

Illinois Higher Ed *The Friday Memo*

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Budget cuts imperil college opportunity for thousands of students

'Doomsday' scenario would result in mid-year financial crisis for MAP recipients

At its scheduled June 26th meeting at University of Illinois at Chicago, the [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) will consider a staff recommendation to implement severe cuts to the [Monetary Award Program](#) (MAP), the state's premier need-based assistance program for low-income students.



The state's fiscal crisis could become a financial catastrophe for 150,000 MAP recipients who could see their student aid evaporate in the middle of the 2009-2010 school year.

Under the 50% budget scenario passed by the General Assembly, ISAC's appropriation for college scholarships and grants would be cut from \$440 million to \$220 million with a 25 percent reserve, leaving \$165 million for scholarships and grants for the 2009-10 academic year. The ISAC staff is recommending that \$159.8 million be applied to MAP; \$4.5 million to the [Silas Purnell Incentive for Access \(IIA\) Program](#); and \$750,000 go to fully fund the dependent grants programs for [police, fire](#), and [corrections officers](#), as required by state statute. MAP grants (at an 82% level) and IIA (at a 50% level) would be distributed for the fall term only.

The cuts to MAP and other financial aid programs come at a time of record demand for financial aid. This year, MAP-eligible applications are up nearly 30 percent resulting in the earliest award suspension date in history (May 15th). This means 100,000 students would miss out on need-based financial aid even with a "fully-funded" budget. The [Impact of Budget Cuts on MAP Grant Aid](#), categorized by legislative district, illustrates the widespread effect of lost financial aid on Illinois students. Contact information for legislators may be found at the [General Assembly's Web site](#). With the proposed budget cuts, no MAP or IIA aid will be available for the second term, and no other scholarship, grant, or loan repayment/forgiveness programs administered by ISAC would be funded for the entire 2010 fiscal year. These include:

[Bonus Incentive Grant \(BIG\)](#)
[Illinois Future Teacher Corps \(IFTC\)](#)
[Illinois National Guard \(ING\) Grant*](#)
[Illinois Veteran Grant \(IVG\)*](#)
[Illinois Scholars](#)
[Minority Teachers of Illinois \(MTI\)](#)
[Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program](#)

UPCOMING

June

- 23 General Assembly in session
- 26 ISAC meeting, Chicago

July

- 24 2009 University Sustainability Symposium sponsored by the Green Government Coordinating Council, Moraine Valley CC

Summertime . . .



And Friday Memo will be taking it easy. Look for us every other Friday. And enjoy your summer.

[Nurse Educator Scholarship Program \(NESP\)](#)
[Optometric Education Scholarship Program](#)
[Teachers/Child Care Providers Loan Repayment Program](#)
[Veterans' Home Nurse Loan Repayment Program](#)

* Although entitlement programs for students, funding would not be available through ISAC.

The cutbacks also come on the heels of evidence that low-income students



THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA
FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

already are being priced out of college. According to the ***Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success***, the proportion of students from low-income families in college has decreased during the past decade in Illinois. The cuts to MAP and other financial aid could exacerbate the “prosperity gap” revealed by the Illinois Public Agenda study.

Efforts are underway to get the word out to students

Loyola University’s director of Student Financial Assistance, Eric Weems has sent a [letter](#) to inform Loyola’s students eligible for the 2009-10 MAP grants of the possible changes in their financial award. Community College Presidents’ Council’s leader, John Erwin has urged his colleagues to alert their students about the threatened cuts. IBHE’s Student Advisory Committee also has received information to share with their group from Judy Erwin, IBHE executive director.

Just 1 in 4 . . . ready for ‘what comes next’

Advance Illinois lays out plan for ‘radical reform’ of schools

Advance Illinois, the education reform group co-chaired by former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and former Secretary of Commerce William Daley, has released a report, [“We Can Do Better.”](#) outlining recommendations for radical reform of the state’s education system to dramatically raise the bar for Illinois schools and reverse an alarming decline in student performance.

“The need has never been more acute, as our student achievement is slipping dangerously,” said Robin Steans, Advance Illinois executive director. “The opportunities have never been greater, as the federal stimulus is pointing us toward aggressive reform. And never before has such a bipartisan group of people come together around comprehensive, student-focused reform.”



