



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The University of Illinois System 2025 legislative agenda focuses on enhancing educational access, supporting student well-being, advancing the U of I System's academic and research initiatives, and improving administrative efficiency while monitoring potential challenges to current operations and policies.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

To strengthen the foundation of higher education in Illinois, it is essential to secure adequate funding and support for public universities. Our key budget priorities aim to enhance financial resources for institutions and their students.

- Expanded investment in Illinois public higher education with strengthened support for the University of Illinois System.
- Increased MAP (Monetary Award Program) Grants and AIM HIGH awards
- Enhanced funding for University of Illinois System line item programs, including Extension, the Prairie Research Institute, and the U of I Hospital

INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ILLINOIS

The U of I System continues to support and contribute to increased economic development in Illinois by expanding its research initiatives, fostering more industry partnerships, and enhancing the state's innovation ecosystem. By leveraging its \$19 billion annual statewide economic impact, the system focuses on creating more job opportunities through its 102 active startups and expanding endeavors like the Discovery Partners Institute. Additionally, the system can further activate its alumni network of over 445,000 graduates living in Illinois to drive talent retention and business growth. Continued investment in cutting-edge research and development across various sectors will attract more funding and businesses to the state, further stimulating economic prosperity.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL REFORMS

Efficient administration and streamlined operations are critical for the success of higher education institutions. We designed a

series of proposed reforms to improve operational effectiveness, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and enhance the overall governance of public universities

- Civil Service reform
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP) streamlining for vendors
- Ethics Act amendments:
 - Exempt higher education or faculty from time-reporting requirements
- Procurement and capital project management reforms to allow more autonomy for the system to manage our capital development projects with fewer regulatory burdens
- Remove requirement for newly hired faculty and staff to disclose student loan default

SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Ensuring equitable access to education and providing robust support systems are fundamental to student success. We support initiatives aimed at improving educational access and resources for students across Illinois.

- Support the development of an Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) statewide strategy
- Promote and support funding for the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Initiative

SUPPORT PENSION AND BENEFITS

The sustainability of pension systems is vital for attracting and retaining quality higher education faculty and staff. The U of I System supports the necessary Tier 2 pension reforms to align with the Social Security Safe Harbor, ensuring that retirement benefits remain viable and beneficial for employees.