

Iowa Highlights 2018-2019

Iowa Key to Shaping the Compact's Direction

- 14-Year Partnership:** Iowa enacted authorizing legislation in 2005 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
- Midwest Census Region:** A product of Midwestern legislators, MHEC was created through actions of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments (CSG) with its member states closely mirroring the Midwest footprint of CSG Midwest.
- Iowa Leadership:** Commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees provide significant direction for MHEC programs and services.

Iowa Benefits from Participation in MHEC Programs and Contracts

- Savings:** Through the use of MHEC's contracts and programs, Iowa higher education institutions (including public and private not-for-profit), school districts, state and local governments, and students have achieved cost savings of over \$11.45M since 2005, when Iowa joined the Compact. In FY19, Iowa achieved savings of over \$1.59M.
- ROI:** Iowa received a 14-fold return on its MHEC investment for FY19 when comparing total savings to the state's annual commitment of \$115,000. Iowa is in arrears for FY15 & FY16 payments for a total of \$20,000.
- Competitive Sourcing:** The Compact conducts competitive sourcing events and negotiates contract terms and conditions, thereby allowing flexibility for state and local entities to tailor MHEC contracts to their needs without having to incur the cost of rebidding for the products or services covered in MHEC contracts.
- Technology Contracts:** In FY19, Iowa entities realized over \$260,000 in cost savings by purchasing over \$2.61M in technology hardware, software, and services. Cumulatively, they have saved over \$7.11M.
- Property Insurance:** MHEC's Master Property Program insures over 165 campuses nationwide with property values exceeding \$81.82B. The University of Northern Iowa's total property values are over \$1.76B, collectively saving over \$542,000 since joining the program and over \$225,000 in FY19.
- Student Insurance Solutions:** MHECare, the student health collaborative, provides member institutions with sustainable student health insurance solutions and helps institutions support the student learning experience by providing 50,452 students protection from unexpected medical expenses in the 2018-2019 academic year. Allen College Unity Point Health is a participating campus in MHEC's Private Health Exchange.
- Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP):** Students and families have saved over \$604.67M in tuition through the MSEP since joining the program. In FY19, there were 13,166 students who participated, and they saved over \$93.54M by using the program.
- State Authorization:** Iowa became the eighth state to become a member of the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA). MHEC has estimated FY19 M-SARA savings to be over \$1.10M, cumulatively over \$3.56M.

Commissioners



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Regent
Board of Regents
State of Iowa



Andrew Baumert
VP Marketing & Outreach
Iowa Association of
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Joe Mitchell
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Iowa Legislature



Carrie Koelker
Senator
Iowa Legislature
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Herman Quirmbach
Senator
Iowa Legislature



Sharon Steckman
Representative
Iowa Legislature
(Alternate)

Opportunity to Discuss the Issues in Iowa and Convene with Peers

- 1. Military Credit:** The Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC) is a forum to exchange information and best practices to support Iowa's efforts in translating competencies acquired through military training and experiences into meaningful college credit toward a college degree or earning a certificate or license.
- 2. Concurrent Enrollment:** Also referred to as dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment provides high school students the opportunity to take college credit-bearing courses. Research on addressing the shortage of qualified concurrent enrollment instructors continues at MHEC with staff making presentations at national conferences and producing reports and thought papers on the subject.
- 3. Open Resources:** Open Educational Resources (OER) are textbooks and supplemental learning materials accessible via the Internet at little or no cost to students or institutions. MHEC has provided support to 12 state OER action teams to broaden awareness and engagement and this work continues. In 2020, MHEC will be working with the other three higher education compacts to develop a multi-compact, multi-year OER implementation strategy.
- 4. Convening:** MHEC convenes a diverse set of people with varying viewpoints from across state lines, that don't otherwise regularly meet, including institutional leaders and policymakers to discuss critical issues confronting Iowa, the region, and the nation.
- 5. State Visits:** MHEC visits the state during the legislative session to learn more about and address key issues affecting each state's economy and higher education.
- 6. Meeting Locations:** The locations of MHEC Commission Meetings rotate among the member states, showcasing each state's education initiatives to an audience comprised of Midwestern legislators and education leaders. MHEC's 2019 Annual Commission Meeting was focused on *Issues Facing the Midwest: Future Workforce Needs, Changing Demographics, and the Value Proposition of Higher Education*. www.mhec.org/convening-resources

Research and Policy Keep Iowa Informed

- 1. Timely and Relevant Research:** MHEC provides regional and national expertise, policy, and best practices to inform state and institutional efforts in improving postsecondary opportunities and outcomes. Iowa and other member states receive high-priority access to expertise in the areas of college readiness; affordability and finance; educational quality; and performance, value, and accountability.
- 2. Affordability:** Get the facts on college affordability with a comprehensive set of briefs that show which policies and programs can reduce the financial burden of postsecondary enrollment and degree completion. The most recent report, *State Grant Aid*, provides an overview of grant programs in the Midwest and shows how some policy features affect student outcomes.
- 3. Quality:** Learn how institutions can improve educational quality and degree completion rates with MHEC's series of research briefs on *Campus-based Practices for Promoting Student Success*.
- 4. Dual Enrollment:** Compare state policies on faculty credentials for dual enrollment programs with the report *Increasing the Supply of Qualified High School Teachers for Dual Enrollment Programs*.
- 5. Benchmarking State Performance:** The biennial report, *Higher Education in Focus*, features key performance indicators for evaluating Iowa's educational system relative to regional and national benchmarks for college preparation, participation, affordability, completion, equity, and finance. www.mhec.org/19IAHigherEdinFocus
- 6. Graduation Rate Effectiveness:** MHEC's research brief *The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Postsecondary Institutions*, provides a list of all highly effective institutions for each MHEC state based on higher than expected graduation rates.
- 7. Access to Policy Research:** Access all MHEC's research briefs and reports can be found at www.mhec.org/research.