



SHEEO

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

State Headlines

Midwestern Higher Education Compact Annual Meeting

November 15, 2023

Tom Harnisch, Vice President for Government Relations, SHEEO

National Themes

- Direct admissions
- Slight bumps in enrollment
- Growth of last-dollar tuition-free public college programs
- Overall increases in state higher education subsidies
- Tuition freezes
- Continued growth of mandatory FAFSA policies
- Inflation remains a concern
- Focus on restricting/eliminating DEI programs
- Bans on transcript withholding
- Efforts to limit/eliminate tenure
- Interest in addressing student basic needs (housing, food, mental health, etc.)

2023 Issues-SHEEO Survey

TABLE 1

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY ISSUE RANKING AND AVERAGE SCORE (SCALE = 1-5)

	RANK	AVERAGE SCORE
ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	1	4.67
K-12 TEACHER WORKFORCE	1	4.67
STATE FUNDING FOR FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS	3	4.56
STATE OPERATING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	4	4.50
HIGHER EDUCATION'S VALUE PROPOSITION	5	4.42
COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY	6	4.41
ENROLLMENT DECLINE	6	4.41
PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION	8	4.38
ADDRESSING EQUITY GAPS	9	4.37
COLLEGE COMPLETION/STUDENT SUCCESS	10	4.33
STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY	11	3.92
STUDENT BASIC NEEDS (FOOD, HOUSING, CHILDCARE, ETC.)	12	3.77
INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY/EFFECTIVENESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION	13	3.73
RETAINING COLLEGE GRADUATES ("BRAIN DRAIN")	14	3.63
ADULT/NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS	15	3.60
EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON COSTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	15	3.60
ADEQUACY OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES	17	3.42
QUALITY OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION	17	3.42
STATE DATA SYSTEMS	19	3.33
FACULTY SUPPLY/SALARIES/QUALITY	20	3.15
COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECTS ON INSTITUTIONS AND STUDENTS	21	3.08
INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY MODELS	22	3.00
ACADEMIC FREEDOM	23	2.84
IMMIGRATION/UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS	24	2.65

SOURCE: State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

SHEEO Daily Policy Update

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

[Call for State Teams: SHEEO Communities of Practice-Exploring Multi-State and Multi-Sector Data Projects](#)

[Call for Proposals-State Higher Education Funding Equity Research](#)

National Policy

[Report: How Many Students Go Out-of-State for College?](#)

The Institute for College Access and Success (Date posted: November 2023)

[Report: How Far Do Students Travel for College?](#)

The Institute for College Access and Success (Date posted: November 2023)

[House Republicans Blame DEI Programs for Rise in Campus Antisemitism](#)

Inside Higher Ed (Date posted: November 15, 2023)

State Policy

[GA: Enrollment rebounds in 2023 after 2-year dip at Georgia public universities and colleges](#)

Associated Press (Date posted: November 14, 2023)

[IN: College enrollment increases for first time in over 10 years](#)

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin



MHEC States and Higher Education

- Illinois
 - First state to offer free test prep and licensure prep to public university students
 - Freshman enrollment increases
 - Task Force on higher education in prison
 - New measure to address student hunger on campus
 - Largest increase in higher education funding in 20 years, an increase of 12.4% for a total investment of \$2.53 billion
 - Reforms to strengthen to the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Indiana
 - Historic expansion of the 21st Century Scholars Program
 - Movement to e-transcripts
 - Increased number of students enrolling in higher education, increased college completion
 - Launched Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College will use high school students' GPAs or SAT scores to let them know which colleges they might be accepted at statewide
 - Mandatory FAFSA
 - Ban on transcript withholding

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Iowa
 - Enrollment increases at the three regent universities
 - Rollout of income and debt dashboard
 - Rollout of majors for high-demand worker grants
 - Possible new restrictions on DEI activities

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Kansas

- Growth in college enrollment
- Renewed focus on improving teacher preparation
- Created a free application period for applying to state colleges and universities
- New restrictions on DEI “oaths” at public colleges and universities

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Michigan
 - Record enrollment for first-year students due to the Michigan Achievement Scholarship
 - Considering a mandatory FAFSA bill
 - Expansion of the Michigan Reconnect Program
 - Creation of a new department (MiLEAP) that will include higher education
 - 10 Michigan universities to accept any state high school grad with 3.0 GPA or better
 - State budget has significant increases in higher education

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Minnesota
 - New investments to freeze tuition at Minnesota State
 - Free public college to those making less than \$80,000 annually
 - Free college for American Indians
 - Full of of attendance college for former foster youth

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Missouri

- Historic increases in higher education funding, including a new veterinary school at the University of Missouri
- Consideration of a new funding model for higher education
- New investments in capital projects

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Nebraska
 - 2.5% budget increase for each of the next two years at the University of Nebraska
 - Steady enrollment at U of Nebraska System

MHEC States and Higher Education

- North Dakota
 - 1.6% increase in enrollment
 - Record increase in funding with a 15.5% funding bump, new funding for a national security corridor, and funding for Career Builders Scholarship and loan forgiveness
 - Consideration of changes to state financial aid program in response to Minnesota's free college program

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Ohio
 - Enrollment numbers are holding steady
 - New teacher apprenticeship program
 - Funding for “intellectual diversity centers” at five of the state’s public colleges and universities
 - Debate over a measure that would overhaul state higher education policy regarding DEI, tenure policy

MHEC States and Higher Education

- South Dakota
 - 2% growth in enrollment
 - New tuition offsets for those receiving SNAP benefits at the state's four technical institutes
 - Made a tuition freeze a priority
 - Focus on teacher apprenticeships
 - Expansion of the South Dakota Advantage program, which offers in-state tuition to students from neighboring states

MHEC States and Higher Education

- Wisconsin
 - Slight growth in enrollment
 - Launch of direct admissions at Universities of Wisconsin
 - Legislative focus on DEI issues, free speech

Questions and Contact Information

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