



Raise Your Voice for SB13/HB1581 Key Message and Talking Points

THE VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A college education continues to have a transformational impact on the lives and families of Illinois degree earners and the communities where they live.

POSITIVE ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

- On average, attaining a bachelor's degree in Illinois doubles an individual's income, allowing a graduate to contribute \$278,000 more to their local economy than the average high school graduate.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Higher degree attainment is associated with increased life expectancy and improved physical health.
- College graduates show increased positive civic engagement through voting and volunteering and fewer incidents of crime and incarceration.

INTERGENERATIONAL BENEFITS

- The effects of obtaining a degree are felt for generations. Higher degree attainment increases family wealth and results in future generations having greater educational attainment and a lower likelihood of growing up in poverty and experiencing hunger.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE IN ILLINOIS

Despite the incredible value higher education generates for our state, Illinois' current and historical strategy for supporting its public universities doesn't reflect this.

Our state's approach to supporting our public universities is broken. It is failing our students, our institutions, and our communities and has resulted in a generation of missed opportunities to ensure the state's prosperity.

Illinois' high college costs didn't come out of nowhere but from a history of **disinvestment** by the state.

- Since FY2000, Illinois has cut funding to its public universities by almost half (46%), shifting costs to students who largely cannot afford it.

Illinois' **erratic and unfair approach** to how it has distributed its declining funds to schools has created and exacerbated inequities where none should exist in a system that was established to broaden access to education.

- Some universities have 47% of what research says is needed to effectively serve students. Others have 60%. And still others have 89%; it shouldn't be this way and Illinois students and institutions deserve better.

Ultimately, the forces of disinvestment and inequitable funding have deepened disparities and resulted in the greatest enrollment declines of any state in the country—declines concentrated at the universities and among the students most reliant on state support.

- Enrollment has decreased by 23,300 students from 2010 - 2023, disproportionately impacting students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

Recent state budgets have started to turn both investment and enrollment around, but to sustain that progress and ensure our higher education system works for every student, transformational change for how much we fund our universities is urgently needed.

for ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING>>>

ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Through the **Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act (SB 13/HB 1581)**, Illinois will strengthen its economic vitality and sustainability by making stronger and more strategic investments into its public 4-year institutions.

How It Works

- **Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding considers institutional mission and student need as it increases funding to the system overall and makes sure new resources flow more heavily to where they're needed most.**
- **While incredibly complex, its core principles are simple: SB13/HB1581 figures out what universities really need, compares that with what they actually have, and makes up the difference with intentionality over time.**
 - **Adequacy:** The formula considers the unique populations and missions that guide an individual university. For example, it considers the high costs associated with being a Research 1 institution that runs comprehensive engineering and medical programs.
 - **Equity:** At its core, this funding formula is student driven. More funding is needed to support underrepresented students and the universities that disproportionately enroll them. Universities that are farthest from adequate funding are prioritized for new state funding meant to support evidence-based campus strategies for ensuring greater student persistence and success.
 - **Stability:** Institutional success in the long run is maintained with a hold-harmless provision and mechanisms to address rising costs for universities. The Commission's equitable funding formula gets all universities to adequate funding within 10-15 years, if lawmakers pass an additional \$100 - 135M in funding per year.

Impact

The Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act is Illinois' blueprint for realizing a future of more options and opportunity for more Illinois residents and Illinois communities.

The Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act represents an urgently needed opportunity for Illinois lawmakers to ensure our public universities are accessible to every Illinois student for generations to come.

The Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act gives Illinois a chance to do for higher ed what it did for K12, transform its funding strategy so that our public universities work not just for *some* students and *some* communities but all of them.

Institutions

- With passage of SB13/HB1581, every public university can fulfill its mission of preparing students for their careers, conducting research, and serving our community.

Students

- With SB13/HB1581, increased and equitable state support of institutions will help reign in college costs for students—improving their ability to go to school, and will ensure students can access the campus supports and services that have been proven to support student persistence to earning a degree.

