

Problem: Illinois risks pricing students out of postsecondary education.

As college increasingly becomes a necessity, it is increasingly being priced as a luxury. Dwindling state support has resulted in soaring tuition and fees at public universities and community colleges (along with rising property taxes), while student financial aid has been outpaced by rising costs.

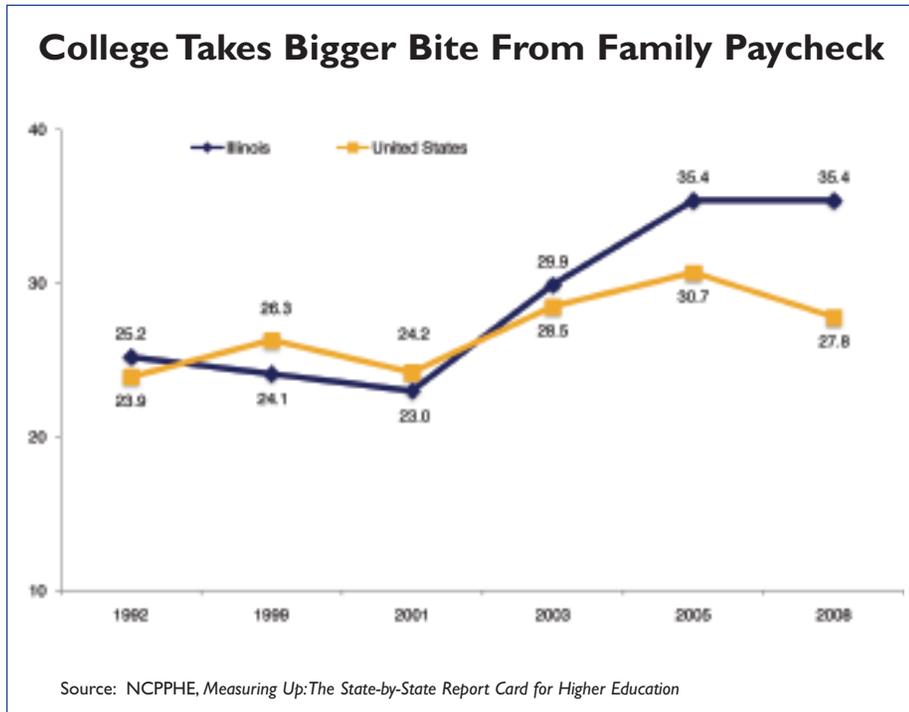
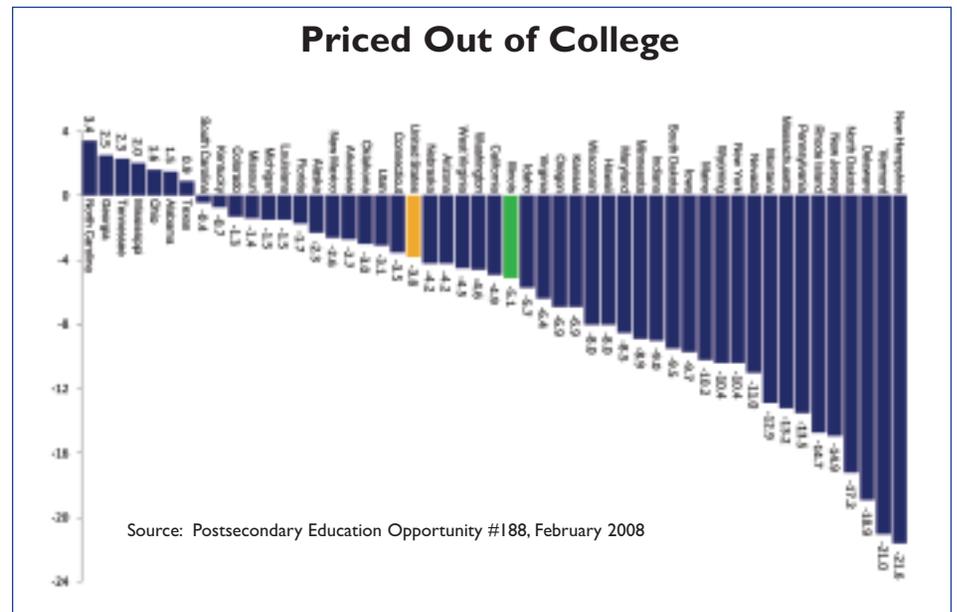


Figure 6. Percent of income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid — public four-year colleges. In just the past seven years, the proportion of college expenses required from families has risen dramatically.





GOAL 2 | Ensure college affordability for students, families, and taxpayers.

