

Item #10.1
December 5, 2025

APPROVED

Minutes of the
Illinois Community College Board
Work Session

Kaskaskia College
Lifelong Learning Center
Room LC114/LC115
27210 College Road
Centralia, IL 62801

September 25, 2025

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the following motion be adopted:

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the minutes of the September 25, 2025, work session as recorded.

Item #1 – Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Chair Sylvia Jenkins called the Board meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Ann Knoedler to call roll. The following Board members were present: Maureen Banks, Craig Bradley, Marlon McClinton, Mara Botman, George Evans, and Larry Peterson. An-Me Chung, Teresa Garate, Lisa Dziekan, and Allison Meese were not in attendance. A quorum was declared.

Item #2 - Announcements and Remarks by Board Chair

Dr. Jenkins welcomed everyone to our Working session. The Board began the day with a press conference at Kaskaskia College at 1:00p to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the IL Community College System as well as the 85th Anniversary of Kaskaskia College. The group then toured the Kaskaskia College campus. It is so important to spread the message about community colleges, and the system's 60th anniversary is one key way to do that. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Jenkins thanked Board member Evans and the staff of Kaskaskia College for hosting the ICCB events.

There are three major items on the agenda. The first is an update on the federal environment by Amanda Fuchs Miller, former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Education. Amanda is now working with the agency to help sort through all the different types of information coming out of Washington that affects community colleges across the country and Illinois.

Dr. Brian Durham will then give the Board an update on the work of the Community College Funding Working Group that was convened last year.

Finally, the board will go over the three Board goals, offer any potential edits, and prepare those for a vote during the Board meeting on September 26th.

Chair Jenkins ended her comments by encouraging the Board members and staff to ask questions and have discussions throughout the presentations.

Item #3 - Understanding the Federal Environment for Community Colleges

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Amanda Fuchs Miller, president of Seventh Street Strategies and former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Education, presented on navigating the current federal policy landscape. She shared information about the current federal grant funding landscape and policy changes impacting community colleges.

At this time, the Board took a break at 5:26 p.m. and returned at 5:31 p.m.

Item #4 - Technical Modeling Working Group Update

In June of 2024, the ICCB directed the Executive Director to convene the Adequacy and Equity in Community College Working Group whose purpose was to examine the existing funding mechanisms—base operating and equalization, and to consider areas of improvement for these formulas. In March of 2025, the Working Group produced a report that included five recommendations for the Board to more thoroughly consider. These five recommendations are below:

- **Recommendation 1:** Conduct comprehensive analyses to address key funding challenges and inform the future development of data-informed solutions.
- **Recommendation 2:** Establish a base funding amount that provides each district with a foundational level of operational support.
- **Recommendation 3:** Adopt an equity-driven funding approach that provides districts with adequate resources aligned to their students' needs, supported by targeted investments to improve outcomes while allowing districts the flexibility to determine the best strategies for implementation.
- **Recommendation 4:** Evaluate and enhance the existing equalization formula and identify solutions to address factors that lead to wide disparities from year to year, enabling greater predictability and stabilization.
- **Recommendation 5:** Analyze existing dual credit funding structures and mechanisms to explore opportunities for greater consistency and alignment across the system.

Subsequent to the report, the agency formed three working groups across the five recommendations, with each charged with modeling scenarios across the five recommendations. The Base Operating Technical Modeling Group has focused specifically on Recommendation 2 and 3. The Equalization Technical Modeling Group has focused specifically on Recommendation 4. The Dual Credit Policy and Technical Modeling Group will focus on Recommendation 5. Executive Director Durham provided a status update on each of the Technical Modeling Groups.

Item #5 - Board Goals Review & Affirmation

Every year the Board considers potential changes to the Board Goals during the retreat or similar session, prior to voting to affirm the goals at its September Board meeting. During this portion of the working session, the Board considered any potential changes. The current approved goals are:

The Board hereby supports and affirms the mission of the state's community college system in providing all Illinois residents with opportunities for economic and personal growth, civic engagement, and cultural awareness. The Board is committed to working with community colleges to ensure racial and ethnic diversity on our campuses and to promote inclusive learning environments. The system's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is essential to students' personal and professional growth and success academically, social-emotionally, and in the workforce. To meet this responsibility, the Board has committed to the following three goals:

GOAL 1: To support all students with a focus on minority, first-generation, and low-income students across urban, rural, and suburban communities, through the promotion of

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evidence-based best practices that close equity gaps resulting in system-wide improvement of equity metrics across enrollment, retention, advancement, and completion.

GOAL 2: To support a seamless transition for students into and through postsecondary education and the workforce by fostering the development of robust career pathways aligned to the needs of business and industry, strong engagement at all levels of the community college system, and with a focus on meeting students where they begin their educational journey, resulting in equitable access and outcomes for all students.

GOAL 3: To contribute to economic and workforce development by supporting the Illinois community college system's effort to provide high-quality, dynamic workforce training opportunities that build essential skills for high-value work through apprenticeships, work-based learning opportunities, and competency-based instructional models that result in equitable economic mobility through increased credential attainment.

The Board will implement its goals with a focus and commitment to equitable access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students. The Board will promote best practices, enable evidence-based decision-making, and support system-wide continuous improvement.

Item #6 – Adjournment

Larry Peterson made a motion, which was seconded by Maureen Banks, to adjourn the work session at 6:03 p.m.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote.