they're graduating with college credit already under their belt.

Third, advance placements. We have one of the largest programs, and by data points I think it's a 60% increase in people passing that test. So through dual credit, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, as well as with AP, Advanced Placement, we are ensuring that the kids of the city of Chicago graduate with college credits already under their belt and unless your parents went to school the college experience under their belt. And I can't say enough about what that means for kids who with 80-some odd percent of our children are not only kids of color but kids who are at or below the poverty level. They're not only getting college credit, they're getting that college experience so that first kind of six months is already they're familiar with it and they're familiar with the rigor of that effort.

Today right now in the city of Chicago 42% of all our children not only go to college but 42% graduate with college credit underneath their experience at high school. We have set a goal by 2018 to grow that to 50%. At Armando's school, which we have five, four of them rather at that level, they're not only doing high school, he had seven graduates, as I mentioned, that graduated not only with a high school degree just last week, seven of them graduated with an Associate's degree already under their belt, done, free. Have I mentioned free yet? Parents don't have to pay for it. In the same way that Greg's class, I think it's 72% graduating with college credit free. And if the big challenge, which as we all know is cost for higher education, Chicago has got a model in which every child, regardless of income, zip code, background can graduate with college credit under their belt free where cost is not the prohibitive factor.

I do not believe parents should pay, take a second job or a second mortgage to give their kids a shot at the American dream, and that's what Chicago has embarked on. And then lastly what we have done is, not lastly but an additional that is, what was just Andrea talked about, which is if you get a B average in high school we're the only city in the United States, we make community college free. Two years of your education is free. And then we have what is called the Chicago Star, that program is called the Chicago Star, the Chicago Star Plus, which is what Tony is part of in the first cohort, Chicago Star Plus is if you maintain your B average in community college, so high school B average community college free, you maintain the B average in community college every one of the universities in the city of Chicago, Northwestern, University of Chicago, DePaul, Loyola, Roosevelt, Columbia, Northeastern, every one of them will give you anywhere from 25 to 45% off of your tuition.

Tony went to Pierce Elementary on the north side, Rogers Park, went to North Side College Prep, best high school in the state of Illinois, that's just not me, that's U.S. News World Report, got into University of Illinois, could not afford it, even with the scholarship. He went to Truman Community College with a B average for free, maintained his B average, and now he is going to Northwestern University with a scholarship for his education. He will come out with a degree in Neuroscience from Northwestern University and basically, basically have no college debt. Put that in your pipe and smoke it. And that's our educational plan in a nutshell in Chicago is go from kindergarten to 12th grade to a pre-K to college model.

And finally what we have established and embarked upon is what was just described, and let me give a full description of it, which is today if you look at college acceptance and community college acceptance in the armed forces, and I want to get back to the armed forces, because I forgot about it, Chicago has 65% of our kids already going to college or community college. They're taking college credits in high school. They've got International Baccalaureate, AP, or dual credit, dual enrollment. And we match the United States, as I said, in both of those categories, even while our population is different than the overall United States demographics.

What we want to ensure, and then 42% of our children are graduating with college credits under their belt, even though we match that altogether, we want to make sure by the class of 2019/2020 every child has a post-high school educational plan that the economy is already requiring of them. So we want you to have a letter from college or a letter from a community college, these are acceptance letters, a letter from a trade, or a letter from a branch of the armed forces, and a letter from a job. It's essential to make sure that while kids are in high school they have a post-high school educational plan. One, in a 21st century economy, you know the data already, basically 80% of all of the future jobs are going to require a minimum of two years post-high school education, so we have to restructure our educational system to meet the demands of what the 21st century is going to require of our kids, in the same way that the high school education of the 20th century met the demands of the 20th century economy. Second, we already got 65% of our kids getting there. I cannot in good conscience as a Mayor allow the other 35% to not have a plan that the economy is going to require of them when you have all the support system in place in a school rather than if they graduate, "Oh I'll figure this out when I'm 18 or 19." That other 35% are the ones that need the support to have a post-high school, because they're more likely to execute it.

