

P-20 Minutes 2pm Friday, August 25, 2023

Welcome and Introduction to meeting by Martin Torres

Legislative recap FY24 budget highlights

- 7% increase in appropriations
- Highest single year increase in more than 2 decades
- At or below the median income students can go to community college virtually for free
- ~40% of students at IL community colleges will also go for virtually free
- We want to make our institutions more competitive
- Post secondary education tool to attract students
- Comparative tuition analysis for our public institution in comparison to their competition – Aim high, MAP funding also makes them competitive
- Drawing from K-12 progress Evidence Based Funding for schools
- \$45 million teacher vacancy grant- many schools applied, many will benefit from this program to better recruit and better retain teachers for greater equity in education
- ISBE will expand access to computer science coursework
- Early childhood education, a priority of the Gov
- Smart start 4 year investment- an atypical funding style beyond the annual
- Eliminate pre school deserts and pay our childcare workers more
- Investments from cradle to career
- Highlight of bills passed through general assembly
 - o Full day Kindergarten by 2027-28 school year
 - o Native American History Requirement (HB1663)
 - o Interagency Children’s Behavioral Health Services Act (SB0724)
 - o Expanded efforts to engage students with disabilities in dual credit and CTE courses (HB3224)
- Questions/ Comments: none

Project based working group updates

- Teacher Pipeline Group accomplished future statements for the teacher pipeline, reviewed state funded teacher pipeline programs through the lens of future statements, identified areas where additional support is needed, drafted recommendations for the General Assembly and state agencies. The group is also continuing ongoing monitoring of teacher vacancies
- Overview of Teacher Pipeline Recommendations
- Example of improving communication and publicity around EPP offerings which are shown through resources online
- Positive feedback on new website navigation
- What more can be done?
- Tony Sanders: RSP is being protested.

- Scaling K-12 Computer Science Opportunities Working Group
- Using an equity lens, creation of state or computer science report
- Illinois joined Expanding Computing Education pathways (ECEP) Alliance

Learning Renewal Summit Brainstorm activity and planning

Priorities and rank choice voting group activity

2 groups in person and 3 groups online

Major themes:

- Taking things off teacher plates especially the responsibilities that are not directly teaching- did we learn from something in pandemic that we can apply here? How do we keep people in the profession?
- SEL support for teachers and students
- What did we learn from federal grants? School districts had wide discretion to apply these funds and what did we learn from this? Things that worked or tried to sustain. Things that ultimately didn't work- equally useful to avoid pitfalls. Thinking critically about creation of an evaluation process
- Online learning and higher ed, learning modality, major questions to be explored
- The increasing role of AI in online learning, how do we really measure learning?
- Incorporation of private sector in summit? Private sector role during the pandemic to providing internet access -how do we ask for it to get it?
- How long do we want the takeaways of the summit to impact our work? How forward facing this should be?
- What specific disciplines are we interested in learning more about? An opportunity to use state data to see where the gaps are, benchmarking to where we think the more should be
- Holistic perspective, need to standardize resources to standardize results, for subject areas beyond math and English
- Safety: the pandemic highlighted student safety, now students feel that it is scarier to go to school than it used to be, which can make learning more difficult for kids

Agency updates

- ISBE Dr. Tony Sanders
 - o Teacher marketing, bringing new teachers into the state, searchable licensure requirements, teacher pipeline – vacancy grant and Op-ed open invitation from FL, TX and teacher from states where they feel like they cannot freely teach
 - o Scheduled first ever equity symposium, partnering with DEI coordinators, on 10/4
 - o Fireside chat
- ICCB Dr. Brian Durham
 - o Released Early childhood workforce access report

- Enrollment survey for community college
- Allocated \$5 million (?) to make GED free for anyone who wanted to take it
- \$10 million for development season
- Transfer bill
- Education panel
- Eric Zarnikow ISAC
 - MAP grants offered to every eligible student
 - Increased grant size
 - Maximum allotment of MAP grant covered 50% of tuition and fees at a public university.
 - With Pell Grants, most low-income students can go to community college for free
 - FAFSA simplification- team to address implications.
 - Part of learning committee to trouble shoot and collaborate on problems for FAFSA implication
 - Fall Colleges changes everything – extended to January because new FAFSA open in December
 - No separate application for MAP, the grant is through FAFSA
 - Undocumented students do have a separate application
 - Return to repayment- student loan borrowers have not been making payments, but restarting in October
- Ginger Ostro, IBHE
 - Learning Renewal
 - Distributed GEER dollars and using equity lens, focusing on students most at risk for not continuing higher ed because of the pandemic
 - Meeting student basic needs- housing, food, mental health
 - Institutions have a liaison to focus on housing insecurity, benefits navigators to help student access public benefits
 - New dollars for mental health services on campuses
 - Collaboration between ICCB and IBHE
 - Communities of practice
 - Grant funding from DHS and GA to address underlying causes of housing insecurity
 - Should talk about at summit
 - Why is not money getting spent, barrier, need to unpack to address need
 - Mental health and lack of behavioral health workers and support of DHS- workforce centering partnership with SIU and UIC school of medicine to pull in other school and organization to build behavior health workforce through all ed levels and credentials
 - Commission on equitable university funding, rec for public university system
 - Learning from EBF for funding in higher ed

- Institutional equity plans- each developing it own equity plan, strategy and goals to close these gaps, guidance for these from the agencies and institution can formalize these plans
- Will have statewide consistent approach
- Martin Torres
 - Transitioning GOECD from federally funded to the agencies
 - Greater executive attention to early childhood
 - We will have convo about future of early childhood governance
 - Thank you Dr. Jamilah Jordan!
- Dr. Jordan
- Evan IMSA: constantly looking for ways to provide access through an equity lens, priority access to educators that cannot access a computer science and priority to counties not represented currently, historically underrepresented in STEM research and looking to expand to partner with other colleges, launching next pathway forward to connect with the rest of the state

Public comment – none