University Trustee Training

Working Together for *A Thriving Illinois:* The Illinois Higher Education Landscape

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1

Shared Goals: *A Thriving Illinois*

The statewide plan, its seven strategy clusters, and the work underway with institutions.

2

How We Work Together

How the system fits together, coordinating and governing roles, and how IBHE supports institutions.

3

Higher Education Budget Process

The annual state budget cycle and where public university boards connect to it.

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Goals for a Thriving Illinois



Close the equity gaps for students who have been left behind.



Build a stronger financial future for individuals and institutions.



Increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth.

A thriving Illinois has an inclusive economy and broad prosperity with equitable paths to opportunity for all, especially those facing the greatest barriers.

A Thriving Illinois: Work Underway and Next Phase

- 25 strategies come together in 7 strategy clusters:



Equity and Student Success



Student Access/ Keeping Talent in Illinois



Affordability



Pathways to Degree Completion



Workforce and Economic Development



Targeted Talent Development



Efficiency

Equity and Student Success: Complementary Student Success Initiatives

Equity Plans and SUCCESS

Illinois Campus Cares Mental Health Services

Illinois Campus Cares Technical Assistance Center



Targeted Grants for Institutions

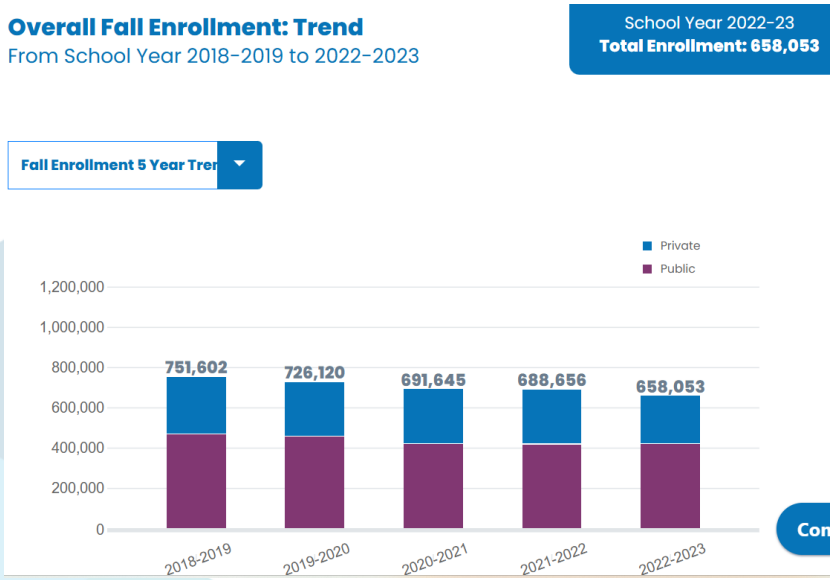
Mental Health Early Action on Campus Grants
Student Success Grants
Pell 55 Grants

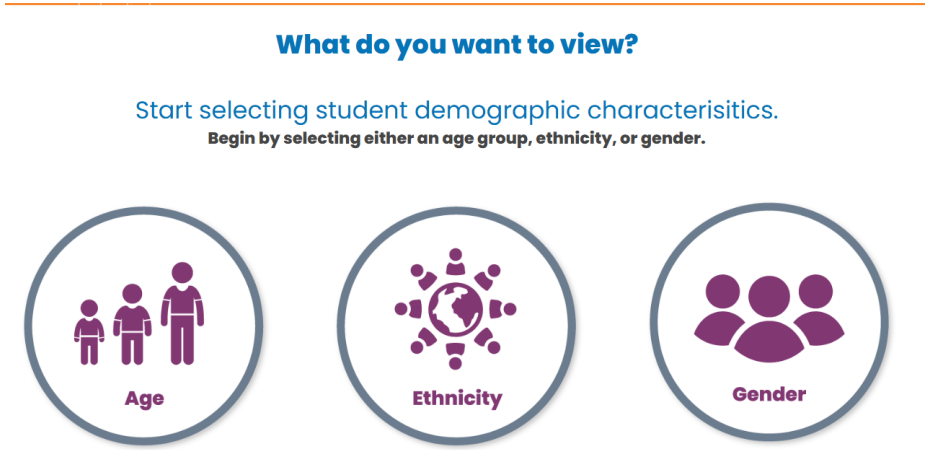
On Campus Staff Help Students Access Services

Benefits Navigators
HOUSE Liaisons

Equity and Student Success: Measuring Outcomes

- Data Dashboard to be released March 15, 2027, then annually March 15
- Is result of legislation championed by IBHE, ICCB, and ISAC for accountability and transparency
- Uses Illinois Postsecondary Profiles as the foundation
- Data presentation to be built with human-centered design process