And fourth, while I don't know everybody in this room, I can say this as a father of three, to all the parents in this room, do any one of you leave it to chance for your kids? Raise your hand if you leave it to chance, say, "Figure it out on your own." Okay?

___: I have seven.

RAHM EMANUEL: Okay, well, honey, if you got seven I'm building you a bridge in Grant Park, [laughter] because let me just say this: On the first two you didn't leave it to chance. On the last five you said, "I'm over this." I got three, okay? We do not leave it for

our children, and as a Mayor, as our two Principals, we don't leave it to chance, not when you have the support in place, not when you're the first child in your family to make it to college with a chance, not when the economy of tomorrow requires that an education today equals it. So while you're in high school we're going to ensure you get college credit and you graduate with the confidence you can do it.

We graduate with not only the confidence but your parents never have to pay for it. It's the number one thing that is stressing parents out is how to figure it out.

Third is, as I said, it's what the economy required. We would not only want to have 65% of our kids going to college, going to community college, or the armed forces, but also make sure that the other 35% don't just happen to have it play by the Russian Roulette table. And so we have given ourselves three years to prepare the system and prepare the expectation of all children. I would let you know it's not just in high school. Across the city of Chicago in elementary schools we have teachers and schools who put up college banners in the hallways and in the front door of the classrooms from kindergarten forward, so kids get the expectation and the awareness socially at school about expectations. You raise those expectations and, trust me, the two Principals here and the student will tell you this, not just me, if you raise those expectations and then support the effort kids will meet those goals.

Everything I'm telling you if I told you about Crane School, Sarah Goode School, Bull School, Kenwood School, the Fenger, all the cynics, all the naysayers, all the doubters would have said, "Not those kids, not from that background, not from that socio and economic class." Fenger, 100% college acceptance, Crane, 100% college acceptance, Chicago Bull, 100% college acceptance, Sarah Goode, 94%, 4.5 million in scholarships, Kenwood, 35 million dollars in scholarships, 72% with college credit already. And by every measure with some person, some propeller head out here would tell you based on background, race, income, neighborhood, family, socioeconomic class, those kids couldn't do it. It can be done. It should be done. It must be done.

Now you just don't put a requirement on it. You support kids and you raise their expectations and you help them all the way. There is not one of us who are parents in this room that wouldn't do it for our own children. And by ensuring that the other 35% while they're in high school and elementary school they have the support to prepare. It's not like we're going to drop it on them on senior year. We prepare them. We work with them. We give them the support to figure out how to apply to college or community college or a branch of the armed forces, a trade or a job. Now I left out of my litany of what we're also doing besides the largest IB program, the largest AP, every branch of the armed forces in Chicago runs a high school. It's the only city in the United States. Every branch. Their high school, they have basically seven applicants for every seat, 80% graduation rate, when I just told you already we just last year, not the year that closed but the year before where it's nearly 74%, and they have a 90% college acceptance. Every school is a one or level one plus school. So the branch of the armed forces, so it's not just when we say it, we have also the largest junior ROTC program in the United States of America, 10,500 kids.

And lastly let me close on one thing when I talk about all that we have done and what we have accomplished. I believe firmly in the power of education. None of us would be in this room if we didn't have two things in common, the love of our parents and a good education. And as Mayor I have a responsibility to ensure that every child has a chance to succeed, and I have to make sure that the system and the structure and the support and our Principals have what they need to succeed. We did expand the school day. We had the shortest school day and the shortest school year. These data points are not mine. They are what our Principals, our teachers, our students, and our parents accomplished. The gains being associated with graduation rate, college acceptance, college completion, community college acceptance, math gains, and reading gains are because once you took away the impediment of the shortest school day and the shortest school year our Principals could design a structure and academic schedule to allow our students that always could have succeeded to succeed. Not one point is going in the right direction and the others are going the wrong way, at the elementary level, the high school level, the testing into college, and the college acceptance are all pointing in the north end.

