



AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program Report - Year Three

October 1, 2022

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Executive Summary

The Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education (AIM HIGH) Grant Pilot Program was designed to help achieve several state goals, including increasing overall Illinois college student retention, improving Illinois college affordability and reducing student loan debt, and slowing student outmigration, as well as enhancing enrollment (and revenue) at Illinois public universities. Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, AIM HIGH provided merit-based, means-tested student financial aid to first-time, full-time undergraduate students (including transfer students) who are Illinois residents attending any of the 12 Illinois public four-year universities.

AIM HIGH contains several statutory components which make this pilot unique among state financial aid programs. First, the State gave the institutions flexibility to customize their own programs and determine criteria for AIM HIGH recipients within broad guidelines established in law. Institutions are also required to guarantee renewability and predictability for recipients [i.e., an institution is awarding the grant for four years (it can be less for a transfer student), and requirements for renewal must be made clear at the time of the initial award]. Finally, participating universities are required to match AIM HIGH state funds expended each year with non-loan financial aid above institutional aid distributed in academic year 2017-18. The state matching funds are meant to supplement and not supplant existing commitments to financial aid through this Maintenance of Effort (MOE) component; schools are meant to also have “skin in the game”.

For the first year of awarding, academic year 2019-20, each school was required to match the state AIM HIGH funded awards dollar-for-dollar in the year the funds were awarded. Schools advocated for reduced matching rates so that they could accept and award more of the state AIM HIGH funds available to their institution. In the fall 2020 Illinois Legislative “Lame Duck” Session, PA 101-654 (HB 2170) passed, replacing the existing AIM HIGH dollar-for-dollar matching requirement with a tiered approach based on the percentage of each school’s student body that received a Pell Grant over the previous three academic years, resulting in a match rate of either 20 percent or 60 percent beginning in academic year 2020-21.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) was charged with administering the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program and completing an evaluation of the Program after each academic year. The public universities were charged with designing, implementing, and refining their individual AIM HIGH Program(s) on their campuses. Shortly after AIM HIGH was signed into law, ISAC formed an AIM HIGH Advisory Committee consisting of ISAC staff, financial aid directors from all 12 universities, and several enrollment management staff representatives. This committee works together to implement the Program, develop rules and procedures that weren’t made explicit in the law, and address barriers that impede its efficiency and effectiveness.

Schools are afforded a great deal of flexibility to design their campus-level AIM HIGH Program(s) to address the desired goals of the state Program. Additional awarding flexibility is allowed with AIM HIGH matching funds. Although matching fund recipients must meet the basic eligibility criteria (initial income requirement, full-time attendance, etc.) as well as any additional institution-specific criteria, schools are able to award students at any undergraduate class level regardless of whether they are first-time enrollees, and they have the option to renew those awards if they choose. This additional flexibility makes it possible for institutions to award (and match) more of their state AIM HIGH allocation. Schools determine how much of the state funds will be allocated to a new cohort each year and may determine award amounts on an individual or broad basis. They must match the AIM HIGH funds that they actually award in a given academic year with financial aid from non-state funds. They can take their full allocation and not immediately spend it all. They are allowed to carry over unused funds at the end of the year to use on the same cohort of students in another year or on a different cohort of students in any year. This flexibility resulted in several creative approaches that are detailed in the report.

- The FY21 state budget included level funding of \$35 million for AIM HIGH to award on a third or later cohort (academic year 2021-22) of students. Allocations were made to schools based on previous year Illinois undergraduate 12-month unduplicated headcount enrollment. Final allocations ranged from \$200,000 at Chicago State University (CSU) (representing 1% of the appropriation) to \$8,029,000 at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) (representing 23% of the appropriation). Eight of the 12 universities received less than 10 percent of the appropriation, and the remaining four received between 11 and 22 percent.

