

**Northeastern Illinois University
Executive Committee of The Board of Trustees
August 28, 2026**

Tuition Pricing Model Change: Domestic/International Model

Background

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) currently charges both an in-state and an out-of-state tuition rate for students. Illinois residents and residents of the six neighboring states—Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin—are currently eligible for in-state tuition rates and students in other U.S. states and international students are charged the out-of-state rate.

During FY2026 (Fall 2025 and Spring 2026), NEIU enrolled 19 students from eleven states outside the current in-state tuition area (see Exhibit A). An additional 16 students had not yet submitted documentation to establish in-state residency at the time of admission and were therefore also charged out-of-state tuition.

The current undergraduate in-state tuition rate is \$435.26 per credit hour, and the graduate rate is \$491.72 per credit hour. The out-of-state tuition rate is twice the in-state rate: \$870.52 per credit hour for undergraduate students and \$983.44 per credit hour for graduate students.

A recent federal court ruling requires NEIU to change its current tuition structure for the 2026–27 academic year. In response, and in consultation with NEIU general counsel, we are proposing to transition to a Domestic/International tuition pricing structure, effective Fall 2026. This change will apply prospectively beginning with the Fall 2026 term and will not be retroactive to prior academic terms.

Strategic Rationale

NEIU has been evaluating a Domestic/International pricing structure as a longer-term strategy to remain competitive in the Illinois higher education market. Of the nine Illinois public universities, six currently utilize a Domestic/International tuition structure, while only three, including NEIU, continue to use an In-State/Out-of-State tuition structure (see Exhibit B).

Under the proposed tuition structure, tuition rates will no longer be based on a student's state of residence. Instead, tuition would be determined by whether a student is a U.S. citizen or other eligible domestic student or an international student. This approach would:

- Align NEIU's tuition model more closely with the practices of peer Illinois public universities to remain competitive.
- Simplify NEIU's tuition pricing structure and reduce reliance on state residency classifications.

- Strengthen NEIU's ability to attract and enroll domestic students who currently face higher out-of-state tuition rates.
- Provide greater flexibility to respond to changing legal and market conditions.

The urgency to implement this change for Fall 2026 is primarily driven by NEIU's immediate enrollment and affordability goals. Putting the new Domestic/International tuition structure in place before the Fall 2026 census date will allow the University to promote the change as soon as possible, attract more domestic students who may otherwise be discouraged by higher out-of-state tuition rates, and provide more students with a more affordable tuition option. While legal considerations are not the primary reason for the change, the new structure would also give NEIU more flexibility to respond to changing legal and regulatory requirements.

Student Impact

The proposed tuition pricing structure will apply to all new undergraduate and graduate students beginning in Fall 2026, as well as continuing students whose tuition rates are affected by the change. Student mandatory fees will not be impacted by the proposed change. **The University does not anticipate that any students will experience an increase in tuition as a result of this change.**

If approved, **all student accounts will be reassessed** to reflect the new tuition structure, including both new and continuing students. Financial aid packages will be reviewed and repackaged as necessary to reflect any changes in tuition charges. The University's administrative, student accounts, and financial aid teams are prepared to complete the necessary system and operational changes in time for the Fall 2026 census.

Budget Impact

The estimated FY 2027 budget impact is a decrease of approximately **\$400,000** in unrestricted budget, based on a conservative preliminary estimate. The impact is attributable to the reduction in tuition revenue from approximately **35 students** who currently pay the higher out-of-state tuition rate and, under the proposed model, would be charged the lower domestic tuition rate.

We previously presented a preliminary FY2027 budget to the Board. Following the Fall 2026 census on September 5, 2026, we will update enrollment and revenue projections and finalize the FY2027 budget. The estimated \$400,000 financial impact of the tuition rate change will also be reflected in the final budget. We remain committed to presenting a balanced FY2027 budget for approval at the September 2026 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.

NEIU will also increase marketing efforts around the new tuition structure, with the goal of generating additional domestic enrollment beginning in Spring 2027 and, more significantly, for Fall 2027 and subsequent terms. These potential enrollment gains are not included in the conservative \$400,000 preliminary estimate of reduction in revenue.

It is important to note: the proposed change does not establish new tuition rates for FY2028. Under the Domestic/International tuition pricing structure, the current tuition rates will remain unchanged at \$435.26 per credit hour for undergraduate students and \$491.72 per credit hour for graduate students. The University is proposing, at this time, only to change the overall tuition pricing structure from an In-State/Out-of-State model to a Domestic/International model. Any proposed changes to tuition rates for FY2028 will be presented separately to the Board of Trustees for consideration at its January/February 2027 meeting.

