

**Strategic Issues:**

- In 1996, Illinois reorganized the governing boards of two of the four public universities, replacing the current board members with appointees from the Governor's office.
- The state also reorganized the public college board in 1996. Four members representing the public universities were eliminated and replaced with one representative for the public system and one for the private institutions in the state, bringing the board membership from 17 to 15. A similar bill was passed in 1995 where Trustees of the University of Illinois would be replaced with gubernatorial appointees, but a state judge found the law unconstitutional.
- In 1997, use of the main financial aid grant was expanded to cover proprietary colleges, much to the chagrin of community colleges.
- In 1997, the General Assembly created an institutional grant that would provide incentives to institutions to graduate their students in four years.
- The General Assembly also extended the need-based Monetary Award Program to part-time and summer students in 1997.

**Summary**

- *Exemplary Access:* Illinois ranked high in the 1990s compared to the national average on both rates of high school graduation and college enrollment for high school graduates.
- *Structural Issue:* Illinois was a high-tuition, high-aid state. Need-based financial aid is nearly equal to the equity standard recommended in the national report, *Expanding College Access*. Since a high percentage of Illinois students have initial access in two-year colleges, opportunities for transfer represents an important issue.
- *Opportunity:* Like other states, Illinois could benefit from a new state-federal partnership that provides incentives for coordinating tuition and student aid.

**Access Indicators***High School Graduation Rates* (Table 13.1)

With the exception of 1998, Illinois' high school graduation rates declined across the decade, much like the rest of the nation. In 1992, 79% of high school students graduated, but this percentage fell to 76% by 1996, and to 71% by 2000. Even so, the state's high school graduation rates were consistently above the national average throughout the decade.

*College Enrollment Rates* (Table 13.1)

College enrollment rates increased from 62% in 1992 to the decade's highest percentage of 64% in 1996. However, for the remaining four years of the decade, the percentage of high school graduates attending college declined, ultimately falling to 60% in 2000.

**State Demographics***State Demographics* (Table 13.2)

Excluding a slight increase in 2000, poverty rates generally declined over the decade. Illinois began the decade with a poverty rate of 16%, but by 1998, it had fallen to 10%. An increase two years later brought the 2000 figure to 12%. African-Americans were the state's largest minority at 16%, followed by Hispanics who comprised 11% of the state's population in 2000. All of the racial and ethnic minorities increased their proportionate shares of the population over the

decade. A larger percentage of Illinois residents had bachelor's degrees or higher in 2000 than they did in 1992. In 1992, 23% of state residents possessed four-year degrees, and this number increased to 27% in 2000.

*System Composition* (Table 13.3)

Public two-year, four-year, and private institutions enroll relatively equal percentages of the state's higher education students. In 2000, 36% of Illinois residents attended two-year institutions while 33% enrolled in private institutions. The remaining 31% attended public four-year institutions. Public four-year institutions enrolled a substantially smaller percentage of the state's college students than the national average throughout the decade.

### **Financial Indicators**

#### *Financial Capacity* (Table 13.4)

Tax rates for Illinois fluctuated only slightly during the last decade and never reached the national average during the decade. K-12 expenditures per student climbed over the decade from \$3,677 in 1992 to \$4,284 in 2000. Although the 1990s were marked by appropriations lower than the national average, appropriations for 2000 were \$91 higher than the national average.

#### *Educational Revenue* (Table 13.5)

Appropriations for Illinois' public institutions were consistently lower than the national average, although appropriations increased throughout the decade in Illinois. In 1992, public institutions received \$5,404 per FTE from state appropriations. In 1996, this amount increased to \$5,753 per FTE, and in 2000, the public system received \$6,540 per FTE. In 2000, public funding of institutions was \$956 below the national average. However, because of high tuition, total educational revenues were above the national average.

#### *Tuition and Fees* (Table 13.6)

As with most states, tuition and fees increased throughout the decade. In 1992, Illinois institutions charged students \$3,664. By 1996, the amount increased to \$4,273; and four years later in 2000, students were charged \$4,667. Tuition and fees were \$1,331 higher than the national average in 1992, but by 2000, they were \$1,939 higher.

#### *Need-based Grants* (Table 13.6)

Illinois concentrated most of its financial aid in need-based grants as evident when compared to the national average. Need-based grants increased throughout most of the decade. In 1992, need-based grants were \$776 per FTE. However, following a decade high of \$1,025 per FTE in 1998, average need-based grants fell to \$824 per FTE in 2000. Even so, the 2000 figure was \$458 higher than the national average.

#### *Non-need Grants* (Table 13.6)

Non-need grants were funded at levels higher than the national average for the first half of the decade, but in the latter years of the decade, the average non-need grant decreased and fell behind the national average. In 1996 the average non-need grant in Illinois was \$91 per FTE, but by 2000 it had fallen to \$52 per FTE.

### **Projections**

*Coordinated System of Grants* (Table 13.7)

Had Illinois increased its need-based grant aid, given tuition charges, 800 more students would have graduated from high school, an increase of one-half of a percentage point. Of the state's high school graduates, 2,800 more students would have attended postsecondary institutions in the state.

*Federal Grant Program Prospectus* (Table 13.7)

In addition, had the federal government provided incentives for Illinois to provide adequate grant aid equaling one-quarter of the tuition on top of current state aid, 5,200 more high school students would have graduated, an increase of three percentage points. An additional 18,800 high school graduates would have enrolled into postsecondary institutions, an increase of 12 percentage points from the current college continuation rate.