Now I'll close on this one point, because we're in a big debate. I think the debate is wrong. It is not a debate of neighborhood versus charter, although both Principals here are from neighborhood schools. It is about quality versus mediocrity. I think the entire debate that is happening nationally, and even in my city, is not on target. If you're a parent and you're sitting around thinking about schools you don't think about, "Oh is this a good reform school?" You think about quality versus mediocrity. My responsibility as Mayor is to ensure whether you want a military school, a STEM school, a neighborhood school, a selective enrollment school, like our student here went to, Tony, or any one of our high schools, International Baccalaureate, it has quality, and then you pick the right school for your student, your child. It is quality versus mediocrity, not charter versus neighborhood.

We have expanded charters and closed failed charters. We have expanded neighborhood schools, Crane High School is a perfect example, and also turned around neighborhood schools, and we have consolidated those that didn't work. And quality was our North Star. That's where this debate must go.

And I'll close on this other point. It's also a mistake to have an entire debate around just teachers. One, you've got to have three things, an involved parent, a teacher that will motivate you, and a Principal that will be held accountable and is not scared to be held accountable. Every child is homeschooled, every child, and their jobs are easier when that is happening. When it's not we need to make sure they have all the support from Early Childhood Education to highly motivated teachers to Principals that not only are not scared to be held accountable, want to be because they want the independence to be held accountable. And I would say to you that the Principals and the parents have been left out of the discussion of the last 20 years, which is always about just teachers, as if the other two don't play a role in the education and socialization of our children. And we're missing a debate. And you think, go back to your own experiences, that is what motivates, that is what changes an education, and if you're going to make fundamental reforms that is what has to happen.

Now we may be, and a last point, I suppose to the other last point I made, [laughter] we may be the first school district in the United States to embark on a post-high school education model, but mark my words we're not going to be the last. New York has their deal, Arkansas has their deal, Oregon has their deal, Tennessee has their deal, city of Chicago has ours, but everybody is going to be going this way, because that's what the economy requires, that's what our children need if they're going to succeed in the 21st century. Thank you for being here and I look forward to taking your questions.

[Applause]

ANDREA EDNEY: Thank you, Mayor Emanuel. How are you funding, starting with questions from the audience, how are you funding the education add-ons you have described, and how do you convince your constituents in this anti-tax, anti-government era to make the investment?

RAHM EMANUEL: Well, you left out of my bio that I was a dancer, I'm tap dancing my way through this. No, on a serious note, let me walk through a couple things, just as examples, etc. The Chicago Star, which is if you get a B average community college is free, we spend today at community colleges around, I'm doing this round, 30-plus million dollars on remedial education, so we took a portion of it into if you get a B average or better you get free community college. Why? I'm rewarding success rather than purchasing an insurance policy on failure. So we just channeled the dollars differently.

Second, on Greg's basis at Kenwood, which is again, as I say, just north of Hyde Park and University of Chicago, it's actually President Obama's neighborhood, they have the largest use in the city of the dual credit, dual enrollment, so kids are in their high school getting college classes or they go up to Harold Washington or any one of the community colleges and they take credits, and that is split between Chicago Public Schools and the community colleges. In Armando, Sarah Goode's model that is done with IBM and also dual credit, dual enrollment, but they're in the high school day taking qualified ready college classes. So that is examples of how we're funding it.

And I'll just say this: I'm pro- Once I think we have proven, and I have raised taxes for public schools, not only for the teachers' pension, for a school modernization facility, and I have no gumption. You want a 21st century education? I cannot have kids in hallways, stairwells, without air conditioning. I'll give Greg credit. We once had a meeting, he is going to laugh about this, because he has seventh and eighth grade which is called Academic Excellence, and plus high school, and we were going to take another school over and put the seventh and eighth graders there, so he held a meeting with me and the Alderman at the time in a room that had no air conditioning. Let me just say by the next starting of the school year they got air conditioning. It was in the middle of summer. But we have actually, by this summer we will complete every classroom in the city of Chicago, it hadn't been done since '63, will have air conditioning, but I have raised taxes to pay for modern facilities. I've got no problem. And I'll be up front about it.