State

With SB 13/HB1581, Illinoisans will see:

- An estimated \$1.75 billion in additional funding over 10-15 years to ensure all universities have adequate resources
- A level of accountability for spending that money, which has never been seen before in Illinois, if not the nation
- 122,200 more college graduates contributing to our local and state and economies
- More than \$692 million in additional revenue for the through annual state taxes paid by these graduates
- Strong communities anchored by thriving universities

for SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDD>>>

ILLINOISAN SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Illinoisans across the state value higher education and care about how our state supports it!

Illinoisans consider the state's public universities anchors in our communities and crucial to strengthening Illinois' economy. They care how well our institutions serve all students. SB13/HB1581 holistically responds to this.

A recent survey by [Public Agenda](#) finds:

- More than 60% of Illinoisans support prioritizing funding to public universities that enroll students from low-income backgrounds, first-generation college students, rural students, and adult learners.
- 74% of Illinoisans believe that having more college-educated residents in Illinois will strengthen Illinois' economy.
- "82% of Illinoisans agree that public universities strengthen their local community.
- Illinoisans agree 2 to 1 that a more educated population—the expressed goal of **SB13**— **could attract employers and create more jobs to the state.**
- 71% of Illinois voters, including more than half of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, agree that it's time to increase state support for public colleges and universities. **SB13 answers that call with a minimum \$135 million investment increase each year.**
- 70% of Illinoisans believe state higher education funding should prioritize schools with large numbers of underrepresented groups, such as students from low-income backgrounds, racial and ethnic minority groups, and rural areas. **SB13 intentionally directs funding towards universities that enroll universities with a concentration of underrepresented or under-resourced students.**

BACKGROUND

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING (PA 102-0570)

Steered by the work of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, the state, in 2021, created the Community on Equitable Public University Funding and charged it with developing a funding model for Illinois' public 4-year universities that was responsive to significant disparities in college access, persistence and success across lines of race, income and geography.

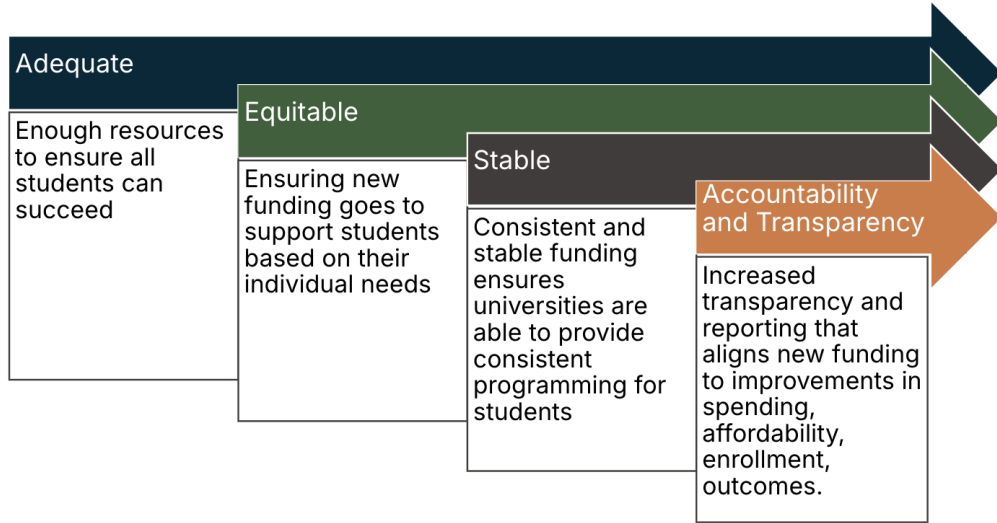
- The 33-member Commission of agency heads, legislators, university leaders and community partners convened for over three years undertaking a comprehensive process of discussion, research, modeling and analysis to develop recommendations that were released in March 2024.