7th IERC Symposium: Focus on Illinois

IERC keynote speaker Charles Payne, University of Chicago, discusses “Research in the Best of Times, the Worst of Times.”

The Illinois Education Research

Council hosted its seventh educational research symposium on June 9th and 10th in Champaign. Keynote speakers included Ellen Condliffe Lagemann, former dean at Harvard's Graduate School of Education and author of *An Elusive Science: The Troubled History of Education Research* and Charles Payne, professor at the University of Chicago, author of *So Much Reform, So Little Change*. The conference was kicked off with a Panel on P-20 Collaboration, featuring Christopher Koch, ISBE, Judy Erwin, IBHE, Karen Hunter Anderson, ICCB, and Jeff Mays, Illinois Business Roundtable.

[USDOE Secretary Duncan speaks to education researchers about longitudinal data systems](#)

On June 8, at the fourth annual conference of the Department's Institute of Education Sciences, the Secretary told education researchers that supporting states' efforts to build warehouses of data on student achievement is a top priority. "I am a deep believer in the power of data to drive our decisions," he said. "Data gives us the roadmap to reform. It tells us where we are, where we need to go, and who is most at risk." The Secretary specifically urged researchers to work on improving accountability models based on the growth of student test scores and developing fair models of compensating teachers and other school staff based on the achievement of their students. Ultimately, he added, the data should be used to ensure that students are on track to graduation and success in college. "Hopefully, some day, we can track children from preschool to high school, from high school to college, and from college to career," he stated. "We must track high-growth children in classrooms to their great teachers, and great teachers to their schools of education."

[IERC Report studies educational paths of high school students](#)

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) has published the first in a series of reports, *Education Beyond High School*, which provides a descriptive summary of enrollment and completion trends among the members of the Illinois Class of 2002 in the four years after high school. The first report gives an overview of the entire cohort of 113,660 students in terms of enrollment and completion at public, private, four-year, two-year, in-state and out-of-state institutions. Four companion reports present the same information delineated by college readiness, gender, parent income, and race/ethnicity.

[AASCU issues update on graduation rate reporting](#)

Since the passage of the federal Student Right-to-Know Act of 1990, graduation rates have been a subject of much debate and controversy. While state and federal policymakers often incorporate these rates into their policies and accountability systems, critics denounce the use of simple graduation rates as unfair to institutions that disproportionately serve "at-risk" students. This paper, a policy brief from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, explores progress to date, and opportunities for further improvements to data accuracy, accountability, and informed policy. It argues that no institution should be penalized for serving low-income, nontraditional, or other "at-risk" students; all institutions should strive to improve graduation rates regardless of the populations they serve; and improvements to state data systems, interstate data sharing, and use of disaggregated measures are essential to improve graduation rate reporting.

[Learning how to achieve a green campus](#)



The State of Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council is holding a Sustainable University Symposium on Friday, July 24 at the Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. The symposium offers attendees a chance to join Governor Pat Quinn in learning how to make universities and college campuses more sustainable. Registration is free and gives participants an opportunity to exchange ideas with others and learn about green practices that can be applied at any

institution. Speakers and workshops will cover topics such as energy efficiency and retrofits, renewable energy, green collar jobs training, sustainable construction and maintenance, climate change, sustainable dining, funding sources for sustainable projects, sustainability in curricula, waste reduction, community outreach, water conservation and sustainable campus transportation.

[SURS announces results of Board election](#)

The State Universities Retirement System (SURS) Board of Trustees election was held June 17, 2009, with six trustees elected. P.L. 96-0006 created a new eleven member Board of Trustees. The new board is composed of four elected contributing members (Jeffrey Beaulieu, Dorinda Miller, Fred Giertz, Antonio Vasquez, incumbent); two elected annuitants (John Engstrom and Mitchell Vogel, incumbent); four Governor appointed Trustees (not yet named); and the Chairwoman who is Carrie J. Hightman. Hightman is also Chairwoman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

[ARRA Grant of the Week](#)

The Academic Research Infrastructure Program: Recovery and Reinvestment is a National Science Foundation grant for public and private institutions of higher education. It is designed to support 21st century research and research training infrastructure in academic institutions and non-profit research organizations, such as research museums, research labs, and research consortia. The application deadline for letters of intent is July 1, 2009.

