Office of Governor
JB Pritzker

FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET
EDUCATION INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OFFERING 4-YEAR DEGREES AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

To promote **equity** and **workforce development** in underserved communities, this program will **allow targeted community colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs** in subject areas that meet regional workforce needs.

Illinois is expanding opportunities for rural students out of commuting distance from a traditional four-year college.

DIRECT ADMISSIONS

ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY DIRECT ADMISSION PROGRAM

- ***streamlining admissions***
- ***saving working families money***
- ***retaining Illinois students***

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Student or parent submits request to the high school to **opt in**
2. Student's **GPA, email, & information is shared** with Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
3. ISAC **determines which public colleges & universities student will earn direct admission to** (based on admission criteria from institutions)
4. Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) will notify student of **all direct admission offers** in **one message**
5. Student will **finalize application with confidence** they've already been admitted

CLASSROOM PHONE BAN

PROPOSING A CELL PHONE BAN

Initiative directs districts to implement policies that restrict personal electronic use in classrooms **with the following exceptions:**

- in the event of emergencies
- when a licensed physician deems it necessary for a student's health or well being
- to fulfill an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan
- when an English learner needs it to access learning materials
- when an instructor authorizes use for educational purposes

FACT: 68% of adults are in favor of classroom cell phone bans.

Enforcement of these policies via fines, fees, or ticketing, or via deployment of a School Resource Officer or a local law enforcement officer, will be prohibited.

In FY26, Gov. Pritzker will continue to meet Evidence-Based-Funding (EBF) standards and make historic investments in higher education, including over 2.1 billion in EBF increases since taking office.

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FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET
HEALTHCARE INITIATIVES

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT (PDAA)

Reform for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs)

Background: PBMs serve as negotiators between drug companies & pharmacists, setting the price of medications. However, many PBM's also own their own chain pharmacies. Current loopholes allow PBM's to favor pharmacies in their verticals, driving up prescription costs for Illinoisans and putting independent, local pharmacies out of business.

LOWER COSTS FOR IL FAMILIES

- **Prevent PBMs from inflating medication costs** (ban on 'spread pricing')
- **Stop arbitrary drug classifications** that limit access and charge consumers more
- **Ban PBMs from steering consumers** to large-scale pharmacies

PROTECT OUR LOCAL PHARMACIES

- **Increase resources** for IL pharmacies in rural and underserved areas
- **Stop PBMs from pocketing** rebates
- Require PBMs to submit **annual reporting & auditing**
- **Set new transparency measures** and penalize PBMs when they fail to comply

HEALTHCARE PROTECTION ACT (HPA) EXPANSIONS

- **Ban prior authorization** for **outpatient behavioral healthcare treatment** and expand the ban for inpatient hospitalizations
- **Require regulated insurers to reimburse travel costs** associated with getting to medical appointments when there are no in-network providers nearby
- **Increase Illinois' MLR** (percent of $ insurance companies have to spend on healthcare vs. administrative costs) to 87%, **to ensure Illinoisans' premiums fund their care, not the pockets of corporate executives**

FURTHER ENSHRINING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Require public university health clinics in Illinois to offer students reproductive healthcare appointments & contraception or abortion meds at their own campus pharmacies

Expand IL Shield Law to protect all healthcare professionals

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FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET INITIATIVE: TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATION

STREAMLINE GOVERNMENT. CUT RED TAPE. LOWER PROPERTY TAXES.

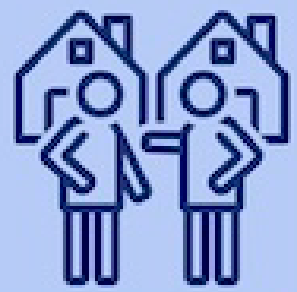
FACT: ILLINOIS HAS OVER 6,800 UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT – MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE.

This proposal empowers Illinois taxpayers to reduce or eliminate duplicative taxing bodies, increasing the efficiency of service provision to local communities and saving taxpayers money.

Township residents can decide for themselves what's best for them through a community-led, democratic process—without barriers from the State.

HOW IT WORKS:

- **Implements legislation** that enables community-led township consolidation
- **Lowers petition threshold for communities** to add referendums eliminating or consolidating township government
  - **Previously: 10%** of registered voters required to sign
  - **Now: 5%** of registered voters in most recent township election required to sign
- **Additionally allows county boards to initiate a referendum** on the countywide elimination of township organization
- **Eliminates office of township assessor** in counties with populations under 5,000



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FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION

$350M investment in evidence-based-funding (EBF) formula, with a total $2.1B aggregate increase during Pritzker Administration

$46M *increase for flexible operating funding at public universities & community colleges*

$748M to maintain Smart Start Early Childhood Block Grants (with 11,000 preschool seats created so far!)

COLLEGE ACCESS INITIATIVES

- **Establishing a public university direct admission program**
- **Offering 4-year-degrees at community colleges**
- **Adding $10M for MAP grants (total $771.6M across MAP & AIMHIGH)**

HOME ILLINOIS

$282M *investment*

$91.5M *for homeless shelters & services*

$50M *for court-based rental assistance*

HEALTHCARE PROTECTIONS

$15M for the Medical Debt Relief Program

for every $1 spent by the state, $100 of medical debt is relieved

100,000 Illinoisans have already seen their medical debt erased

Lowering prescription costs and helping independent pharmacies with PBM reform

Expanding the 2023 Healthcare Protection Act

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

$500M in funding for historic investment in **site readiness** initiatives, including a **new program to repurpose idle state surplus properties**

$240M for key DCEO initiatives to support Illinois' world-class workforce & attract/retain businesses

TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATION

community-led & democratic

*Proposal **empowers Illinois taxpayers** to reduce/eliminate duplicative taxing bodies, **increasing efficiency** and **saving taxpayers money***