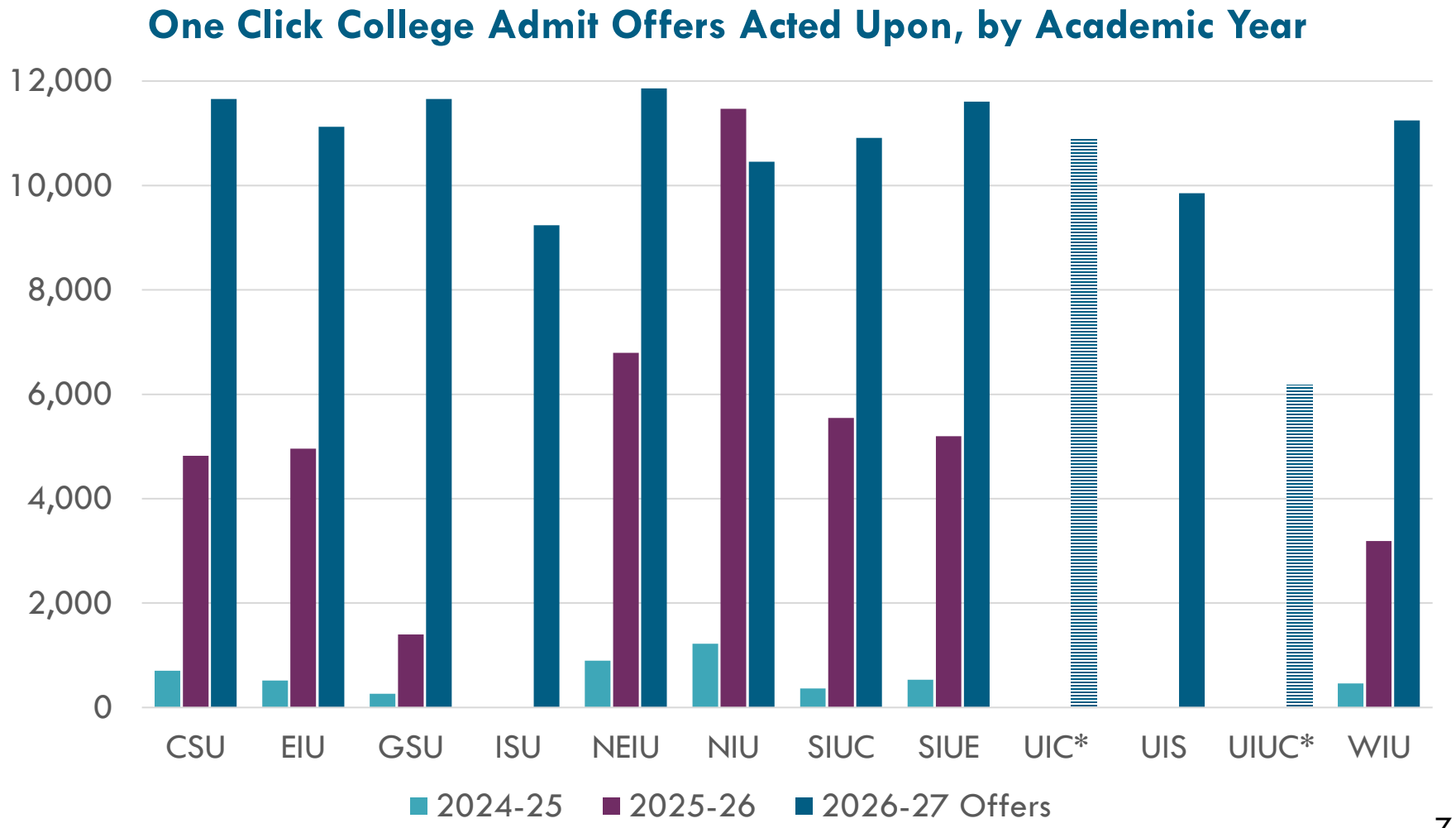




Charts from Illinois Postsecondary Profiles

Student Access and Keeping Talent in Illinois

In Sept. 2026, 109,601 direct admission offers were made to 12,944 current seniors who opted in to the program their junior year. Data from these offers are not yet available.