Board Action Requested

We request that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approve the transition of NEIU from an In-State/Out-of-State tuition structure to a Domestic/International tuition structure, effective Fall 2026.

Exhibit A

State	No. of Students	Tuition Revenue
AR	1	\$ 18,962
CA	6	\$ 115,481
CO	1	\$ 14,178
FL	2	\$ 21,491
NC	1	\$ 8,593
NJ	1	\$ 22,409
NY	2	\$ 6,158
OH	1	\$ 11,458
TX	2	\$ 12,603
VA	1	\$ 5,729
WV	1	\$ 3,151
Others*	16	\$ 150,918
Grand Total	35	\$ 391,132

*IL residency not established at the time of admission therefore charged out of state tuition.

Parameters:

Semester: Fall and Spring

Out-of-State? Yes

International Student? No

Veteran? No

Neighboring State (IA, IN, KY, MI, MO,WI)? No

Exhibit B

Illinois Public Universities — Tuition Structure		
School	In-State / Out-of-State and/or International	Domestic / International
Uses In-State / Out-of-State pricing (3 Universities)		
U of I Urbana-Champaign	✓	—
U of I Chicago (UIC)	✓	—
U of I Springfield (UIS)	✓	—
Illinois State University	✓	—
Northeastern Illinois University	✓	—
Uses Domestic / International pricing (6 Universities)		
Northern Illinois University	—	✓
Western Illinois University	—	✓
Eastern Illinois University	—	✓
Chicago State University	—	✓
Governors State University	—	✓
SIU Edwardsville	—	✓
SIU Carbondale*	—	✓

* Does not include SIU School of Medicine and other graduate students (non-Law school students) which have In-State and Out-of-State rates.

SECTION IV. STUDENTS

A. ADMISSION POLICIES

The university shall develop policies for the admission of undergraduate and graduate students. The policies shall become effective when approved by the President and shall be:

1. Consistent with the Board's commitment to equal opportunity for qualified students to attend Northeastern Illinois University.
2. Consistent with admission standards approved by the Board of Higher Education.
3. Published in the university catalog.

B. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

1. Definition

Student financial aid includes tuition waivers, scholarships, grants, loans, and employment opportunities that are provided for students to assist them in meeting the costs of university attendance whether from university, state, federal, or private resources.

2. Financial Aid Policies

The university shall develop policies for the administration of its financial aid program. The policies shall become effective when approved by the President.

Financial aid policies shall be consistent with the Board's commitment to provide an equal opportunity to qualified Illinois residents to attend Northeastern Illinois University. The policies shall include the following provisions and such other provisions as are necessary and appropriate:

- a. The policies and procedures concerning the award of tuition waivers shall describe all tuition waivers issued by the university and the criteria for their award. The policies and procedures shall comply with Board of Higher Education tuition waiver policies and the other applicable laws, policies, rules, or requirements.

In compliance with [110 ILCS 680/25-90](#), the university's policies and procedures for the award of tuition waivers shall provide that each eligible child of any Northeastern Illinois University employee who has been employed for at least 7 years by Northeastern Illinois University shall, upon proper application and verification of eligibility, be offered a 50 percent tuition waiver for any academic year for which the child:

- 1) is under the age of 25 at the commencement of the academic year during which the partial tuition waiver is to be effective. Eligibility for this purpose will be verified on a year-by-year basis;
- 2) qualifies for admission under the same admissions requirements, standards, and policies which the university to which the waiver will be applied generally applies to applicants for admission to its respective undergraduate programs;

- 3) is the natural, adopted, foster, or step-child of a current employee who has been employed for a total of at least seven cumulative years by Northeastern Illinois University. Academic years shall count as calendar years for those employees normally employed on an academic year basis. Employment which is or was contingent upon an individual's status as an enrolled student shall not be counted as part of this seven cumulative years of employment;
 - 4) has, if the application is for a renewal of the award, maintained satisfactory academic progress toward graduation as this would be determined by the established rules of the university; and
 - 5) has not expended a total of 4 years of undergraduate 50 percent tuition waiver benefits as provided under this section. For purposes of this subsection, 4 years shall be considered either 12 academic terms or the number of hours necessary to complete an undergraduate degree, whichever is completed first.
- b. The policies and procedures concerning the employment and compensation of student hourly workers shall comply with the rules of the State Universities Civil Service System and with applicable state and federal employment law.
 - c. Policies and procedures concerning the appointment, hours of work, and compensation of graduate assistants. Graduate assistants may not hold faculty rank and must hold at least the baccalaureate degree or its equivalent.