Now, what I also want to be up front about, you want more revenue, I want more quality. I think that's a fair trade and people will make that trade and I've been up front about it and we have succeeded in finding the revenue. I'm not just for more revenue. I'm for more revenue that succeeds quality versus mediocrity.

ANDREA EDNEY: Do you anticipate that you might use some of that revenue to hire more guidance counselors to increase the ratio of guidance counselors to high school students?

RAHM EMANUEL: I think, look, you could always use more. We're going to have to get to our goal. It's going to be a combination. We have, and I don't know, I'm putting both my Principals on, but you know One Goal, I don't know if they're in your school, it's a not for profit, One Goal is a not for profit that does superb work. There is another group in Chicago called A Million Degrees that works on completion rates that we work with. But we're going to have to invest in this now. That's why in our policy we gave ourselves to 2019/2020 class. We're already at 40% of all our counselors trained to this, so over the next three years we will get ourselves to 100%.

So there is two goals to remember. By 2018 we want to be at 50% of our kids graduating with college credit already under their belt and by 2019 to graduate, and we'll support you, a letter of acceptance from one of five things, college, community college, armed forces, a trade, or a job.

ANDREA EDNEY: How are you preparing your community college system for the influx of students? I imagine that you anticipate more students registering with community colleges.

RAHM EMANUEL: Well, I'm very proud of this. So when I became Mayor we were one of the worst systems in the United States. The World Bank came out three years ago and wrote a report that Chicago has got the best college to career program in the United States. So, A, Chicago has the most diversified economy in the United States of America, actually one of the most diversified in the world. No sector of our seven sectors controls more or contributes more than 13% of our employment. So we copied, ready, the German model. Malcolm X on the west side is all healthcare. The lead is Rush Presbyterian Hospital with Children's Memorial, Stroger Hospital, Walgreens, Abbott, Baxter, they help us on the curriculum. Without going through them all, Harold Washington downtown led by Aon Insurance, all professional services, Olive-Harvey, southwest side, transportation, distribution, logistics. So we took-- And I don't want to go-- IT, advanced manufacturing, human services. Every school is aligned with the fastest growing part of our economy with the fastest amount of jobs where the industry helps us on curriculum.

It was written up as the best college career program. They are getting an influx, but first of all, I don't mean to do this to you, Tony, but Tony went to the best high school, as I told you, in the state, Northside, it's also top, one of the top 30 in the United States of America. Trust me, Truman Community College never had a Northside graduate. They have a Northside graduate who is now going on to become an alumnus the next two years at

Northwestern University. He always wanted to go Big 10, couldn't afford the U of I, even though it was a state school, but because of the Chicago Star Scholarship, which is free, have I mentioned free yet, [laughter] is free, and now because of the partnership with the Star Plus he is going on to Northwestern and basically graduate with debt free.

Now I'm only a city. I would love to have a state budget and I would love to have a United States government backing this up. But that's how we're going to do it and we're going to increase the quality of our students and, more importantly, for the students that don't go on to Northwestern they are not just coming out with an Associate's degree, they're coming out with a degree that was designed by the industry, so they know the credentials, and they're not just getting a job, but if they're in healthcare they're getting a job that is a career that leads them to the middle class. Key difference. You're in healthcare, you want to be a nurse, we've got a way to do it. Second, you want to bounce yourself up in the higher grade of the nurse, we have an educational system. So we're more than just a job, we're a career that helps you get up that economic ladder.

ANDREA EDNEY: With the new requirements for students starting in 2020 if a student doesn't present these qualifications--

RAHM EMANUEL: They go to that woman's family's house. We're just sending them over to her home.