**AIM HIGH Year Three (FY21
Appropriation for AY21-22 Award Year):**

- Appropriation - \$35 million
- Expended - \$25.9 million
- Matched - \$22.5 million
- Total AIM HIGH Grant Aid to Illinois Undergraduate Students - \$48.5 million

- About three-quarters (\$25.9 M) of the third year \$35 million AIM HIGH appropriation was expended in the third awarding year (AY 2021-22) of the Program, and 87 percent of all AIM HIGH state funds expended were matched dollar-for-dollar. Four of the 12 public universities matched AIM HIGH state funds expended at more than 100 percent, 2 schools matched close to 100 percent (Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) at 85% and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) at 87%), and the remaining 6 schools matched at their new required match rate (or close to it) – CSU at 25 percent, Governors State University (GSU) at 30 percent, Northern Illinois University (NIU) at 64 percent, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) at 20 percent, University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) at 60 percent, and UIUC at 60 percent. This resulted in Illinois undergraduate students receiving about \$48.5 million in AIM HIGH non-loan financial aid in academic year 2020-21.
- There were a number of reasons universities might have expended less than their full allocation in the third awarding year of the Program, including not being able to afford to match their entire third year allocation, concerns around budgeting for renewals and whether funds for existing or new cohorts would be forthcoming, or whether students offered new or renewal grants would not enroll and claim their grant. Notably, match rates were lowered in the fall of the second year of the Program (after first semester awards were already made) and going forward.
- Although all schools reported they met or exceeded their statutory match requirement for state AIM HIGH funds, 3 of the 12 universities, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), UIS, and NEIU, were unable to make their Maintenance of Effort (MOE) in academic year 2021-22 (their FY21 spending on non-loan financial aid was less than their FY18 baseline). All three schools indicated that declines in their overall undergraduate enrollment made it difficult to award institutional aid in academic year 2021-22 at the same level as was awarded in academic year 2017-18 (the MOE baseline), and provide new institutional aid above the baseline needed to match AIM HIGH state funds awarded. This provision was included in the law to ensure that institutions did not simply use the new state funds as an excuse to reduce their own commitments to financial aid. Statutorily, ISAC is able to take into account circumstances that may have contributed to a school not being able to make their MOE when deciding to reduce an allocation. Thus, although the agency could have reduced the year five (FY23, AY23-24) allocations for these institutions, upon consideration of these institutions' circumstances, and lacking evidence that any institution deliberately reduced financial aid offered to evade this requirement, ISAC awarded their year five, FY23, AY23-24 allocations at 100 percent.
- The number of AIM HIGH recipients at each school was dependent on the allocation they received, how much of that allocation the school chose to expend (and match) in the third year of the Program, how they designed their program(s), and their yield (how many newly awarded students decided to enroll and claim the grants, as well as how many year one and two recipients returned and were eligible for a renewal grant). Demographics of recipients were reflective of institutional demographics, required program criteria, and any additional institutionally set program criteria.

AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Programs for Year Three – Key Takeaways:

- The Program spurred the 12 public universities to create or enhance 42 scholarship programs, with 16 fully funded by AIM HIGH state funds, 14 fully funded by AIM HIGH matching funds, and 12 funded with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds.
- Universities established an average of 3.5 programs per school, ranging from 2 (GSU, UIC, and UIS) to 6 programs at Eastern Illinois University (EIU).

- All schools offered an AIM HIGH Program(s) for first-time, full-time freshman students at their institutions, and 10 of the 12 also offered a program(s) for first-time, full-time transfer students.
- Some programs offered tiered award amounts based on level of achievement, while others offered a flat award amount to applicants who achieved a specific GPA and/or test score or higher.

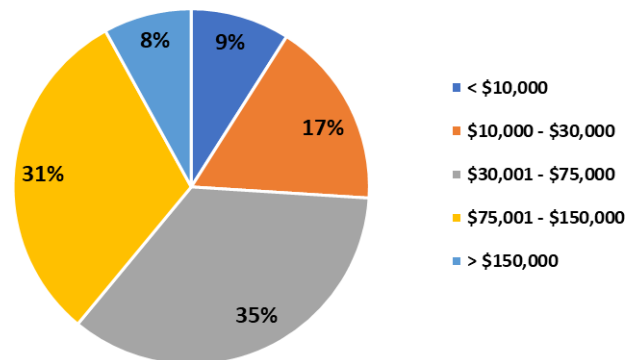
AIM HIGH Year Three:

- 42 Scholarship Programs Across the 12 Public Universities
- 12,891 AIM HIGH Recipients, representing 9% of all public university certificate- and degree-seeking undergraduates
- Average Grant of \$3,761

- There was a total of 12,891 AIM HIGH recipients (representing 9 percent of all Illinois public university degree/certificate seeking) with an overall average grant of \$3,761. Grant amounts ranged from less than \$250 to a maximum of \$19,616 - nearly covering the full cost of college for a student who very likely would not otherwise have attended. Of the 12,891 recipients, 5,427 (42%) received grants funded with only state funds (average grant \$3,488), 4,631 (36%) received grants funded with only matching funds (average grant \$2,612), and 2,833 (22%) received grants funded with both state and matching funds (average grant \$6,158). A smaller number of AIM HIGH recipients received grants made with only matching funds than with only state funds, and at lower average amounts. This is most likely reflective of eight schools taking advantage of the lower required match rates. The smallest number of awards was made with both state and matching funds, but with the highest average award amount.

- Matching programs and the recipients who received AIM HIGH grants funded only with matching funds looked somewhat different than state-funded programs and programs funded with both state and matching funds, and their respective recipients. That is most likely due to the additional flexibility schools had when designing their match (only) program(s). Recipients receiving AIM HIGH grants only with matching funds were more likely than recipients who received AIM HIGH grants only with state funds or with both state and matching funds, to be Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino, have smaller family sizes, be transfer students, have lower incomes, and to have lower GPAs and standardized test scores.

AIM HIGH Recipients by Income Level



- Sixty-one percent of all AIM HIGH recipients had family incomes of \$75,000 or less (including 35% with incomes between \$30,001 and \$75,000, 17% with incomes between \$10,000 and \$30,000, and 9% with incomes less than \$10,000). About half of AIM HIGH recipients were eligible for a need-based Pell Grant (48%) and/or MAP grant (50%). If a student is Pell eligible, they receive a Pell Grant. For comparison, 37 percent of

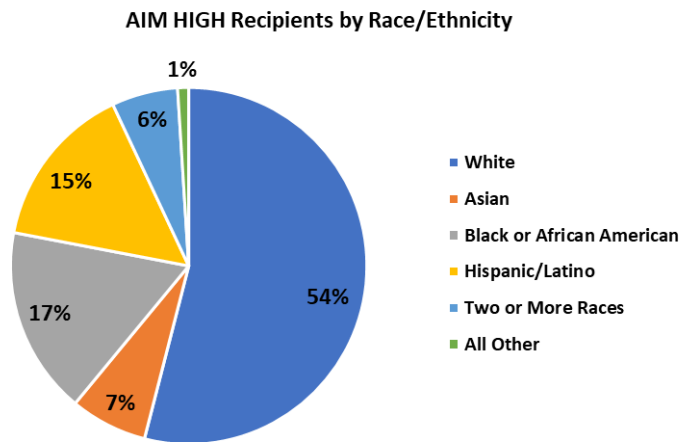
all public university undergraduates received a Pell Grant in 2019-20, meaning that AIM HIGH recipients were significantly more likely than the overall student population to be Pell recipients.

- About one-third of all AIM HIGH recipients (31%) in the third year of the Program were freshmen, 25 percent sophomores, 28 percent juniors, and 17 percent seniors. Nineteen percent of AIM HIGH recipients were transfer students. Fifty-seven percent of all AIM HIGH recipients were age 20 or younger, and the remaining 43 percent were 21 years old or older.
- For first-time freshmen AIM HIGH recipients, 86 percent had a GPA of 3.01 to 4.00 (about 34% had a GPA of 3.01 to 3.50, 38% had a GPA of 3.51 to 3.99, and 14% had a 4.00 GPA). For non-freshmen recipients, the GPAs were similar; about 15 percent had a 3.00 GPA or lower and 85 percent had a GPA of 3.01 to 4.00.
- Standardized test scores, either ACT or SAT, were reported on 66 percent of all AIM HIGH recipients. About half of scores (49%) were ≤ 1150 SAT / ≤ 23 ACT and about half (51%) were ≥ 1160 SAT / ≥ 24 ACT. About one-fifth of all AIM HIGH recipients fell within the lowest standardized score range (≤ 1020 SAT / ≤ 19 ACT), while about 10 percent fell within the highest test score range (≥ 1440 SAT / ≥ 32 ACT).

