

Press Clippings Through April 21, 2025

- CBS News -

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias awards \$1.3 million to school libraries

By: Sara Tenenbaum

Date: April 21, 2025

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulias announced he has awarded more than \$1.3 million to public school libraries throughout the state.

The grants, which are awarded each spring, support school library services for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, and include library books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, technology, programs and multilingual materials.

Districts receive 88 cents per student through a state-determined formula based on enrollment at each school that has a qualified library. Chicago Public schools received more than \$78,000 for libraries through this year's grant. Other major recipients include Elgin School District U-46 which received more than \$26,000; Rockford Public School District 205 which received over \$21,000; Plainfield CCSD 202 which received just over \$20,000; Naperville CUSD 203 which received over \$13,000; Schaumburg CCSD 54 which received over \$12,000; and Waukegan Community Unit School District 60 which received \$11,000.

The minimum award amount for any district is \$850.

"Illinois students deserve to have access to quality library resources, including learning materials, books and online services at our public schools," Giannoulias said in a statement. "Libraries serve as places of knowledge, learning and discovery and this funding will help equip them to educate and inspire our future generations."

- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News -

District U-46 School Board planning to award \$10.6M in construction, purchase contracts

By: Mike Danahey

Date: April 15, 2025

School District U-46 is planning more than \$10.6 million in school renovation and repair work, furniture purchases and playground equipment installation.

If the contracts are approved by the school board at its April 28 meeting, work would start in late May and be completed by late July.

Among the projects discussed at Monday's board meeting, emergency generators are to be installed at Bartlett Elementary School in Bartlett and Clinton Elementary School in South Elgin and an emergency generator replaced at Hillcrest Elementary in Elgin at a total price of \$1.72 million paid to Newcastle Electric.

Bartlett and Clinton Elementary don't currently have emergency generators and Hillcrest's was installed in 1998. Replacement parts are no longer available because of the unit's age, officials said.

Northwest Contractors Inc. is to be paid \$913,682 to replace water pipes and to upgrade bathroom flooring sinks, fixtures and toilet fixtures at Highland Elementary School in Elgin.

Highland was built in 1959 and has galvanized water pipes. Those will be replaced with copper pipes.

Varsity baseball and softball backstops at Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin and Streamwood high schools are going to be replaced to bring them up to current industry safety standards. Omni Commercial Group Inc. is slated to receive the \$820,000 contract.

The current backstops are metal and range in height from 12 to 25 feet. With the installation of a netting backstop system reaching 30 feet high for softball and 40 feet high for baseball, spectators will be better protected and have better visibility.

George Sollitt Construction Co. is to be awarded a \$3.8 million contract to upgrade Bartlett High School automotive and engineering labs and to modernize the school's culinary arts and health care science rooms.

"A lot of things are compliance related," said Sheila Downs, District U-46's executive director of facilities. "So there are a lot of safety items that go into effect. We're going to separate the engineering and automotive spaces to make sure the exhaust is done properly. We're going to replace the flooring, the lighting and such.

"In the culinary spaces, we're going to be doing very similar work in that we are upgrading some of the appliances and are going to replace flooring and lighting as well."

Some of the roofing at Coleman Elementary School in Elgin is to be replaced, at a cost of \$1.64 million to be paid to Crowther Roofing and Sheet Metal.

Those roof sections were last replaced in 1986 and 1997, officials said. The replacement roofing will have a 20- to 25-year lifespan.

A new playset at Hilltop Elementary in Elgin and new pre-K playsets at Horizon Elementary in Hanover Park, Laurel Hill Elementary in Hanover Park, Sunnydale Elementary in Streamwood, Timber Trails Elementary in Hoffman Estates, Sycamore Trails Elementary in Bartlett, Willard Elementary in South Elgin, Hilltop Elementary in Elgin, Fox Meadow Elementary in South Elgin and Coleman Elementary in Elgin are to be installed.

Two contracts, one for \$93,308 and the other for \$1.4 million will be awarded to GameTime and Cunningham Recreation at the next school board meeting.

Once ordered, the equipment will take 12 to 16 weeks to arrive, officials said. However, the district has several grounds crew members who are certified playground inspectors.

“This saves the district a lot of money because we are able to install our playgrounds,” Downs said.

Finally, the board is expected to approve \$179,360 in contracts with five vendors for preschool furniture. While some of the furniture will replace items currently being used by pre-K programs, much of it is for new programs opening in the 2025-26 school year.

There will be two new pre-K classrooms at Coleman in Elgin, two at Fox Meadow in South Elgin and one at Timber Trails in Hoffman Estates.

- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News - Elgin News Digest: U-46 Foundation's Walk for Autism set for April 26; former East Dundee deputy chief named Chief of the Year

By: Mike Danahey

Date: April 15, 2025

U-46 Foundation's Walk for Autism set for April 26

School District U-46 Educational Foundation fifth annual 5K Walk for Autism Acceptance will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at Centennial Elementary School at 234 E. Stearns Road in Bartlett.

The event will raise money to support U-46 students, teachers and families affected by autism, according to a social media post for the event. T-shirts will available to sold at the event.

For information on participating or donating to the effort, email erinbryant@u-46.org, brendamorones@u-46.org, danahealy@u-46.org or nicolebryan@u-46.org.

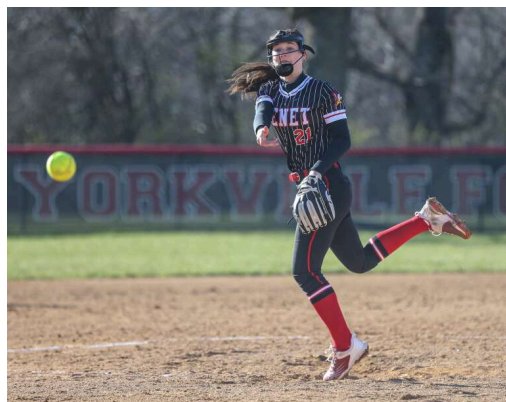
To read the full article, please click [here](#).

- Daily Herald -

Softball notes: Benet's Rosner no-hits Fenwick; South Elgin duo shines in the circle

By: Mike Miazga

Date: April 16, 2025



Benet's Sophie Rosner recently threw a no-hitter against Fenwick and is batting .500 at the plate.

Good pitching typically means positive results in the world of high school softball.

And South Elgin fits that bill perfectly. Coach Brad Reynard's Storm (9-3, 4-0 UEC West) started the week with a team ERA of 0.71. Anna Kiel (2-3, 0.00 ERA, 11 hits in 22 innings, 33 K against 2 walks) and Jenna Sheehan (3-0, 0.54 ERA, 15 hits in 26 innings, 34 K, 2 walks) have been strong in the circle, while Chloe Ricard has been key behind the plate handling the pitchers and at the plate (.464, 5 doubles, 9 RBI), Reynard added.

Elgin update: Abby Mutolo is 24 innings away from catching 200 at the varsity level. Mutolo has not made an error this season and is hitting .571 for the Maroons (2-4, 1-2 UEC West). Coach Monica Stockman also has been pleased with Hailey Rea's defense in the outfield, while Sofia Dekarske was lauded for stepping up in the circle for the first time as a varsity player after an injury to another player.

Larkin update: Mackenzie Wemken (38 K in 31-plus innings, 17 called thirds), Mya Bermudez (.389 hitting) and Kaitlyn Neubert (.333, 9 RBI) have been bright spots for the Royals (3-5, 1-2 UEC West).

To read the full article, please click [here](#).