ANDREA EDNEY: Will they be considered a dropout or what are their alternatives?

RAHM EMANUEL: Look, here is, let me say this: It is a requirement, but let me do two things. First of all, it's not like we just tell you senior year in September this is a requirement. We're doing this all the way through and helping kids. We're going to support them and ensure they get there and give them the support to get there. That's A. B, I'm going to tell you this, outside of you, nobody in this room doesn't do this for their own children, both subtly and directly, and I'm going to make sure that the other 35% aren't just by chance but have a plan and a support system, and we're going to help them get there.

Today to graduate you have to do 40 hours of community service in Chicago. You have to do four credits' worth of science. To graduate Sarah Goode you take four years of IT. We have a whole host of requirements. I don't think it's a-- And our kids graduate and our graduation rate is going up. I do not think it's a stretch to, yes it's a requirement, but we're going to support you to also ensure you have a post-high school educational plan. We have, you have to do 40 hours of community service in the city of Chicago to graduate. You have to have science requirements. You have to have arts requirements. I'm, and I'm a former dancer as I told you, I'm for that. The idea that you are going to actually have a post-high school educational plan and all of a sudden we're putting a burden on our kids' backs, I'll guarantee you the kids in Chicago are going to be better prepared for the future than any other child.

Every other school system today leaves it to chance. I'll tell you this, I would rather leave the insurance policy of the kids that go to Kenwood High School to Greg Jones and the support he is giving them than to say, "Well, good luck. Figure it out." At Sarah Goode where Armando is the Principal, and I can go through all the schools I mentioned, these are kids of color overwhelmingly on free and reduced lunch, I don't know the percentages, but a good percentage who are the first ones in their family to go to college. Now I and Amy have five degrees between us. That's my wife. We have all the support we can give our kids if they want a college counselor, advice, tutor. I'm supposed to leave to chance a child, the first one in their family to go to college outside of the support of Sarah Goode and all the infrastructure around? It would be morally reprehensible of me to do that when we could do the opposite.

So that's what we're doing. It is a requirement. When they get there we're going to ensure that they have a plan.

ANDREA EDNEY: Excellent. Given your priority on education, what would the government administration's proposed cuts in college loans and grants do in Chicago? How would that affect Chicago's--

RAHM EMANUEL: You mean the U.S.

ANDREA EDNEY: Yes, the U.S. government.

RAHM EMANUEL: I see. It's hard for me when you say cuts not to think of the state of Illinois.

ANDREA EDNEY: We'll get there.

RAHM EMANUEL: You know, Lisa and I just talked about this. I have not-- She has talked about a group. They're talking about the return on investment of a college education and on the overall lifetime. I bet you the return on investment of a higher education is better than the return on investment of a home, yet we do full subsidies for home ownership. When you look at your mortgage write-off, I'll take a stab at that, if it's not equal it's better. That is an education over a home. Now, I think any, I'm telling you guys, I mean I grew up in a home, this is in, I mean engulfed in me and beaten into my DNA, and I had a father who was an immigrant, so couldn't have been cheaper about everything in life except for one thing, education. That's true of how I raised my kids. Don't talk about, if it's education there is just not a sacrifice. And I just think we're nuts as a country, given what we know about the world, what we know that the competition is getting more fierce in the 21st century, not just from China but from a whole host of countries, that we would not make access to higher education affordable.

I think it is morally wrong to ask parents to take a second job, a second mortgage, and if I'm asking you to get a second job it's usually the third job in a home of two parents, not the second job, or a second mortgage to give their kids a shot at the American dream. And I'll just tell you this: I forgot to-- I left it out. The Chicago Star Scholarship, which is the free

community college, is the only public scholarship in the United States that is open to Dreamers, and every one of the programs I mentioned, meaning the Chicago Star and the Chicago Star Plus, is open to everybody, and Dreamers included, meaning Northwestern, UFC, they do the add-on, Northeastern, Columbia. I think it's crazy to cut funding and leave it just to banks.