C. STUDENT CLASSIFICATION AND RESIDENCY DETERMINATIONS

1. Student Classification

Deleted: RESIDENCY STATUS

Deleted: <#>Definitions¶

For purposes of this regulation, the following definitions pertain:¶

An "adult student" is a student who is 18 or more years of age.¶

A "minor student" is a student who is less than 18 years of age.¶

An "emancipated minor student" is a completely self-supporting student who is less than 18 years of age. Marriage or active military service shall be regarded as effecting the emancipation of minors, whether male or female, for the purposes of this regulation.¶

"Residence" means legal domicile. Voter registration, filing of tax returns, proper license, and registration for driving or ownership of a vehicle, and other such transactions may verify intent of residence in a state. Neither length of university attendance nor continued presence in the university community during vacation periods shall be construed to be proof of Illinois residence. Except as otherwise provided in this regulation, no parent or legal or natural guardian will be considered a resident unless the parent or guardian maintains, with no intention of changing legal residence to some other state or country, a bona fide and permanent residence in Illinois, except when temporarily absent from Illinois.¶

Residency Determination

Deleted: The university shall determine the residency status of each student enrolled in the University for determining whether the student is assessed in state or out-of-¶

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The University shall set a domestic student tuition rate and an international student tuition rate. Beginning in the fall semester of 2026, the University shall determine whether a student is classified as a domestic or international student for tuition and administrative purposes. The University may also continue to determine in-state residency when required by state or federal law, eligibility for certain financial aid, tuition waivers, veteran benefits, or for other purposes.

a. If an international student is classified by error as a domestic student, a change in tuition charges shall be applicable beginning with the term following reclassification. If the erroneous resident classification is caused by false information submitted by the student, a change in tuition charges shall be applicable for each term in which tuition charges were based on such false information. In addition, the student who has submitted false information may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

b. If a domestic student is classified by error as an international student, a change in tuition charges shall be applicable during the term in which the reclassification occurs, provided the student has filed a written request for review in accordance with this regulation.

c. The University shall establish procedures to classify students as either domestic or international. Such procedures for classification shall be based upon criteria established by the President and published by the University.

Deleted: state tuition. Each applicant for admission to the university shall submit at the time of application evidence for determination of residency. The office responsible for admissions shall make a determination of residency status.

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(Section IV., Subsection C.3. Revised,
November 13, 2014, Board Action)[¶]
Tuition Rates for Students from Neighboring
States[¶]

Beginning in fall semester 2015, all new students from neighboring states will be assessed in-state tuition rates. Students will qualify if they reside in Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri.[¶]
Adult Students[¶]

To be considered a resident, an adult student must have been a *bona fide* resident of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri for a period of at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the beginning of any term for which the individual registers at the university, and must continue to maintain a *bona fide* residence in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri. In the case of adult students who reside with their parents (or one of them if only one parent is living or the parents are separated or divorced), the student will be considered a resident if the parents have established and are maintaining a *bona fide* residence in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri.[¶]

Minor Students[¶]

The residence of a minor student shall be considered to be the same as and change with the following:[¶]

That of the minor's parents if they are living together, or the living parent if one is deceased; or[¶]

If the parents are separated or divorced, that of the parent to whom custody of the minor has been awarded by court decree or order, or, in the absence of a court decree or order, that of the father unless the minor has continuously resided with the mother for a period of at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the minor's registration at the university, in which latter case the minor's residence shall be considered to be that of the mother; or

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Deleted: <#>If the minor has been legally adopted, that of the adoptive parents, and, in the event the adoptive parents become divorced or separated, that of the adoptive parent whose residence would govern under the foregoing rules if the parent had been a natural parent; or¶
That of the legally appointed guardian of the person; or¶

That of a "natural" guardian such as a grandparent, adult brother or adult sister, adult uncle or aunt, or other adult with whom the minor has resided and by whom the minor has been supported for a period of at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the minor's registration at the university for any term if the minor's parents are deceased or have abandoned the minor and if no legal guardian of the minor has been appointed and qualified.¶

Emancipated Minors¶

If emancipated minors actually reside in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri such minors shall be considered residents even though their parents or guardians may not reside in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri. Emancipated minors who are completely self-supporting shall be considered residents if they have maintained a dwelling place within Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri uninterruptedly for a period of at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the beginning of any term for which they register at the university.