**UIC and UIUC did not make offers but rather encouraged students to apply.*

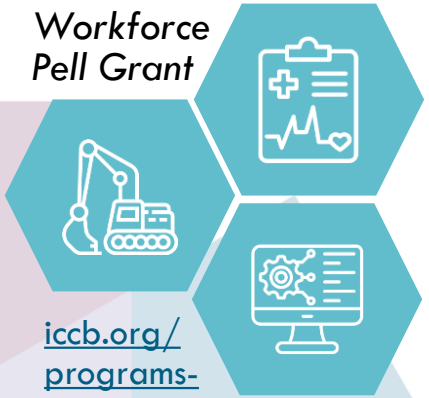
Workforce and Economic Development

Gov. Pritzker Signs Executive Order to Prepare Illinois' Workforce for the Jobs of the Future

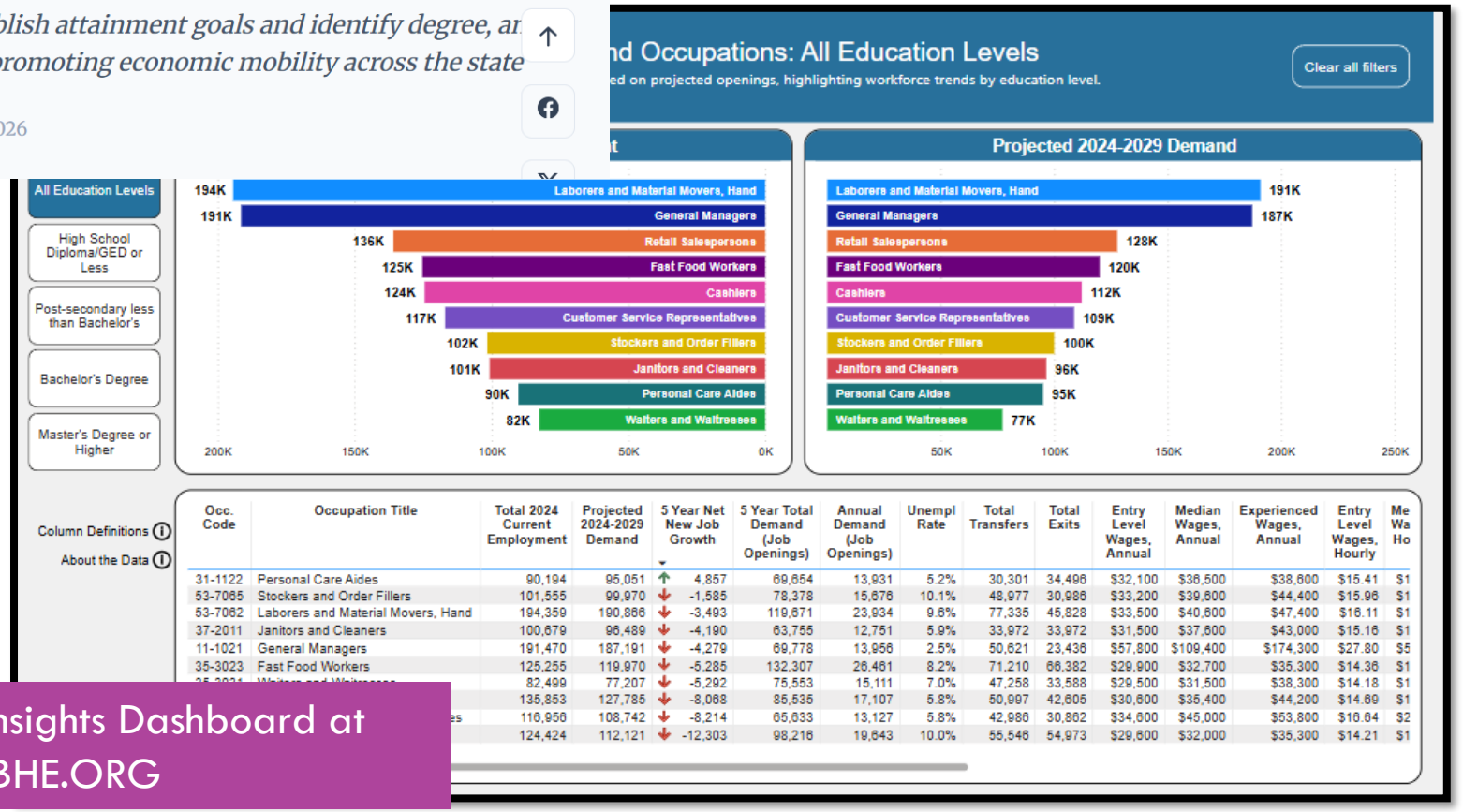
The Illinois State Attainment Working Group will establish attainment goals and identify degree, ar credential needs to bolster Illinois' workforce while promoting economic mobility across the state

MARCH 13, 2026

Workforce Pell Grant



iccb.org/programs-and-initiatives/workforce-pell



Workforce Insights Dashboard at IBHE.ORG

Targeted Talent Development

BHWC
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE CENTER

Workforce Scholarships and Loan Repayment Programs

Nurse Educator Fellowship
Nurse Educator Loan Repayment
Nurse Education Scholarship
Nursing School Grants
Veterans' Home Medical Provider Loan Repayment
Human Services Professional Loan Repayment
Social Work Scholarship and Loan Repayment
School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment
Community Behavioral Health Care Provider Loan Repayment
ECACE Scholarship
Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Fellowship

ECACE
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY



9

Equity, Attainment, and Workforce Move Together

New priorities build on equity and student success.