Again, I'm using Tony as an example, but there is hundreds of students. I know the seven students, because I took, at Sarah Goode, who graduated not only with a high school degree, their Associate's degree. These are working families. Tony's parents could not make - He could not go to a state university, University of Illinois, because the aid, the school basically even with aid was too expensive. He is going to Northwestern now. I think this is crazy what we're doing as a country and we're taking our stab at trying to reverse that and make it better.

ANDREA EDNEY: So, coming to Illinois's state administration.

RAHM EMANUEL: You guys got another hour?

ANDREA EDNEY: I wish we did. I really wish we did.

RAHM EMANUEL: So do I. It would be more therapy for me than anything else.

ANDREA EDNEY: So, two related questions. Do you think that the state of Illinois will enact a budget before the 2018 Gubernatorial election? And will the Chicago Public Schools open on time this fall if the state of Illinois doesn't pass a budget?

RAHM EMANUEL: We have already answered number two. We're opening up on time. I'm not going to take all the anxiety. Parents don't need the anxieties about that. We are opening up on time. We're going to meet our responsibility. It's time the state of Illinois meet their responsibility.

Let me just say a couple things. First, Illinois is dead last in funding public education in the United States of America. We beat out Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana for dead last. We're the fifth most populous state. The city of Chicago by A.T. Kearney is the second most competitive economy in the United States, seventh in the world, dead last in funding education. And if you're poor we really whack you. It's not only dead last, it's one of the most inequitable funding systems in the United States of America. Now we're going to open up on time. We have gone 700-plus days without a budget. The Governor has gone 700 days without introducing a budget. You will never have a budget until the Chief Executive of a city or a state, in this case the state, introduces a budget.

I can't make a prediction. I can tell you I hope it does, it needs to, the Governor has an obligation to introduce a balanced budget that shows all his priorities. Our students are going to school. That's where they belong. We will do whatever it takes to ensure our kids go to school. Our doors will be open, they will be learning, and we will be beating records.

Now I haven't mentioned, I didn't mention this. In the last three years every gain in the state of Illinois on either graduation, reading, or math has come out of the city of Chicago. If you take the city of Chicago out of Illinois, which I'm telling you every day I want to do, but if you take them out the state of Illinois's graduation rate either fell flat or declined, their reading scores flat or declined, or their math scores flat or declined. The entire gains for the state of Illinois by any Governor has been because of the men that are sitting in front of you and their 600-plus colleagues. Illinois without Chicago would be falling backwards. We're opening our doors. The Governor will have to figure out what every other school district does that is poor or represents minority kids, but Chicago will be open for the future. I can't say that about Illinois.

ANDREA EDNEY: Including education, what has been the biggest disruption for the city of Chicago from the budget impasse?

RAHM EMANUEL: Oh, from the budget impasse? Well, I'll give you, there is two things, but look, let me give you a couple other points that you may not know. For five years in a row Chicago is the number one city in the United States for corporate relocations, not one, not two, every year for five years. For five years in a row Chicago is the number one city for direct and foreign investment in the United States of America and in 2016 we're the only city in the United States on the top 20 and our entire investment was greater than Miami, Atlanta, and Montreal all combined. For five years in a row Chicago's economy, this is JLL economist, grew faster than the United States, faster than New York, and faster than D.C., and I do not have Wall Street or the federal government in my backyard, thank god.

No, I'm getting to my answer. I was just giving you data points. The reason is is because we have created certainty. 36% of the kids in the city of Chicago have a four year college degree or better, in the United States it's 27%. We have the largest capital investment in the United States in transportation system, both public and aviation. We are also the home to the largest amount of graduates from the Big 10. We have a community college system as I already outlined to you. We have a transportation, technology, training, transparency, and also what is what I said in the effort of the transportation system, all the five Ts, talent, training, transportation, technology, and transparency. We have created certainty.