AIM HIGH Year Three:

- 86% of first-time freshmen recipients and 85% of non-freshman recipients had GPAs between 3.01-4.00
- About half of recipients had a SAT score ≥ 1160 or an ACT score ≥ 24

- The race/ethnicity breakdown of AIM HIGH recipients looked a lot like the overall Illinois public university breakdown. The race/ethnicity breakdown of AIM HIGH grant recipients was 54 percent white, 15 percent Hispanic/Latino, 17 percent Black or African American, 7 percent Asian, and 6 percent two or more races. For comparison, the most recent race/ethnicity breakdown for all Illinois public university undergraduates is 49 percent white, 17 percent Hispanic/Latino, 13 percent Black or African American, 10 percent Asian, 6 percent non-resident alien, and 3 percent two or more races.



- Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services was the college program of study for the most AIM HIGH grant recipients with about one in eight (13%) reporting this program of study, followed closely by Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities with about 12 percent reporting this program of study. This would be a common program of study for first-time freshmen, which represent 44 percent of all AIM HIGH recipients, who often are not required to decide on a program of study until their second year of college. Eleven percent of AIM HIGH recipients' area of study was Health Professions and Related Programs and about nine percent Education.
- The average GPA required for an award to be renewed was 2.76, ranging from 2.00 to 3.25.
- For many, the 2021-22 academic year marked a return to college campuses and in-person instruction as the COVID-19 pandemic got more under control. However, the impacts of the pandemic continued to make it challenging for schools to anticipate enrollment patterns and to address the barriers that some students continued to face. Additionally, universities face declining high school graduating

classes and continued challenges around perceptions of the value of a college degree and media attention on student loan debt. Overall fall 2021 enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by 1.2 percent compared to fall 2020 (with freshmen enrollment increasing by 7.8 percent year over year), beating national trends in fall 2021 enrollment.¹

- Each public university was required to provide a statement on the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program’s impact on tuition revenue, enrollment goals, access, and affordability for the third year of the Program.
 - Three of the of the 12 public universities mentioned the continued challenges they face with student enrollment, retention, and affordability as impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic linger, and 3 of the 12 public universities specifically indicated that AIM HIGH is an important component in their strategic enrollment management plans working to reach a broader group of possible students, attracting Illinois students who would otherwise migrate to institutions outside the State, improving student retention and success, reducing achievement gaps, and/or improving college affordability.
 - All schools indicated that AIM HIGH allowed scholarship expansion that assisted with recruitment of new and/or transfer students overall or of other students they have been trying to attract and/or new groups of students they would like to attract: talented/high-achieving students (6 schools), low-income students (4 schools), students considering leaving Illinois to attend college in another state (4 schools), students who may not have thought attending was possible (3 schools), and/or students just above the thresholds for receiving federal and/or state need-based aid (1 school).
 - Seventy-five percent (nine schools) specifically indicated that AIM HIGH had a positive impact on student affordability (reduced student loan debt, unmet need, or out-of-pocket costs for students, etc.).
 - One-third (4 universities) reported that AIM HIGH supported long-term success or improved student retention.
 - One-quarter (3 universities) specifically indicated AIM HIGH allowed them to better assist underrepresented students, with one of those schools indicating AIM HIGH match-funded programs were specifically focused on diversity, inclusion, and community.
 - Two universities reported AIM HIGH increased tuition revenue (1 of those schools indicated that allowed them to provide additional scholarships and grants to students), and one reported AIM HIGH allowed them to provide the full “college experience” to students by assisting with room and board costs.
- For AIM HIGH grants that were required to be renewed if eligibility criteria was met (those made from only State funds and/or from both State and matching funds), 7 of the 12 public universities had retention rates (awarded in year two and returned in year three *and* received a grant) for freshman, sophomore, and junior recipients that were higher than their most recent overall undergraduate retention rates.

