

IEA Higher Education Council Report (11/04/2011)



Performance Funding and IEA: In the spring of 2010 the Illinois General Assembly passed HB 1503 which requires that the fiscal 2013 appropriation for higher education be calculated using performance funding. The purpose of Performance Funding is to link the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* to the state's higher education budgeting process. The *Public Agenda*, <http://www.illinois.org/> is Illinois' 10-year strategic plan to guide policymakers in addressing the state's economic imperatives in the global marketplace and meeting the educational and workforce needs of its residents. *Larry Frank*, IEA-NEA Research Specialist, serves upon the statewide committee charged with developing the procedures by which higher education appropriations will be distributed given the mandate of performance funding. In association with this activity, *Larry Frank* developed the following comparison between the goals of IEA's Priority One and the IBHE's Illinois Public Agenda. It is with his permission that the Council shares this comparison.

<u>Illinois Priority One – IEA</u>	<u>The Illinois Public Agenda – IBHE</u>
1. Set the right goals for students	1. Increase education attainment to match best-performing states.
2. Make sure the people entrusted with assisting student to meet the goal have the appropriate training, qualifications, and curriculum.	2. Ensure college affordability for students, families, and taxpayers.
3. Measure the progress of students.	3. Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.
4. Direct resource to improving the performance of students who are not on the right track.	4. Better integrate Illinois educational, research, and innovation assets to meet economic needs of the state and its regions.
5. Implement strategies that are proven to achieve the goals identified for our students.	

In review, Mr. Frank states. "I do not think that any of the goals we have set for the education system in Illinois are in conflict with the goals laid out in the IL Public Agenda." In particular, Goals 1, 2, and 5 of IL Priority One match to Goal 3 of the IL Public Agenda. To increase the number of high-quality postsecondary degrees offered the right goals for students need to be set, progress of students must be measured, and strategies that are proven to achieve student goals must be implemented. Similarly, goals 3 and 4 of IL Priority One match with Goal 1 of the IL Public Agenda. Providing high quality teachers and direct resources toward improving the performance of students will increase the educational achievement of postsecondary students. He cautions given reduced state resources, "it is likely that performance funding will simply shift the burden of funding education from state tax dollars to the families of college students." Or alternatively, existing faculty will be required to teach more and larger classes. This, he concludes, "seems to be in conflict with the best interests of our members."

Southern Illinois University Update: At the time of report preparation both the governing bodies of SIUCFA, representing tenure-track SIUC Faculty, and SIUC NTT-FA, representing non tenure-track SIUC Faculty, had voted by a significant margin to set a strike date of Nov. 3, 2011, if there is no tentative Collective Bargaining Agreements reported by their bargaining teams. The other two affiliates, representing Civil Service and Graduate Students, had not as yet set a strike date. Members of all four affiliates had previously authorized by secret ballot vote their respective governing bodies to set a strike date. In all four affiliates at least 85% of members had voted in favor of striking if progress at the bargaining table continued to deteriorate. By the date of the Board meeting things should be a bit clearer. Stay tuned for our update.