The biggest drain on the city of Chicago is the uncertainty of without a budget. I think this is, also this debate about taxes, as if that is everything, what businesses, big, medium, small, any size is looking for is certainty. You create certainty around talent, you create certainty around the pool and resources of talent coming in, you create certainty around a 21st century transportation system, certainty around public finances, and you'll get investment. You create uncertainty and you'll get the net result of that. And so the biggest drain for Chicago, which as I already told you by any global standards, A.T. Kearney just came out two weeks ago, seventh most competitive economy in the world, second in North America, is uncertainty. There are other human resources as it affects the homeless, domestic violence shelters, taking care of indigent and poor.

And I can't tell you what it means not just in the sense of funding a budget, the actual infrastructure around human supports is atrophying. For all these people that say, "Oh,

government is the enemy,” go look at a city, a state that doesn’t fund basic operations. It’s in another, it’s in a third world place. So it’s not just-- So I would say on the human side it’s been tremendously draining. On the kind of business environment it is, I mean Chicago is doing what it can, but I would rather have, just don’t be a drain, if you can’t be a net plus to the state of Illinois just don’t be a drain anymore. Okay?

ANDREA EDNEY: Thank you.

RAHM EMANUEL: I could go on and on. It really felt really good there for a second. Now I will say this, let me close on that one, the Governor is about to give a, he called a special session, he is about to give a speech. I just want a budget. Just make the-- Look, Harry S. Truman signed. Did it say, “Go see Sam Rayburn” or “The buck stops here”? Every Chief Executive, it’s a responsibility of the office, says, “Here is the budget. Here is where I’m going to invest. Here is where I’m going to cut. Here is the choices I’m going to make.” We have gone 700-plus days with our Chief Executive never once introducing a budget and everybody walks around scratching their heads and says, “You don’t have a budget.” Well, we haven’t had one introduced. Introduce it and we’ll get, and the legislative body, and I’ve been in Congress, will get to work on it.

ANDREA EDNEY: Do you plan to run for a third term as Mayor of Chicago? And what will your campaign narrative be in a nutshell?

RAHM EMANUEL: First of all, I plan on running for a third term, and the first person that will, that I’ll talk to will be my wife, not you. But yeah it’s-- I’m joking. So I plan on running for a third term. I’ve already said that before, so it’s not a big surprise. I’ve got to be honest. Look, I’ve been honored to work for President Clinton, President Obama. I’ve been honored to represent the north side. No job has been more intellectually and emotionally rewarding, any Mayor will tell you that. It is emotionally also challenging, but I look at what we have done, I can’t say we got it 100% right, but I can tell you we are trying.

Now I was at the other day at a community college. We did our first cohort of what we call the Chicago Star Plus. A young man just like Tony introduced me. He was a Star, got a B, he got a B average in community college, and he is going on to Dominican School, Dominican. And he says, “I’m going to graduate debt free.” He said, “I would not be-- I’m the first in my family to go to college.” An immigrant, Dreamer, and he says, “I could not do it without what you did, Mr. Mayor, and I want to thank you.” I got to that podium and I could barely hold it together. I cannot think of anything better in public life than to know that you can make an imprint, put your thumb on the scale, and tip it towards justice and equity. And I will say to you is in a time in which we live with greater polarization, a period of time where people want more sense of ability to influence their own lives and the democratic process, local government is where that is possible.

Right now the rest of us look at this city as Disneyland on the Potomac, and I will just tell you if you look around the world there is a hundred cities that are driving the economy, intellectual, cultural energy of the world economy, and Chicago is one of them and I plan on intending to continue to keep it in the top 10 as a global leader economically, culturally,

intellectually. And then my measure as a Mayor, my measure as a Mayor is to make sure-- I got it-- that the kids of Rogers Park where Tony went, the kids of Ravenswood where I live, and the kids in Rosalind Park on the far south side that go to Fenger, when they look at this great city and they see the power, the energy represented by this city, that they all share the same sense that that is my city, and if they do Berlin, London, Beijing, Tokyo, New York, watch out, Chicago is coming for you. Nothing will hold us back. And that is the measure of our success. I've got about four minutes?

