

# For Illinois to thrive and students to succeed, we must center equity in public university funding

In 2002, Illinois spent \$2.2 billion on its public universities. Last year, the state provided \$1.2 billion in funding and distributed 99% of those funds without a system to ensure that every institution had what it needed to adequately serve the students it enrolled.

Illinois' decades-long disinvestment in higher education and its inequitable distribution of funding has resulted in:

- Increasing tuition and fees and decreasing affordability
- Insufficient campus services and supports critical to meeting Illinois students' complex needs
- Students at institutions receiving a lesser share of the state's public university funding allocation bearing the brunt of this inequity

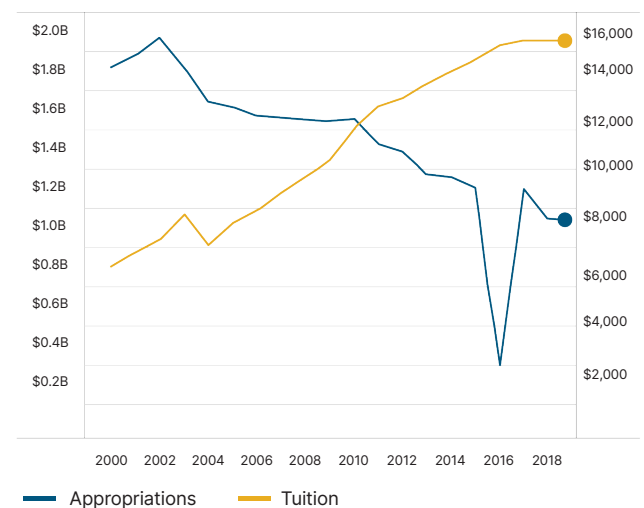
**Inequitable and inadequate funding particularly harms Illinois' Black and Latinx students, students from low-income households, students from rural communities, first-generation students, and other students historically excluded from or underserved by higher education.**

**This inequity in funding contributes to enrollment and completion disparities, especially for Black and Latinx students.**

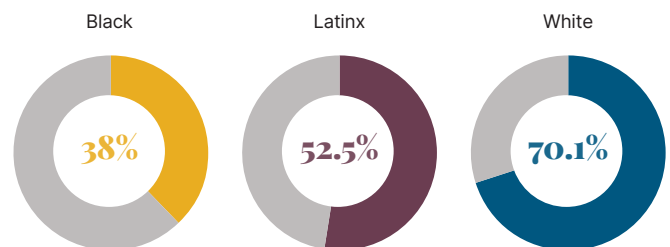
Increased and equity-centered investment is critical to supporting a healthy and thriving higher education system, and a more prosperous future for Illinois.

When Illinois adequately and equitably funds its public universities, institutions that serve more students historically excluded from or underserved by higher education will receive more resources, which they can direct toward ensuring these students can enroll, persist, and ultimately graduate from college.

## Public University Appropriations and Tuition



## Completion % at Public Universities



Source: IBHE Strategic Plan

**A college degree is even more valuable for students of color.**

Lifetime earnings increased with a college degree:



Source: Georgetown CEW

# Illinois Must Re-Imagine How Public Institutions Are Funded.

In 2021, Illinois approved SB815 establishing the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding to evaluate existing funding methods in order to recommend data-driven approaches for equitably funding all of Illinois' public universities to the General Assembly by July 2023.

The 33-person commission includes elected officials, representatives of Illinois' 12 public universities, state agencies, nonprofit leaders, and unions.

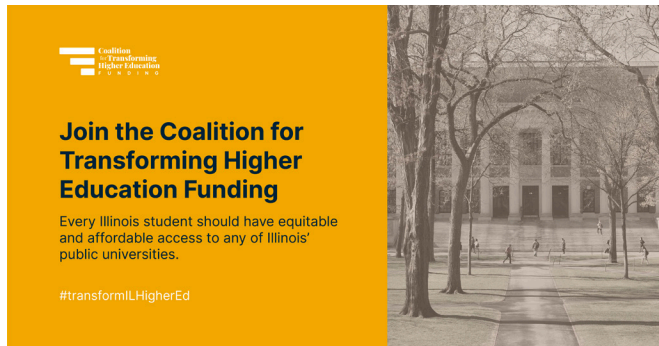
## Join the Coalition for Transforming Higher Education Funding

Help us advocate for student-centered approaches to higher education funding, call for increased investment in all our public universities, and for more state resources to be directed to public Illinois universities that disproportionately serve Black and Latinx students, students from low-income households, students from rural communities, first-generation students, and other students historically excluded from or underserved by higher education.

Join the Coalition to connect with community members from across the state who believe every Illinois student should have equitable and affordable access to any of Illinois' public universities. It is crucial that our institutions are adequately resourced to support student persistence through college and beyond.

Let's work together towards a more adequate, equitable, and stable higher education funding system for our state.

## Raise Awareness on Social Media



### Post copy:

Join the Coalition for Transforming Higher Education Funding. Every Illinois student should have equitable and affordable access to any of Illinois' public universities. #transformILHigherEd



### Post copy:

Illinois' current approach to supporting its public universities isn't working. It must re-imagine how it funds these vital institutions. #transformILHigherEd



Email Sonianne Lozada at [slozada@partnershipfcc.org](mailto:slozada@partnershipfcc.org) to learn more.