AIM HIGH Year Three:

- Despite the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic on enrollment and retention, schools described numerous positive impacts of AIM HIGH in the third year of the Program.
- All schools indicated that AIM HIGH allowed scholarship expansion that assisted with recruitment of new and/or transfer students overall or of other students they have been trying to attract and/or new groups of students they would like to attract, 75% that AIM HIGH had a positive impact on student affordability, one-third that AIM HIGH supported student success, and one-quarter that AIM HIGH allowed them to better serve underrepresented students

¹ “IBHE First Look Fall Enrollment 2021-22.” IBHE, <https://www.ibhe.org/DataPoints/IBHE-First-look-enrollment-2021-2022.html>.

AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program Year Three Report

Illinois Public Universities Award a Third Cohort of Students and Provide Renewal Grants to those Who Returned

Background

Public Act 100-587, creating the Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education (AIM HIGH) Grant Pilot Program, was signed into law in August 2018. AIM HIGH is an initiative of the General Assembly's Higher Education Working Group designed to help achieve several state goals, including increasing overall Illinois college student retention, improving Illinois college affordability and reducing student loan debt, and slowing student outmigration, as well as enhancing enrollment (and revenue) at Illinois public universities. Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, this program provided merit-based, means-tested student financial aid to first-time, full-time undergraduate students (including transfer students) – up to cost of attendance (COA) – attending any of the 12 Illinois public four-year universities for the fall and/or spring terms/semesters who met the basic program requirements outlined in Table 1 as well as any other school-specific program requirements. Each university determines its own award criteria related to merit and selects its own AIM HIGH recipients.

Additionally, all AIM HIGH-participating universities are required to provide matching funding for institutional awards for students who meet certain basic eligibility requirements, as well as those established by each individual university. The percentage match required is based on the school's student body that received a Pell Grant over the previous three academic years. New institutional aid is defined as non-loan aid above the academic year 2017-18 (FY18) level of non-loan aid to Illinois students (the institution's "Maintenance of Effort" or MOE) that universities reported to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). This funding may or may not be available to the same students who receive the AIM HIGH state-funded grant(s), depending on how the matching program is designed by the university.

AIM HIGH Grants are available for up to four years (eight semesters) for incoming freshmen and for up to two years (four semesters) for transfer students. Subject to renewal eligibility established by institution, each renewed award may not be less than the amount

Table 1: AIM HIGH Basic Program Requirements:

- have attended an Illinois high school*
- be engaged in a program of study that will be completed by the end of the school year*
- apply to be enrolled for the first time at the public university campus where the award will be used*
- be a resident of Illinois
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen, or meet the undocumented student criteria of the RISE Act
- file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid and demonstrate financial need, with a household income no greater than six times the poverty guideline established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**
- meet the minimum cumulative grade point average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as determined by the university
- be enrolled in a participating public university as an undergraduate student on a full-time basis
- have not yet received a bachelor's degree (the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours)
- not be incarcerated
- not be in default on any student loan, or owe a refund on any state or federal grant
- meet any other criteria established by the university

*Students applying only for a university's matching funding may not need to meet these eligibility requirements.

**The means test applies only to the *initial* year the student receives the grant(s).

awarded to the eligible student in his or her first year attending the public university campus. Exceptions may be made if the student takes fewer (but still full-time) hours or switches to a program with a lower tuition rate. These eligibility and renewal criteria must be made explicit at the time of awarding the first grant and remain in place for the life of the grant. Grants made with matching dollars can be renewable but are not required to be, and they may be renewed for varied lengths of time. However, in the same fashion as awards made with state dollars, the renewal criteria must be made explicit with the offer of the grant and must remain constant through the life of the grant. Funding for subsequent academic years is subject to the annual state appropriations process. Unless the program is made permanent or the pilot extended, the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program sunsets on October 1, 2024.

Because under current law the program sunsets on October 1, 2024, the FY23 budget year is the last year of an appropriation for the program to fund new cohorts of student grants. The FY23 budget dollars will be paid to the public universities toward the end of the 2023 fiscal year. The public universities will use the funding to pay AIM HIGH scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year. A final AIM HIGH report, similar to this one, is due by October 1, 2024, when the program sunsets.

