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Goal 1 Comment: I'm concerned to see "increase dual-credit opportunities" as a strategy here. Is there evidence that dual-credit is beneficial in terms of learning as opposed to merely a cost-saving strategy? As a college English professor and academic adviser, when I have students who have taken their freshman writing classes while in high school, I find they usually are not as well prepared as writers who have had freshman writing when they were college freshmen. Writing in particular is so tied to intellectual and cognitive development, I would dare to say it's impossible to really take freshman writing when you're in high school--because you're not the same person you will be as a college student. We know the brain keeps developing in important ways during the college years, so why do we believe that most students ought to be encouraged to take college classes early? In general, it seems to me the trend in Illinois is for students to cobble together a college education from the cheapest combination of schools they can; as much dual-credit as they can get in high school, as many community college classes as possible toward a 4-year degree. The notion that college is a developmental educational enterprise gets lost in the shuffle--except of course for the wealthiest students. Instead of encouraging dual-credit, I urge IBHE to consider how community colleges and 4-year institutions can be encouraged to work together more closely to make the new college system as focused on real learning as it can be.