

**APPROVED**

**AUGUST 10, 2021**

Item #C-11  
August 10, 2021

**COMMON APPLICATION UNIVERSITY ALLOCATIONS, ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Beginning in Fiscal Year 2022, all Illinois public universities will use the national Common Application (Common App) for admissions applications. High school seniors in Illinois and nationally will be able to submit information in the Comm App and apply to any or all Illinois public universities. Illinois is the second state in the nation to have all public universities use the Common App for admissions applications. In the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, IBHE received a \$1 million appropriation to defray costs incurred by public universities associated with implementing the Common Application, and IBHE analysis of the data and administration of the program.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education grants the Executive Director the authority to administer the \$1 million appropriation to defray costs incurred by public universities associated with implementing the Common Application and to staff the initiative.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**COMMON APPLICATION UNIVERSITY ALLOCATIONS, ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION**

The Illinois higher education strategic plan – “A Thriving Illinois” – outlines strategies to close equity gaps, build a stronger financial future, and increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth. To retain students and smooth their transition from high school to college, beginning in Fall 2022, all Illinois public universities will use the Common Application (Common App) as the portal for admissions applications. The Common App is a national portal that allows students to submit information one time and apply to multiple institutions of higher education with that one submission. More than 900 colleges are Common App members.

As of this fall, Illinois is the second state in the nation with all its public universities being members of the Common App. High school seniors in Illinois and nationally will be able to submit information in the Common App and apply to any or all Illinois public universities. This will allow all perspective students to apply to as many state universities as they wish within a single application.

There are costs for universities associated with implementation and utilization of the Common App system. Also, to maximize the benefit to the state, the IBHE needs to collect and analyze the data related to this initiative. To defray the costs of implementing the use of the Common App across all universities, and to collect analyze the data, the General Assembly approved the Governor’s request for an appropriation to IBHE for \$1 million. This funding will be distributed to universities for costs of Common App membership and utilization, as well as for IBHE to cover the cost of data collection and analysis, and program management.

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants the Executive Director the authority to utilize the \$1 million appropriated to IBHE to defray the costs of statewide program analysis and administration, and to distribute funds to public universities to defray the anticipated additional costs of moving to the Common App.*