ANDREA EDNEY: Yeah. I'm going to try two more. I'm going to try two more questions.

RAHM EMANUEL: Got it.

ANDREA EDNEY: As someone often credited with being one of the architects of the Democratic takeover of the U.S. House in 2006 what will it mean for your party's prospects in the 2018 midterms if John Ossoff wins tonight in GA 06, and if he loses? And do you, you helped lead the last Democratic takeover of Congress, can it happen in 2018?

RAHM EMANUEL: Look, sure it can happen. Anybody that tells you it will happen this far out doesn't, hasn't been in campaigns. It's too far to predict. A lot of things can happen. I would rather be a Democrat today going into 2018 than a Republican, and you didn't pay me to say that. Okay? Every time the House of Representatives has ever flipped it's been in a midterm election, so that's a fact. No party has gone into a midterm with a President this unpopular at this point, remember there is 18 months, or 17 months, without a severe consequence to that party's position in the House.

You have three factors, maps, voting rights, and money that are different than any other time before. And we don't know the consequences. In '06, in the sixth year of a Presidency, which is not the first time, when we did it last time you had beginnings of a recession, two unpopular wars, an unpopular President, and a corruption scandal. It was enough and enough candidates in all the places to create a wave and then to ride that wave. I don't know what is happening across '18. But I also want to say as somebody who has spent my life building the party we are a thousand seats shorter today than we were in 2009 or 2008.

This is not about one election. It's about building a party, building an apparatus. And what I mean by that, Chris Murphy out of Connecticut, the class of 2006 to Congress, Christine Gillibrand, the class of 2006, Joe Donnelly, the class of 2006. I'm about building a party. So if it's not about one election it's about making sure that we win Statehouse seats in North Carolina, Georgia, and New Mexico, in all these areas, and other people, and promote them not just to Congress. And so anybody who says, "What's happening in 2018?" I say, "Okay, what's happening in 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, and are we doing what is necessary intellectually, organizing, and party building to make sure that we're prepared for the next decade, not for the next election?"

ANDREA EDNEY: Thank you. Before you leave we have a small gift for you. It is a longstanding tradition at the National Press Club to present all of our luncheon speakers, each one of them, with a mug from the National Press Club. We hope that you use it in good health.

RAHM EMANUEL: Thank you.

ANDREA EDNEY: Thank you.

[Applause]

RAHM EMANUEL: Thank you very much.

ANDREA EDNEY: Thank you very much. And very, very briefly I wanted to ask you who was your favorite teacher and why?

RAHM EMANUEL: Larry Gould, History teacher in high school, and also my homeroom teacher in high school.

ANDREA EDNEY: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

[Applause]

ANDREA EDNEY: Before we close today's luncheon I would also like to invite all of you to join us on Thursday, July 27th when we will hear from Army Chief of Staff General Mark Millie. The National Press Club is the world's leading professional organization for journalists. For more information about the club or to apply for membership please visit our website at Press.org. To donate to programs such as scholarships or training opportunities for journalists offered through the nonprofit National Press Club Journalism Institute please visit Press.org/Institute. We are adjourned. [sounds gavel]

[Applause]

END

JEFF BALLOU: [sounds gavel] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues all, members. Welcome to the National Press Club. My name is Jeff Ballou. I'm the 110th President of this historic private club with the trademarked phrase the world's leading professional organization for journalists, and where we would like to say given the current time and press freedom we are the Constitution. Please submit questions via the cards on your table if you haven't already, and you can also, those of you who are viewing, you can also submit them via Twitter at Press Club D.C. hashtag #NPCLive, hashtag #headliners, and those of you in the house, once again for those of you who came a little late, now is a good

time to silence your cellphones and other devices that make noise. We do welcome you to tweet and follow the action and send questions in here to the club.

And now is the time to introduce the Head Table.