Attainment: more Illinoisans earning credentials with value.

Workforce: credentials aligned with regional and state talent needs.

Equity: closing gaps is how the state reaches both.

Building on work already underway

1

SUCCESS

Statewide student success initiative connecting institutional practice to A Thriving Illinois goals.

2

Institutional equity plans

Each public institution sets goals and practices to close its own equity gaps, with IBHE and ICCB support.

3

Adult learner reentry

Re-engaging adults with some college and no credential — an equity and an economic imperative.

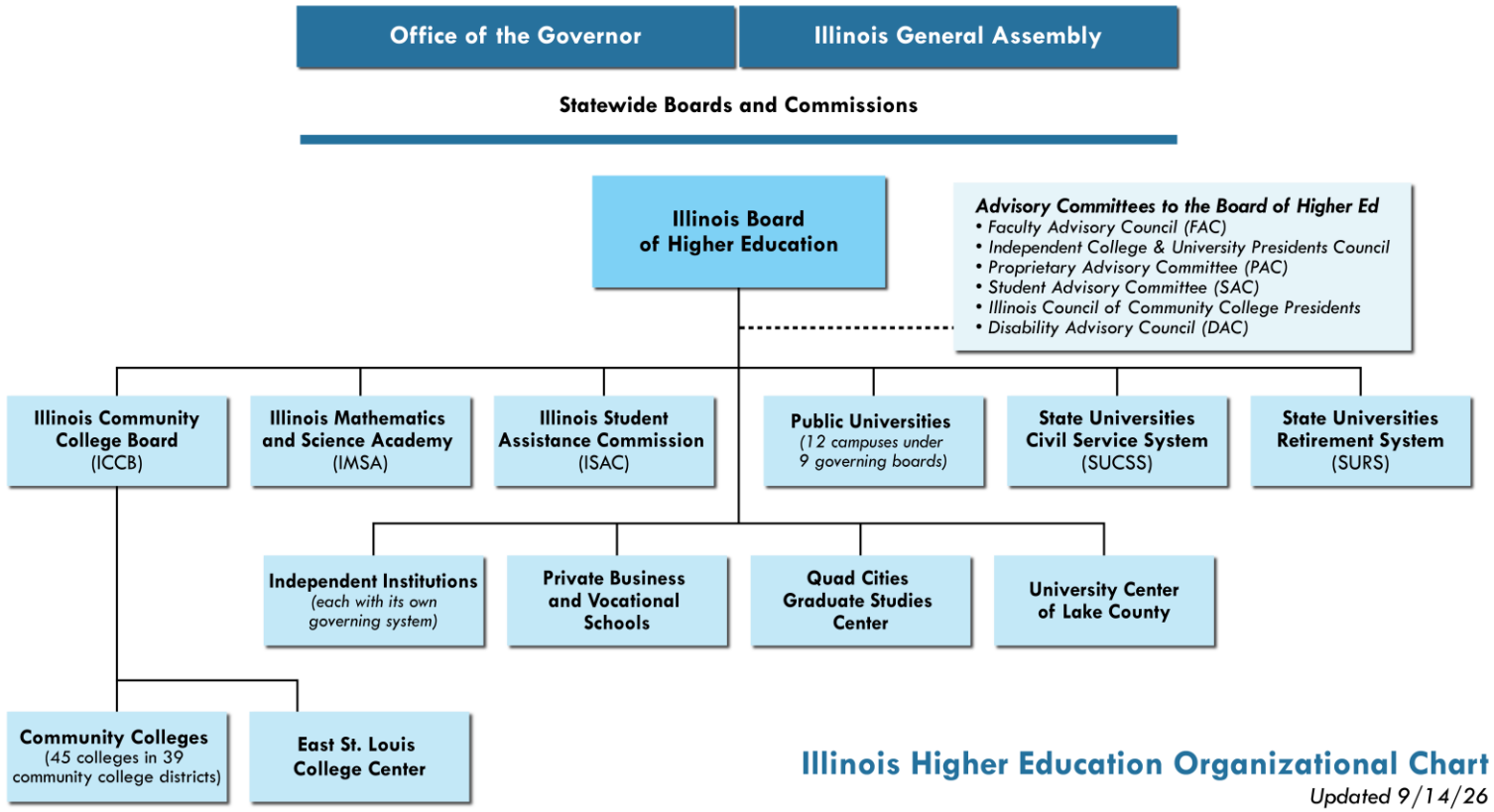
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What comes next

The Board's Ad Hoc Strategy Committee is shaping what launches in FY2028 and beyond.

