
ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Draft Final Report Feedback

Instructions

1. Complete the following two sections accordingly:
 - a. The General Comments section addresses issues that may apply to more than one section of the report or to issues not currently covered in the report.
 - b. The Specific Comments section should include comments directed at a particular section or wording of the report. These might be suggested line edits or new language, for example.
2. In the specific comments section, indicate any page numbers and/or sections related to the comment.
3. In both sections, describe in a few words the topic your comment addresses in the "Topic of Comment" field.
4. Record your comment/feedback in the "Comment" field.
5. If additional comment space is needed, right click in any row and select "insert" > "insert rows" to add an additional row(s). Additional rows can be added at the bottom of the table or in between rows.
6. Save your document and email to **Katie Lynne at katie_lynne_morton@hcmstrategists.com**. **All final comments are due by 5pm CT on February 20, 2024.**

General Comments

Topic of Comment	Comment
Formula complexity	The formula is overly complex and a barrier to decision making. Universities need a straightforward way to explain how we are funded to a vast array of stakeholders. This model does not allow for that. Further, it does not allow us to make straightforward decisions on how to evolve and change our strategies to achieve our strategic goals especially when many assumptions are baked into the model that are not realistically testable given interdependencies.
Unintended consequences	The model may inadvertently compound issues related to access and affordability for all Illinois students when taking a system-level view in terms of the number of students served. In order to address equity gaps in enrollment and graduation numbers, those institutions that benefit less in the model will likely need to make up the difference by increasing tuition and support fees. Similarly, the formula may create perverse incentives to neglect important educational attainment goals for groups such as rural students and adults with some college but no degree.

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Greater instability for some institutions	Many of the institutions that are fulfilling a greater part of their missions through graduate education, healthcare, research, and/or public service face the greatest uncertainty in the stability and predictability of funding given that they are likely to see the smallest annual increase or the greatest reductions in a given year. The complexity of university operations and stakeholders is much greater than a funding model based on K-12 funding can fully capture.
Level of support	While it has been stated that this is outside of the Commission's responsibility, the formula requires unrealistic levels of State appropriated support. Making higher education more affordable, with greater access and success in closing equity gaps are important goals. However, expecting the State to be able to support the modeled increase in 15 years is not realistic and sets the model up for failure.

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Specific Comments

Page Number, Paragraph, Section, etc.	Topic of Comment	Comment

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