Shortly after the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program was signed into law, ISAC staff formed an AIM HIGH Advisory Committee consisting of ISAC staff, financial aid directors from all 12 universities, and several enrollment management staff representatives. This committee has worked together to implement the Program, develop rules and procedures that weren't made explicit in the law, and address barriers that impede its efficiency and effectiveness.

FY21 AIM HIGH Appropriation and Allocations to Schools

The FY21 state budget included \$35 million for the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program to award in the 2021-22 academic year (FY22). Prior year Illinois Undergraduate 12-Month Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment was used by ISAC to determine the initial allocation of the \$35 million appropriated for AIM HIGH among the 12 Illinois public universities. ISAC determined each public university campus' proportionate allocation of FY21 appropriated funds by multiplying the appropriation by the ratio of each school's enrollment to total enrollment and rounding to the nearest \$1,000. Schools could accept none, some, or all of their allotment. Funds not accepted were redistributed through a second allocation process in which the schools that wanted additional funds indicated the maximum dollars they would accept. The enrollment numbers were adjusted to include only second-round participants and the remaining dollars were distributed as in the initial allocation, subject to the maximums the schools indicated.

Two schools – Chicago State University (CSU) and Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) - chose not to accept their entire allocation. CSU accepted 20 percent of its initial allocation, and NEIU accepted 47 percent of its initial allocation. This resulted in a second allocation of \$1,824,000. Six schools accepted additional re-allocated funds – Eastern Illinois University (EIU), Illinois State University (ISU), Northern Illinois University (NIU), Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), and Western Illinois University (WIU). Final allocations, as illustrated in Table 2, ranged from \$200,000 at CSU (representing 1% of the appropriation) to \$8,029,000 at UIUC (representing 23% of the appropriation). Eight of the 12 universities received less than 10 percent of the appropriation, and the remaining four received between 11 and 23 percent.

Additional flexibility with the university matching dollars, which allowed awarding to students at any class level for one or more semesters/terms, the ability to carry over state AIM HIGH funds, reduced

match rates that went into effect during the second year of the Program, as well as allowing transfer students to be part of the AIM HIGH state-funded program(s), would have likely made it easier for more of the initial AIM HIGH dollars to be claimed by universities. However, the increased flexibility may not have been sufficient for all schools to claim their entire allotment. Each school has its own individual financial situation, and much depends on a school's eligibility criteria and retention rates.

Table 2: FY21 AIM HIGH Appropriation and Allocations to Schools

School	Initial Allocation	Accepted Initial Allocation	% Allocation Accepted	Initial Allocation Balance	Participate in Second Allocation	Final Allocation	% Final Allocation
Chicago State University (CSU)	\$1,011,000	\$200,000	20%	\$811,000	\$0	\$200,000	1%
Eastern Illinois University (EIU)	\$1,290,000	\$1,290,000	100%	\$0	\$106,000	\$1,396,000	4%
Governors State University (GSU)	\$1,071,000	\$1,071,000	100%	\$0	\$0	\$1,071,000	3%
Illinois State University (ISU)	\$5,220,000	\$5,220,000	100%	\$0	\$429,000	\$5,649,000	16%
Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU)	\$1,913,000	\$900,000	47%	\$1,013,000	\$0	\$900,000	3%
Northern Illinois University (NIU)	\$3,565,000	\$3,565,000	100%	\$0	\$293,000	\$3,858,000	11%
Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC)	\$2,082,000	\$2,082,000	100%	\$0	\$227,000	\$2,309,000	7%
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)	\$2,798,000	\$2,798,000	100%	\$0	\$0	\$2,798,000	8%
University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)	\$5,961,000	\$5,961,000	100%	\$0	\$0	\$5,961,000	17%
University of Illinois Springfield (UIS)	\$742,000	\$742,000	100%	\$0	\$0	\$742,000	2%
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)	\$7,419,000	\$7,419,000	100%	\$0	\$610,000	\$8,029,000	23%
Western Illinois University (WIU)	\$1,928,000	\$1,928,000	100%	\$0	\$159,000	\$2,087,000	6%
Total	\$35,000,000	\$33,176,000	95%	\$1,824,000	\$1,824,000	\$35,000,000	100%

