

Illinois Highlights 2018-2019

Illinois is Key to Shaping the Compact's Direction

- 28-Year Partnership:** Illinois was the first founding member states to pass authorizing legislation to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
- Midwest Census Region:** 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.
- Illinois Leadership:** Commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees provide significant direction for MHEC programs and services.

Benefits to Illinois from Participation in MHEC Programs and Contracts

- Savings:** Through the use of MHEC's contracts and programs, Illinois higher education institutions (including public and private not-for-profit), school districts, state and local governments, and students have achieved cost savings of over \$408.67M since 1991, when Illinois joined the Compact. In FY19, Illinois achieved savings of over \$63.50M.
- ROI:** Illinois received a 552-fold return on its MHEC investment for FY19 when comparing total savings to the state's annual commitment of \$115,000.
- 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, Illinois entities realized nearly \$8.29M in cost savings by purchasing over \$84.18M in technology hardware, software, and services. Cumulatively, they have saved over \$108.73M.
- Property Insurance:** MHEC's Master Property Program insures over 165 campuses nationwide with property values exceeding \$81.82B. Total property values for the participating institutions in Illinois are over \$28.36B, collectively saving over \$49.86M since joining the program and over \$1.78M 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. Western Illinois University's participation provides coverage for 1,967 students.
- Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP):** Illinois students and families have saved over \$227.09M in tuition through the MSEP since joining the program. In FY19, Illinois residents saved over \$50.73M by using the program.
- State Authorization:** Illinois became the ninth state to become a member of the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA). MHEC has estimated FY19 M-SARA savings to be over \$2.69M, cumulatively over \$7.29M.

Commissioners



La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative; Chair,
Appropriations-Higher
Education Committee,
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Mollie Foust
Senior Counselor to the
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Alice Marie Jacobs
Board Member
Illinois Board of Higher
Education



Pat McGuire
State Senator; Chair Higher
Education Committee,
Illinois General Assembly



Suzanne Morris
Board Member
Illinois Community College
Board

Opportunity to Discuss the Issues in Illinois 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 Illinois' 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 Illinois, 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 Illinois 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. Illinois 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*.

The report also summarizes state strategies implemented to address the shortage of properly credentialed dual enrollment instructors.
- 5. Benchmarking State Performance:** The biennial report, *Higher Education in Focus*, features key performance indicators for evaluating Illinois' educational system relative to regional and national benchmarks for college preparation, participation, affordability, completion, equity, and finance. www.mhec.org/19ILHigherEdinFocus
- 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.