



MIDWESTERN
HIGHER EDUCATION
— COMPACT —

ILLINOIS HIGHLIGHTS 2024-2025



OVERVIEW

Illinois enacted authorizing legislation in 1991 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Since that time, commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory committees from Illinois have provided and continue to provide important governance and strategic direction for MHEC.

HOW ILLINOIS BENEFITS FROM MHEC MEMBERSHIP

Savings and Support

- » **\$26.98M in total annual savings and support** for Illinois colleges, universities, school districts, and state and local governments, a 234-fold return on the annual compact membership commitment
- » \$18.41M in savings for distance education through the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement
- » \$8.27M in savings through MHEC technology contracts
- » \$283,164 in Master Property Program dividends
- » \$15,843 in capacity building support (state grants, convenings, scholarships and travel grants)

Additional Opportunities and Support

- » Each MHEC member state is eligible for a Strategic Impact and Innovation Grant of up to \$250,000 over two years from MHEC to advance innovative ideas and solutions in higher education.
- » Five Illinois institutions will benefit in 2026 by participating in MHEC's student health insurance contract: Chicago State University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, University of Illinois Springfield, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Western Illinois University. Southern Illinois University Carbondale also participates and will benefit the following year.
- » MHEC continues to provide reports in response to requests from Illinois legislators on topics including associate degree completion rates at Illinois postsecondary institutions and educational attainment rates by county in Illinois.

Learn more at mhec.org/states/illinois

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact brings together leaders from Midwestern states to strengthen postsecondary education and promote regional economic vitality



- » MHEC leverages the knowledge and expertise of postsecondary leaders to generate collaborative solutions to challenges in higher education.
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- » MHEC's contracts and programs save colleges, universities, and students in its member states valuable time and millions of dollars annually.
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- » MHEC research and policy initiatives support workforce readiness and improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of postsecondary education.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2026-2028

Expand cost- and time-saving initiatives.

Support alignment of postsecondary education and workforce development.

Advance regional solutions for emerging topics in higher education.