FY21 AIM HIGH Funds Expended, Matched, and Carried Over

Each school determines how much of the Program funding will be allocated to a new cohort each year. Schools are required to match the AIM HIGH funds that are actually awarded in a given academic year. For the first year of awarding, academic year 2019-20, each school was required to match the state AIM HIGH funded awards dollar-for-dollar in the year the funds were awarded. Schools advocated for reduced matching rates so that they could accept and award more of the state AIM HIGH funds available to their institution. In the fall 2020 Illinois Legislative “Lame Duck” Session, PA 101-654 (HB 2170) passed, replacing the existing AIM HIGH dollar-for-dollar matching requirement with a tiered approach based on the percentage of each school’s student body that received a Pell Grant over the previous three academic years. If the (most recent) three year average is 49 percent or higher, the school is required to match at least 20 percent of the amount of state funds awarded in a given academic year for financial aid for eligible students; if less than 49 percent, the school is required to match at least 60 percent of the amount of state funds awarded in a given academic year for financial aid for eligible students. This change was effective immediately, so schools were given the chance to amend their FY20 (year 2, AY20-21) grant agreement to reflect the possibility of matching at the lower rate. Based on the most recent three years of data on Pell recipients, four schools, CSU, GSU, UIC, and WIU were required to match at least 20 percent of state AIM HIGH funds expended in AY21-22, and the other eight schools were required to match at least 60 percent of the state funds expended.

The full allocation (including any additional round(s)) can be accepted but does not need to be immediately spent in its entirety. Unused funds at the end of the year may be carried over to use on the same cohort of students in another year or on a different cohort of students in any year. It was understood that not accepting funds that may be difficult to match resulted in those funds being made available to another school to award to students.

As Table 3 shows, 74 percent (\$25.9 M) of the third year \$35 million AIM HIGH appropriation was expended in the third awarding year (AY 2021-22) of the Program, and 87 percent of all AIM HIGH state funds expended were matched dollar-for-dollar. Although no longer required to match dollar-for-dollar, 4 of the 12 public universities matched AIM HIGH state funds expended at more than 100 percent, 2 schools matched close to 100 percent (NEIU at 85% and SIUE at 87%), and the remaining 6 schools matched at their new required match rate (or close to it) – CSU at 25 percent, GSU at 30 percent, NIU at 64 percent, UIC at 20 percent, UIS at 60 percent, and UIUC at 60 percent. This resulted in Illinois undergraduate students receiving about \$48.5 million in AIM HIGH non-loan financial aid in academic year 2021-22. The AIM HIGH funds expended by institution, however, varied greatly.

Notably, as Table 3 illustrates, all institutions had AIM HIGH state funds that were not expended in the first and/or second year of the Program (AY19-20 and AY20-21) to use in the third year of the Program or beyond. One of the 12 public universities spent 35 percent of their third year AIM HIGH appropriation, 5 spent 59 to 77 percent, 3 spent 90 to 100 percent, and the remaining 3 schools (CSU, GSU, and WIU) spent more than 100 percent of their third year appropriation, utilizing carry-over funds from the first and/or second year of the Program. This was most likely made possible through decreased match rate requirements. At the end of the third year of the AIM HIGH Program, about 61 percent, or about \$58 million of the total \$95 million from the year one through three combined appropriations, was expended, and the remaining funds (about \$37 M) were carried over to use in future awarding years.

