

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE ILLINOIS PATHWAYS INITIATIVE**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item authorizes the Executive Director to enter into the Illinois Pathways Initiative intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (“the Parties”).

This agreement is a cooperative venture to create information opportunities and support curriculum development to facilitate student choice and to align with workforce needs. This was identified as a part of the State of Illinois Race to the Top Application for Phase 2 Funding ("RTTT Application") a blueprint for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education changes. To move forward with the Illinois Pathways Initiative, the Parties seek to coordinate efforts and align resources across the agencies, and establish a formal multi-agency governance structure to direct the Illinois Pathways Initiative's implementation.

The plan states that a cooperative interagency agreement shall be established to direct the Illinois Pathways Initiative activities. The interagency agreement establishes the "Illinois Pathways Interagency Committee"(IPIC) as a joint administrative entity. This governing board will maintain, charge, and select the membership of the standing committee, the Illinois Pathways Advisory Council (IPAC), as well as any new standing or ad hoc committees the governing board might deem appropriate to assist with the administration of IPIC and the implementation of the Illinois Pathways Initiative.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education authorize the Executive Director to enter into the Illinois Pathways Initiative intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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THE ILLINOIS PATHWAYS INITIATIVE**

Over the past year, as supported by the Governor's Office, the Illinois Board of Higher Education staff has been working with staff and representatives from the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission on cooperative ventures to create information opportunities and support curriculum development to facilitate student choice and to align with workforce needs. As a part of the State of Illinois Race to the Top Application for Phase 2 Funding ("RTTT Application") a blueprint for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education changes were developed. That RTTT Application blueprint included the following strategies:

- Scaling up P-20 programs of study offerings in nine STEM application areas at the middle and high school level, with alignment and course articulation to postsecondary institutions and coordination with workforce systems.
- Supporting scaling up of programs of study and increasing access to resources and networks through the establishment of "Learning Exchanges" that include a broad range of public-private partners to align resources and efforts within a particular career cluster application area as such cluster areas are identified in the agreement.
- The objective of these reform strategies is to provide students with a structured pathway related to their academic or career interests, as well as world-class resources and supports, to fully engage students in their learning and enable them to successfully transition into postsecondary education and the workforce. These reform strategies are hereby designated as the "Illinois Pathways Initiative."
- The Illinois Pathways Initiative advances the goal established by the Illinois P-20 Council to increase the proportion of Illinoisans with high quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025, and is consistent with the recommendations of the Illinois P-20 Council's College and Career Readiness Committee.
- A broad range of public and private partners have coalesced around the Illinois Pathways Initiative, both as part of the development of the RTTT Application and continuing after its submission.
- To move forward with the Illinois Pathways Initiative, the parties seek to coordinate efforts and align resources across the agencies, and establish a formal multi-agency governance structure to direct the Illinois Pathways Initiative's implementation.

This plan stated that a cooperative interagency agreement shall be established to direct the Illinois Pathway Initiative activities. The interagency agreement establishes the "Illinois Pathways Interagency Committee"(IPIC) as a joint administrative entity. This governing board will maintain, charge, and select the membership of the standing committee the Illinois Pathways Advisory Council (IPAC) as well as any new standing or ad hoc committees the governing board

might deem appropriate to assist with the administration of IPIC and the implementation of the Illinois Pathways Initiative. The functions and activities of IPIC will include the following:

- Prepare and adopt an annual plan for the Illinois Pathways Initiatives.
- IPIC will determine the prioritization and sequencing of cluster areas for the establishment of Learning Exchanges. IPIC will designate a party or parties to administer the process for selecting a lead entity and fiscal agent for each Learning Exchange that has been prioritized for establishment
- Following selection by IPIC, each lead entity will develop a three-year strategic plan for carrying out the prescribed functions of a Learning Exchange
- IPIC will ensure coordination between the Illinois Pathways Initiative and the State's investment and implementation of the statewide instructional improvement platform described in the RTTT Application, known as the "Learning and Performance Management System."
- To the extent of available resources, IPIC will establish the "Pathways Resource Center" to provide services to the Learning Exchanges in areas that include, but are not limited to, external outreach, funding, and performance management, and implement projects and activities that benefit all or multiple Learning Exchanges.
- The Parties agree to enter into data sharing agreements in accordance with the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act (105 ILCS 13/1 et seq.) and all applicable privacy protection laws to share personally identifiable data with each other and with the Learning Exchanges necessary for the implementation and evaluation of the Illinois Pathways Initiative.
- Each Party agrees that it will review programs and policies it administers to determine opportunities for alignment to the Illinois Pathways Initiative and will use good faith efforts, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to undertake such alignment.
- The Parties agree that any contract or grant awarded by IPIC shall, to the extent permissible under applicable law and/or appropriation and funding source requirements, be eligible for funding by any of the Parties. Specifically, the Parties agree that lead entities selected by IPIC shall be eligible for grant funding in support of the Illinois Pathways Initiative from any state or federal program to the extent permissible under applicable law and/or appropriation and funding source requirements.
- The Parties agree to pursue state, federal, and foundation funding in support of the Illinois Pathways Initiative. However, this agreement does not legally bind any party to the expenditure of funds in order to implement any of the terms of this agreement.

The IPAC will perform the following activities and functions:

- Submit recommendations to IPIC, the Governor, the Illinois P-20 Council, and the General Assembly to successfully carry out and strengthen the Illinois Pathways Initiative;
- Advise IPIC and the Pathways Resource Center (as described in Section III.E of this agreement) on an annual plan for the Illinois Pathways Initiative;
- In coordination with IPIC, develop and submit annual aggregate talent pipeline reports and Learning Exchange benchmark reports to the Governor, the Illinois P-20 Council, and General Assembly; and
- Plan and administer an annual forum for the purpose of coordinating the activities of the Learning Exchanges, sharing successes and challenges, and raising the visibility of the Illinois Pathways Initiative.

In addition to those activities and responsibilities described above, the Parties will also undertake Agency specific activities and responsibilities. For the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) this includes the following:

- IBHE will coordinate the approval and delivery of academic programs pursuant to the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205), the Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005), and the Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010) as required by law.
- Information and recommendations provided through the Illinois Pathways Initiative will inform the review process, but will not supersede IBHE practice and policy as required under statute.
- The IBHE will provide appropriate representation for the Illinois Pathways Initiative project.
- IBHE will also coordinate and distribute IPAC information to the IBHE, University President's Council, Chief Academic Officers, Faculty Advisory Council, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.
- All IBHE activities will be in accordance with all existing statutes and rules.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to enter into the Illinois Pathways Initiative intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.*

