

NEWS

...From State Representative Fred Crespo

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Representative Fred Crespo, State Panel to Look at Performance-Based Funding for Illinois Higher Education

Increased performance goal of new funding model for state colleges and universities
HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL – Illinois State Representative Fred Crespo will ask lawmakers to consider funding state colleges and universities based on how well they graduate students, not on how many students they enroll. The concept of performance-based funding for higher education will be debated at a meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Finance Study Commission on Monday, August 30th at 10:00 am at the Wojcik Conference Center at Harper College in Palatine, IL.

The Commission, which is co-chaired by Crespo and the State Senator Ed Maloney, was created last year to study higher education finance in Illinois and recommend options for the General Assembly to better align state funding with educational goals.

“As a state we need to start looking at innovative ways to reform our educational systems from pre-K to college,” Crespo said. “Performance based funding is one possible solution that will allow our state to not only, reign in spending to this area of the budget, but make certain that our colleges are meeting the needs of our communities.”

A handful of states already use performance based measures to fund all or part of public colleges and universities. Performance measures include degrees and certificate awarding, on-time graduation, transfer rates to 4-year universities, course completion and success with at-risk and underperforming students.

Speaking at the commission hearing will be Chancellor Eric Fingerhut of the Ohio State Board of Regents. Ohio implemented performance-based funding for its public colleges and universities last year.

“Bringing together experts in the field from various states that have begun to implement this new idea, will allow us to figure out how this can work for Illinois,” Crespo said. “Our students deserve the best education our state can provide, and I truly believe that this committee will submit a final report that will outline a best-practice model of how to enhance the quality of our state’s higher education without increasing the cost.”

After the August meeting, the commission is scheduled to meet two more times before submitting its final report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2010. More information about the Illinois Board of Higher Education Finance Study Commission can be found at <http://www.ibhe.org/SJR88/schedule.htm>.