RECOMMENDATION: Make Illinois one of the five most affordable states in the country to get a college education.

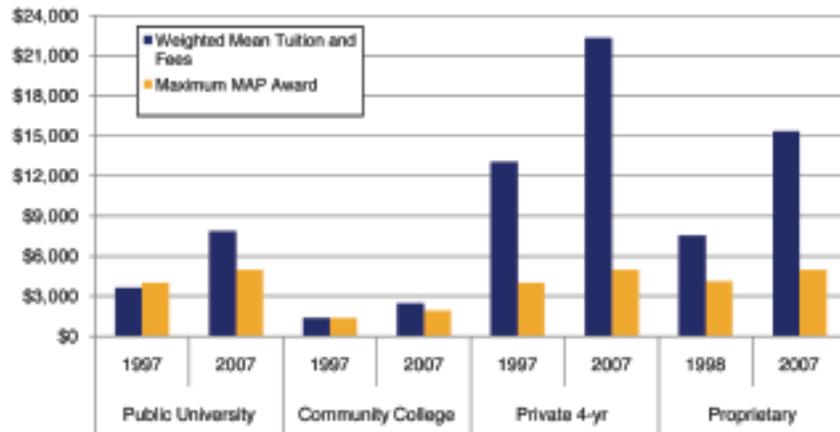
Strategy: Review state financial aid programs for low-income students to ensure that the programs are effective, efficient, widely understood, and aligned with all Public Agenda goals.

Strategy: Take action to help students achieve their educational objective faster.

Strategy: Assist middle-income students who do not typically qualify for need-based grant aid.

Strategy: Find institutional operating efficiencies that reduce costs while expanding access and maintaining quality.

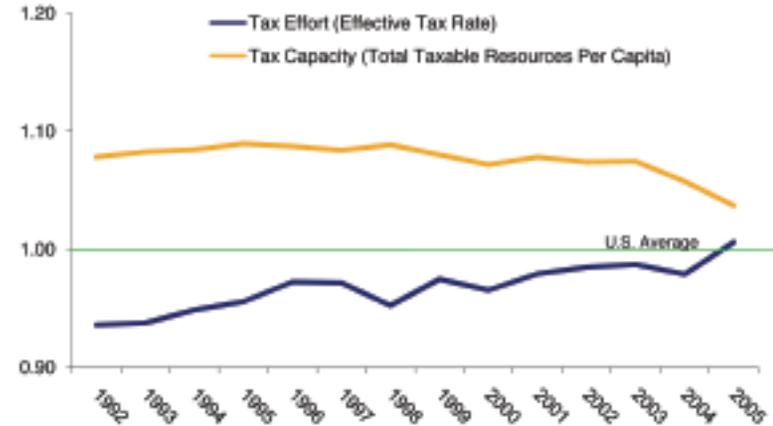
Tuition and Fees Outpace Need-Based Student Aid



Source: 2007 ISAC Data Book; proprietary institutions first eligible for MAP in FY98.

Figure 8. Average tuition and fees compared to maximum Monetary Award Program (MAP) awards, 1997-2007. The increase in student costs for tuition and fees has far surpassed increases in the maximum MAP award over the past decade.

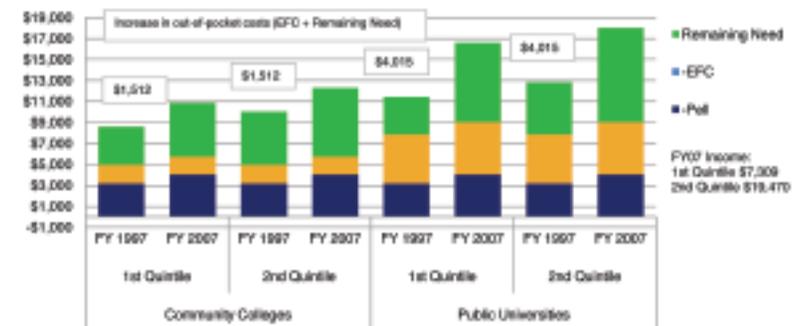
Illinois Tax Capacity - Room to Maneuver



Source: SHEEO, State Higher Education Finance

Figure 9. State tax capacity and effort — Illinois indexed to U.S. average. Illinois' economic resources exceed the national average, while the state's effective tax rate just reaches the national average.

Adult Students Out-of-Pocket Costs Rise



Source: Illinois Student Assistance Commission, www.collegezone.com/media/Affordability2007FINAL.pdf

Figure 10. Low-income students who are independent of their parents but have dependents of their own experienced an erosion of affordability between FY1997 and 2007.