About the Recommendations

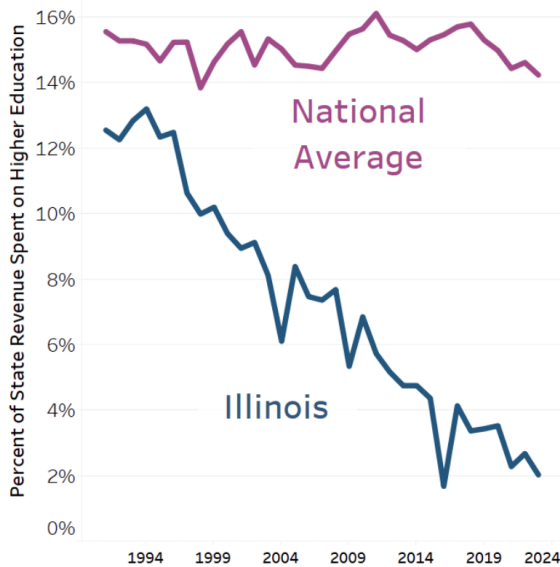
- The Commission recommendations offered an approach to public university funding that would set Illinois apart in how it supports its public 4-years, which were expressly designed to expand the college opportunity to those who'd been historically left out.
- The Commission proposed a funding model centering student-need, taking institutional mission and size into account, and considering what students can and should pay in tuition and fees, the formula puts earning a college degree within reach of all Illinois students.

CHARTS

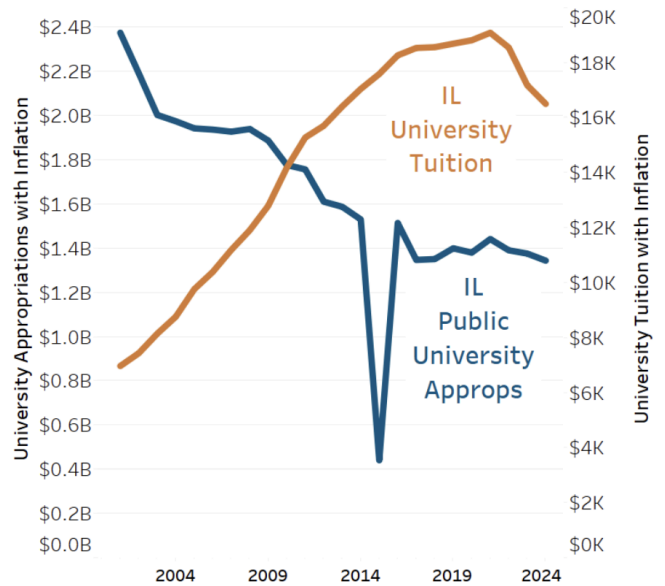
The Commission on Equitable University Funding blueprint carries fully into SB 13/ HB 1581.



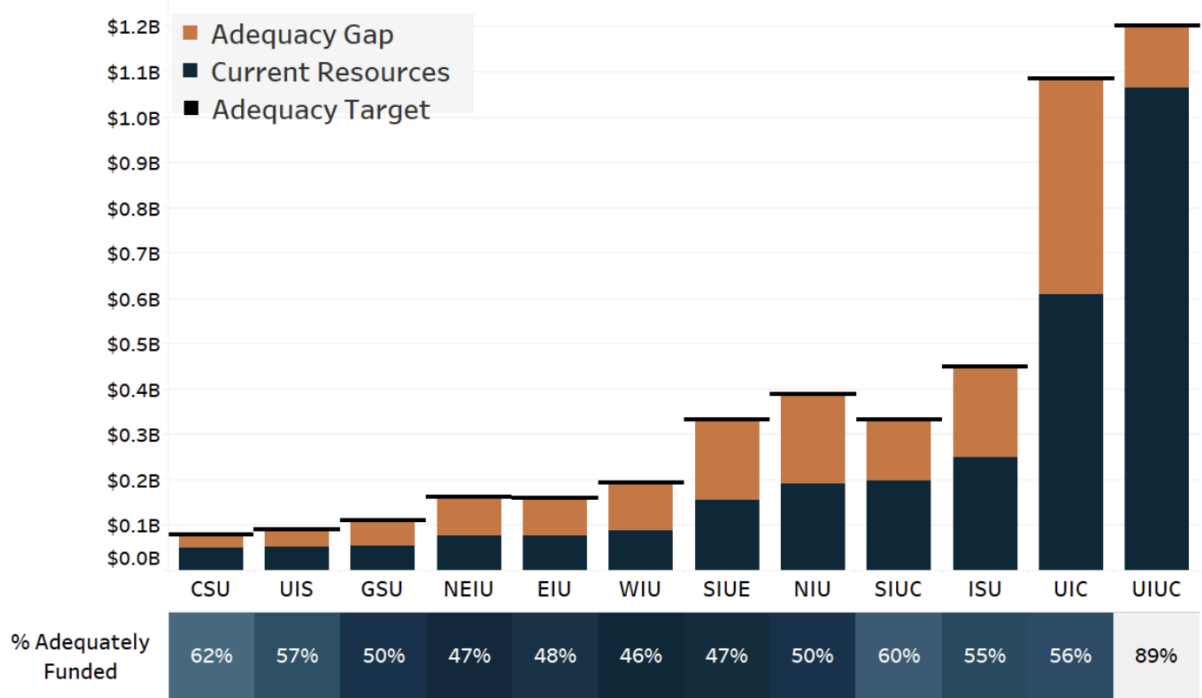
Illinois has uniquely disinvested in higher ed



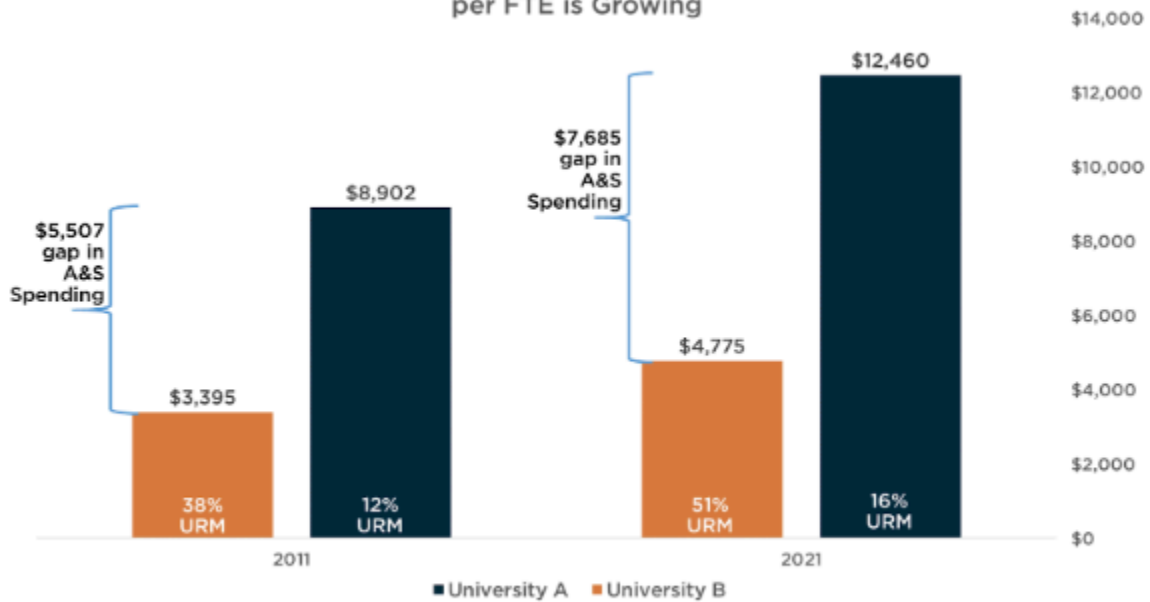
This has shifted costs to students



Adequacy Gap, Resource Profile, and % Adequately Funded by University



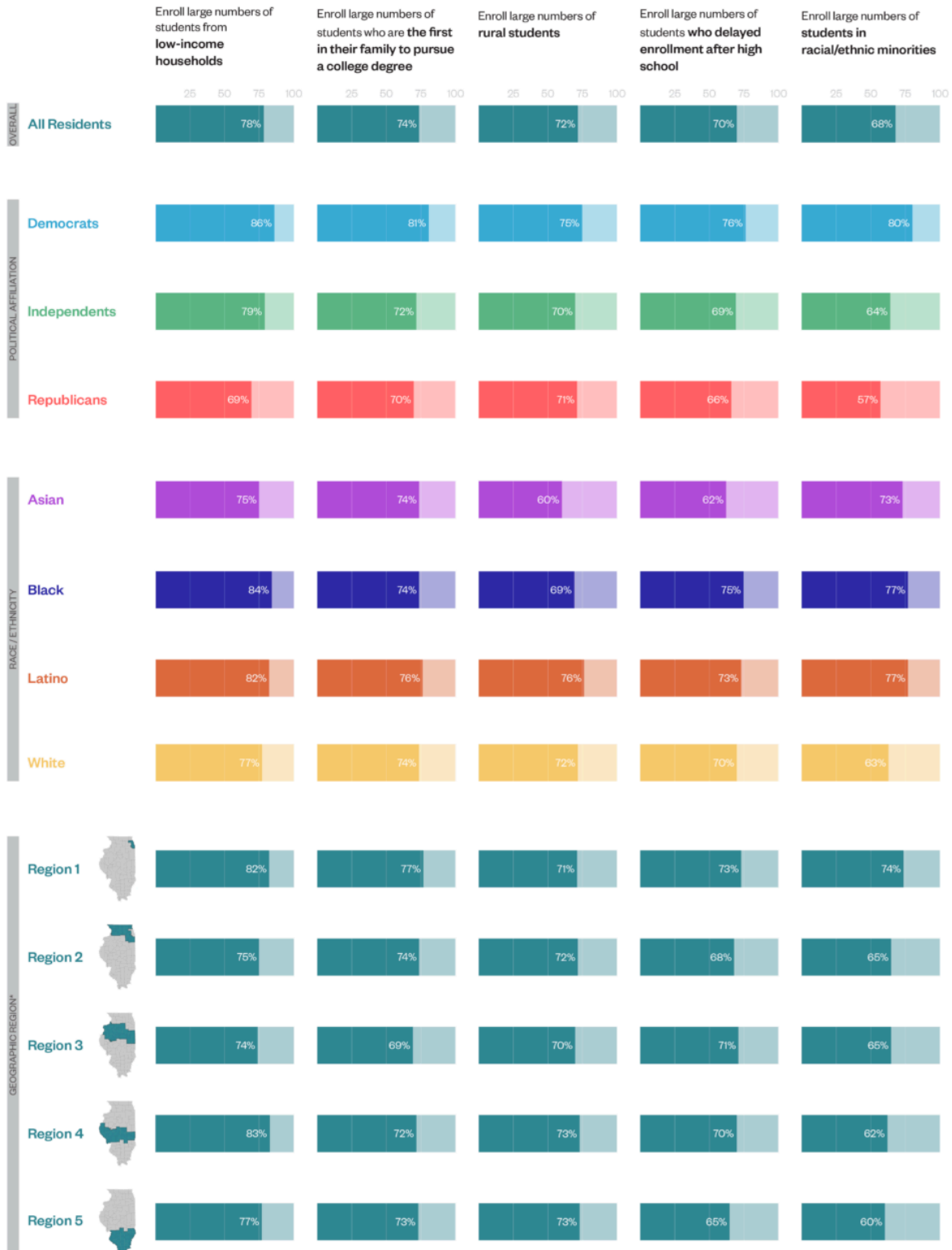
The Gap in Institutional Academic and Student (A&S) Support Spending per FTE is Growing



SOURCE: IPEDS, IBHE

More than half of Illinois residents support prioritizing funding to colleges and universities that enroll large numbers of various underrepresented populations.

Figure 4. Percent of Illinois residents who strongly or somewhat support prioritizing funding to public colleges or universities that do each of the following:



Base: All respondents, N=2,062; Democrats, n=801; Independents, n=517; Republicans, n=485; Asian respondents, n=94; Black respondents, n=453; Latino respondents, n=579; White respondents, n=877; Region 1, n=861; Region 2, n=590; Region 3, n=257; Region 4, n=139; Region 5, n=215.

*Regions of Illinois were defined in this survey according to the Illinois Department of Human Services (<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=55223>)

