

**GENERAL GRANTS
FISCAL YEAR 2010 ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests Board approval to award general grants necessary to implement Board and state education policies.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Illinois P-20 Council	\$30,000
Transition of ISBE Programs to IBHE	\$39,500
P-20 Longitudinal Data System	
• Consortium Coordination	\$50,000
• Technical Assistance to Private Institutions	\$205,000
Total:	<u>\$324,500</u>

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve four General Grants for fiscal year 2010 totaling \$324,500.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GENERAL GRANTS
FISCAL YEAR 2010 ALLOCATION**

Education in Illinois – and across the country – is in a period of rapid change. The fiscal crisis unleashed by the recent recession; a recognition of the need to make postsecondary education interact more deliberately and thoughtfully with early, primary, and secondary education; the continuing growth of the for-profit postsecondary education sector; a growing emphasis on the use of student-level data to validate strategies that increase educational attainment; the continuing growth of technology-mediated education, particularly as it is delivered over the Internet; and vast new federal requirements attached to the America Competes Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and Race to the Top have led to many recent changes in law and practice. These general grants will be used to provide technical, evaluation, and planning assistance to the Board and other education stakeholders as they implement recent statutory and policy changes.

<u>Project/Institution</u>	<u>IBHE Recommendation</u>
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Illinois P-20 Council, University of Illinois	\$30,000
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Public Act 095-0626 created the Illinois P-20 Council for the purposes of developing a statewide agenda to improve academic achievement, increasing college access and success, improving use of existing data and measurements, developing improved accountability, fostering innovative approaches to education, promoting lifelong learning, easing the transition to college, and reducing remediation. The council, which is chaired by the Honorable Miguel del Valle, formerly a state senator and currently City Clerk of Chicago, began meeting in December 2009. The council has held four meetings through May, 2010.

While P.A. 095-0626 directs that the council be staffed by the Office of the Governor, the Governor's office has requested that the University of Illinois provide the council with administrative and planning assistance. This grant will provide financial support to the University of Illinois to support the council's strategic planning, development of an action plan, and creation of organizational processes that will set the stage for effective management and substantive contributions of the council.

Coordination and Logistical Support for the P-20 Longitudinal Data System, University of Illinois	\$50,000
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Senate Bill 1828 was signed into law as Public Act 096-0107, effective July 30, 2009, creating the Illinois P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act (ILDS). It is landmark legislation that will allow educators, state policy makers, and qualified education researchers to evaluate student preparation and performance throughout their formal school experience. Public universities are required to participate in the data system as of the effective date of the Act. All non-public institutions of higher education that participate in the Monetary Award Program must

begin supplying student unit record data directly to the Board of Higher Education or to the Board of Higher Education through a data consortium beginning July 1, 2012. Community colleges continue to submit data to the Illinois Community College Board, one of the three state education authorities that make up the ILDS (the authorities are the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community College Board).

While P.A. 096-0107 requires a consortium option only for non-public colleges and universities, a consensus has developed that a Higher Education Consortium (HEC) including both public and non-public institutions is the most efficient means of collecting, storing, and making available the unit record data to the ILDS. The institutions and state education agencies have been working toward development of a new consortium for over a year. The most recent event was a statewide data summit held at Illinois Wesleyan University on April 29, 2010.

This grant to the University of Illinois will provide financial support for consortium-building activities including meetings of HEC advisory committees, development of technical system specifications, data element specification, and data analysis in support of statewide projects. Among the planned activities are the following:

- Coordinate meetings of the HEC committees (technical, data elements, data access and usage, policy/governance);
- Provide technical assistance for systems development;
- Assist with planning and implementation of Phase 2 of the State Longitudinal Data System grant;
- Clarify common steps in ILDS HEC participation and establish criteria;
- Develop a procedure for participation given alternative systems and submission methodologies;
- Support edit programs that can be disseminated – check data to insure they are complete, allowable, consistent, and logical; and
- Assist state agencies and colleges and universities with data reporting requirements for the Complete College America initiative and the National Governor’s Association college completion initiative.

**Transition of ISBE Programs to the IBHE,
Illinois State University**

\$39,500

Several issues involving multiple state education agencies have arisen in recent months that warrant research on best practices and the development of new administrative and regulatory practices. These issues include:

1. Statutory transfer of responsibility for the state *Grow Your Own* teacher preparation program administration from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to the IBHE.
2. Pending transfer of responsibility for private business/vocational school regulation from the ISBE to the IBHE.
3. Expansion of proprietary higher education providers and programs in the state and the need for improved efficiency of Board oversight of these programs.

Through this grant, staff at Illinois State University’s Center for the Study of Education Policy will undertake a review of current Illinois regulatory processes related to private, for-profit colleges and universities and private business and vocational schools, and will make

recommendations to the IBHE to improve regulatory and oversight processes in light of the growth of such institutions and the pending transfer of additional regulatory responsibilities from ISBE to IBHE. The grant will also allow the Center for the Study of Education Policy to study the *Grow Your Own* teacher preparation program, which is being transferred from ISBE to IBHE by action of the Illinois General Assembly, and to make recommendation for program changes if warranted.

Technical Assistance to Private Colleges and Universities Entering the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System, DePaul University **\$205,000**

Senate Bill 1828 was signed into law as Public Act 096-0107, effective July 30, 2009, creating the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act. The law requires that all non-public institutions of higher education that participate in the Monetary Award Program begin supplying student unit record data directly to the Board of Higher Education or to the Board of Higher Education through a data consortium beginning July 1, 2012. Approximately 80 institutions are affected by this requirement.

Among the provisions of the law is one that allows the Board of Higher Education to make available grant funding to a consortium of non-public institutions of higher learning to provide assistance in the development of a data collection system. While the consortium is still under development, funds are available to develop the assistance program permitted by law. This grant to DePaul University, one of two independent universities that have a long history of participation in the current Illinois Shared Enrollment and Graduation File, will be used to evaluate the needs of institutions for technical assistance and to implement a training program that will assist institutions with data submission and will train them to use the longitudinal data for their own study and evaluation purposes.

Staff recommends that the Board make a grant to DePaul University in the amount of \$205,000 to create a Technical Advisory Group to perform, among others, the following tasks:

- Meet and coordinate with the planning team for the ILDS;
- Clarify common steps in participation and establish criteria;
- Consider phases of participation. Identify barriers to effective and efficient participation with survey and regional meetings;
- Develop a procedure for participation given alternative systems and submission methodologies;
- Support edit programs that can be disseminated – check data to insure they are complete, allowable, consistent, and logical;
- Create 4-5 regional training teams for the different regions;
- Train the Trainers and develop regional training programs;
- Work with ILDS to place training support on the web site;
- Implement training programs;
- Identify institutions with unique situations and propose appropriate strategy; and
- Evaluate the results of the grant and plan future strategies to support the participation of private institutions in the ILDS.

TOTAL **\$324,500**

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the four fiscal year 2010 General Grants described above. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to make adjustments to the grant awards in the event that appropriated funds are unavailable.