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How the System Fits Together



Illinois Higher Education Organizational Chart

Updated 9/14/26

Reading the chart

IBHE is a **coordinating** board. Lines show statewide coordination, not a chain of command.

Each public university is governed by its own **board of trustees**.

ICCB coordinates community colleges; each district has a locally elected board.

Public universities are part of state government — most trustees are Governor-appointed.

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IBHE Major Levers to Achieve our Mission



Higher Education Strategic Planning

Coordinates the development and implementation of the state's strategic plan for higher education, in partnership with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). The most recent plan, *A Thriving Illinois*, was adopted in 2021 and is focused on equipping Illinoisans with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the state's diverse workforce needs and providing equitable paths to opportunity for all.



State Higher Education Budget

Presents annually to the governor and General Assembly analysis and budget recommendations on behalf of the entire higher education system (including public universities, ISAC, ICCB, IMSA, and other agencies) that reflect its needs and the vision, goals, and strategies of *A Thriving Illinois*.

IBHE Major Levers to Achieve Our Mission



Data Analysis, Research, & Reporting

Analyzes data to deeply understand the state's higher education system, builds on research, and reports on findings to identify policies and practices that will increase the number of Illinoisans with meaningful post-secondary credentials.



Program Approval & Operating Authority

Ensures new programs and institutions seeking to operate in the state of Illinois are sustainable, support the goals of the state's higher education strategic plan, and are of quality to adequately prepare Illinoisans for the workforce and life.



Grant Design and Delivery

Provides resources and technical assistance to help institutions advance student success, address state workforce demands, and strengthen institutional capacity.

Illinois Higher Education State Budget Process

From Institutional Requests to an Enacted Budget

1 Institutional Budget Requests & RAMP

- IBHE releases RAMP guidance in August.
- Institutions prepare and submit operating, capital (RAMP), and other budget requests to IBHE.
- Requests include institutional priorities and statewide needs.

AUGUST – FALL

2 IBHE Review & Budget Recommendation

- IBHE reviews institutional requests, considers statewide priorities and fiscal conditions.
- Develops and prioritizes funding recommendations for higher education (operating, capital, and other needs).
- IBHE Board approves the higher education budget recommendation for submission to the Governor and General Assembly.

FALL – JANUARY

3 Governor's Proposed Budget & Budget Address

- The Governor presents the proposed state budget to the General Assembly during the annual Budget Address (typically in February).
- The proposal includes the Governor's funding recommendations for higher education, incorporating IBHE recommendations and other state priorities.

FEBRUARY

4 General Assembly Review & Action

- House and Senate appropriation committees hold hearings and consider the Governor's proposed budget.
- Budget bills may be amended during the legislative process.
- The budget must pass both chambers in identical form (typically by the end of May).
- A final budget is sent to the Governor.

FEBRUARY – MAY

5 Enacted Budget & Implementation

- The Governor signs the budget (typically in June).
- The Governor may exercise appropriation veto/reduction authority, if applicable.
- Appropriations take effect July 1.
- IBHE implements allocations to institutions.

JUNE – JULY

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Where Public University Boards Connect

1

Fall

Approve the institution's state operating and capital requests before they go to IBHE.

2

Winter – Spring

Set tuition and fees for the next entering class — often before the state budget is final.

3

Spring

Be familiar with key student outcomes and the institution's state policy priorities.

4

Summer

Adopt the institutional operating budget once the state budget is enacted.

Good questions to ask

How does our request advance our mission and *A Thriving Illinois?*

What does it do for student success and closing equity gaps?

Are we planning for a range of state funding outcomes?

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Three Things to Consider

1

A Thriving Illinois outlines a statewide direction

Equity, student success, affordability, and workforce goals connect every institution's work.

2

IBHE coordinates. Boards of trustees govern.

IBHE advances statewide policy and supports institutions; each board is responsible for its institution.

3

IBHE recommends. The Governor proposes. The General Assembly decides.

The FY2028 state budget cycle starts now — with each board's request to IBHE this fall.

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Thank you

Questions?

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