[A complete list of ARRA competitive grant opportunities is on the IBHE website](#), and is updated as grant announcements become available.

[People in the News](#)

[James Pellegrino](#), co-director of the UIC Learning Sciences Research Institute and distinguished professor of psychology and education, will collaborate with a select group of leading researchers for the National Educational Technology Panel. Pellegrino's second appointment involves a National Academy of Science and National Research Council project titled "Learning Science: Computer Games, Simulations, and Education."

Illinois College President [Axel Steuer](#) has been elected president of the board of Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI), a group of 23 private colleges and universities, which works with business and community leaders to address educational problems through programs originating at its member institutions. ACI also operates the largest nongovernmental financial aid initiative in the state.

[Rep. John Kline](#) of Minnesota has won a contest to replace Rep. Howard P. (Buck) McKeon of California as the top Republican on the congressional House education committee.

[Campus News](#)

[Northern Illinois Program Receives Top Honors at Annual PR Event](#)

The 2009 Best of Silver Anvil Award was presented by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) to the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Office of Public Affairs for successfully managing all aspects of crisis communication within minutes, hours, and days following a campus shooting in February 2008.



The Northern Illinois University Office of Public Affairs received the 2009 Best of Silver Award at PRSA's Silver Anvil Ceremony in New York City on June 4. From left: NIU President John Peters; NIU Office of Public Affairs Assistant Vice President Melanie Magara; PRSA Chair & CEO Michael Cherson, APR

"A tragedy was met with the best of human nature and the best in public relations practices at Northern Illinois University," said PRSA Chair and CEO Michael Cherson, APR. "The Northern Illinois Public Affairs office shared information, inspiration and compassion as quickly and completely as possible. Their amazing work is what the Best of Silver Anvil was created to recognize, and I salute their efforts."

[Chicago's Loop continues to grow as the "biggest college town" in Illinois](#)

Chicago's Loop continues to be the "biggest college town" in Illinois—where student enrollment has increased 25 percent and higher education hiring and spending have increased significantly to boost the city's economy

during the past five years—according to a new DePaul University-researched study issued by the downtown advocacy organization Chicago Loop Alliance.

[SIU Med School receives its largest NIH grant](#)

A research scientist at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield has been awarded the largest National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant ever received at the medical school. Dr. Andrzej Bartke, professor and SIUC distinguished scholar of internal medicine and physiology, has received a five-year federal grant from the National Institute of Aging, a division of NIH.

[At Illinois College, test-optional policy now in place](#)

Joining a growing list of top schools nationwide, Illinois College now offers students a choice about whether to submit their standardized test scores as part of the admissions process. Under the new policy, which will apply to freshman in 2010, students who believe their standardized test scores strengthen their application are encouraged to submit them, but students who elect not to submit standardized test scores will not be penalized.

[SIUC, Frontier College team up for event in Flora](#)

Frontier Community College is hosting a Showcase to provide information about how Flora residents can complete their associate degree, thus being able to continue on to earn a bachelor's degree at SIUC. Participating in the Showcase from SIUC will be Workforce Education, Division of Continuing Education, Undergraduate Admissions, and from the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, the Technical Resource Management, Industrial Technologies and Electronic Systems Technologies programs.

[More Campus News](#)

[News from Higher Education](#)

[Ferment over for-profit colleges](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

ORLANDO -- The last few weeks have witnessed a truly remarkable discussion in Washington and on Wall Street surrounding for-profit higher education.

[More than 500 colleges commit to participate in new veterans' program](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Starting this fall, veterans will be able to attend more than 500 private colleges and out-of-state public institutions at a reduced price, thanks to a dollar-for-dollar federal matching program created under last year's GI bill.

[Push is on for a 'common' education standard for US schoolchildren](#)

(Christian Science Monitor)

Education Secretary Arne Duncan threw his weight Wednesday behind a

“common” education standard for all of America’s schoolchildren, saying the current state-by-state system has produced uneven results in which some students “are totally, inadequately prepared to go into a competitive university, let alone graduate.”

[Boomers to this year's grads: we are really, really sorry](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

In 1969, baby boomers took podiums at college graduations around the country and pledged to redefine the world in their image. Forty years later, they have, and now they are apologizing for it. Their collective advice for the class of 2009: Don't be like us.

[More News from Higher Education](#)

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