Emancipated minors who reside with their parents and whose parents (or one of them if one parent is living or the parents are separated or divorced) have established and are maintaining a bona fide Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri residence shall be regarded as residents.¶

Minor Children of Parents Transferred outside the United States¶

The minor children of persons who have resided in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, or Missouri for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to a transfer by their employers to some location outside of the United States shall be considered residents. This rule shall apply, however, only when the minor children of such parents enroll in the university within five years of the time their parents are transferred by their employer to a location outside the United States.¶

Married Students¶

A non-resident student, whether minor or adult, who is married to a person who meets and complies with all of the applicable requirements of these regulations to establish residence status, shall be classified as a resident.¶

Armed Forces Personnel¶

Individuals, who are on active duty with one of the services of the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as the spouses and dependent children of such persons, sh

2. **Classification Appeal Procedure**

Students who take exception to their classification status shall pay the tuition assessed, but may file a claim in writing to the university office responsible for reconsideration of classification status. The written claim must be filed within 30 calendar days from the date of the tuition bill or the student loses all rights to a change of classification status for the term in question. If the student is dissatisfied with the ruling in response to the written claim made within said period, the student may file a written appeal within 10 calendar days of receipt of the decision to the responsible university office. Such written appeals shall be forwarded to the appropriate university vice president, who shall consider all evidence submitted in connection with the case and render a decision which shall be final.

3. **Special Situations**

Upon recommendation of the President, the Board may, in special situations, authorize exceptions or special classification when required by law or when circumstances warrant an exception. ▼

D. STUDENT CONDUCT

(Subsection D. Student Conduct Amended: February 4, 1999, Board Action)

The university shall develop policies concerning student rights and conduct. The policies and any changes shall become effective when approved by the President.

The policies shall include the following provisions and such other provisions as are necessary and appropriate:

1. Recognition of basic student rights.
2. Clarification of the distinction between university conduct standards and those established by civil and criminal statutes.
3. Specific prohibited conduct, with sanctions, which may be imposed for such conduct.
4. Procedures for presenting complaints of prohibited conduct and a due process for determining whether violations have occurred.
5. Grievance procedures.

Deleted: supported institutions of higher education in Illinois, holding an appointment of at least one-quarter time, and their spouses, and dependent children shall be treated as residents.†

Teachers in Public and Private Illinois Schools†
Teachers in the public and private elementary and secondary schools of Illinois shall, if subject to payment of tuition, be assessed at the resident rate during any term in which they hold an appointment of at least one quarter time, including the summer session immediately following the term in which the appointment was effective.†

Residency Status

Deleted: residency status

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Deleted: grant residency status to categories of persons otherwise classified as non- residents under this regulation.

E. STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The university shall develop policies concerning student activities and organizations. The policies and any changes shall become effective when approved by the President.

The policies shall include the following provisions and such other provisions as are necessary and appropriate:

1. Procedures for recognition of approved university activities and organizations.
2. Procedures for the approval of allocations and expenditures of student activity funds.

F. STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND BROADCASTING POLICIES

The university shall develop policies concerning the operation of all student media that are supported in whole or in part by university funds. The policies and any changes shall become effective when approved by the President.

The policies shall include the following provisions and such other provisions as are necessary and appropriate:

1. Necessary management elements for the conduct of student media organizations, including specifying the line of authority and responsibility from the President to the staff of each organization.
2. Method of funding and procedures for budget approval.
3. Establishment of a staff organization, of fiscal authority responsibility, and of guidelines for the conduct of operations.
4. Provisions for a faculty/staff advisor and for selection of principal student staff and advisors.
5. Establishment of appropriate ethical and professional standards.
6. Complaint procedures.
7. Requirements for assuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

G. MILITARY SERVICE

The university shall develop policies concerning credit for students who enter active military service. The policies and any changes shall become effective when approved by the President.

The policies shall include the following provisions and such other provisions as are necessary and appropriate:

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- 3) is the natural, adopted, foster, or step-child of a current employee who has been employed for a total of at least seven cumulative years by Northeastern Illinois University. Academic years shall count as calendar years for those employees normally employed on an academic year basis. Employment which is or was contingent upon an individual's status as an enrolled student shall not be counted as part of this seven cumulative years of employment;
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