Table 3: FY21 AIM HIGH Funds Expended, Matched, and Carried Over

School	FY21 Final Allocation	FY19-FY20 Carried Over	Expended	% of Expended of Final Allocation	Matched	% Matched to Expended	FY21 Carried Over	% Carried Over of Final Allocation	FY19 - FY21 Carried Over
CSU	\$200,000	\$758,137	\$510,592	255%	\$127,874	25%	(\$310,592)	-155%	\$447,545
EIU	\$1,396,000	\$1,554,934	\$820,668	59%	\$931,483	114%	\$575,332	41%	\$2,130,266
GSU	\$1,071,000	\$752,134	\$1,425,483	133%	\$424,701	30%	(\$354,483)	-33%	\$397,651
ISU	\$5,649,000	\$2,008,922	\$5,099,885	90%	\$8,812,800	173%	\$549,115	10%	\$2,558,037
NEIU	\$900,000	\$30,100	\$846,000	94%	\$715,268	85%	\$54,000	6%	\$84,100
NIU	\$3,858,000	\$1,805,761	\$2,727,519	71%	\$1,737,648	64%	\$1,130,481	29%	\$2,936,242
SIUC	\$2,309,000	\$3,223,638	\$801,467	35%	\$865,303	108%	\$1,507,533	65%	\$4,731,171
SIUE	\$2,798,000	\$3,709,000	\$2,141,784	77%	\$1,867,463	87%	\$656,216	23%	\$4,365,216
UIC	\$5,961,000	\$4,556,124	\$3,818,592	64%	\$769,065	20%	\$2,142,408	36%	\$6,698,532
UIS	\$742,000	\$274,134	\$702,163	95%	\$421,298	60%	\$39,837	5%	\$313,971
UIUC	\$8,029,000	\$8,919,900	\$4,869,678	61%	\$2,922,748	60%	\$3,159,322	39%	\$12,079,222
WIU	\$2,087,000	\$87,500	\$2,174,500	104%	\$2,943,339	135%	\$0	0%	\$0
Total	\$35,000,000	\$27,680,284	\$25,938,331	74%	\$22,538,990	87%	\$9,149,169	26%	\$36,741,953

There were a number of reasons universities might have expended less than their full allocation in the third year of the Program, including:

- Statute specifically allows schools to carry over unused funding for qualified students to use in any year, on an existing or new cohort of students.
- Budgeting for renewals; schools are unsure how much funding will be appropriated to AIM HIGH in later years of the pilot, or if funds for AIM HIGH will be appropriated for later years of the pilot at all. Reserving some funds helps schools ensure that they can award AIM HIGH as a four-year grant despite relying on year-by-year appropriations.
- Schools that couldn't immediately afford to match their entire allocation could accept the full allocation, spend what could be matched, and carry any unspent funds over to use (and to match) in later years on an existing or future cohort of students. Notably, all match rates were lowered in the second year of the Program (after first semester awards were already made) and going forward.
- Schools may have "awarded" a certain amount of AIM HIGH funds to new students in year three and expected to award a certain amount of funds to returning year one and two students in year three, but all of those students may not have enrolled or returned. This could have been due to a downward trend in enrollment at the institution and/or the continued impact of the COVID pandemic on enrollments.

Academic Year 2021-22 AIM HIGH Programs and Criteria

The AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program offered schools the flexibility to design programs to achieve the desired goals set out for AIM HIGH at each of their individual campuses. As required by law, each public university posted information about its AIM HIGH funded programs on the university website, and both ISAC and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) provide those links via agency websites. Below are highlights of the program details that schools provided on all AIM HIGH Programs they offered in academic year 2021-22. Table 1 in the Appendix provides all AIM HIGH Program criteria in detail by institution.

AY21-22 Illinois AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Programs

42 Scholarship Programs

across the 12 public universities, with 16 fully funded by AIM HIGH state funds, 14 fully funded by AIM HIGH matching funds, and 12 funded with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds

Average of 3.5 Programs Per School

ranging from two (GSU, UIC, and UIS) to six programs at EIU

All Schools Offered an AIM HIGH Program(s)

for first-time, full-time freshman students at their institutions, and 10 of the 12 also offered a program(s) for first-time, full-time transfer students

Grants Were Based in Some Way on Merit

A mix of programs that offered tiered award amounts based on merit components and programs that offered a single award amount based on a specific GPA and/or test score or higher

Award Amounts from Ranged Less Than \$250 to Covering All Unmet Need

Summary of University-Determined Criteria

3.25 Average High School GPA

or cumulative transfer GPA, ranging from 2.00 to 4.00, on 4-point scale

2.76 Average GPA for Renewal

ranging from 2.00 to 3.25, on a 4-point scale

Minimum ACT Scores ranging from 18 to 33

Minimum SAT Scores ranging from 960 to 1,450

11 Programs Included an Additional Income Component

that may be more stringent than the initial basic requirement that the student's household income is no greater than 6 times the federal poverty guidelines

Creative Approaches to Attract and Retain Illinois Students

Universities took advantage of the flexibility offered by the pilot and experimented with interesting program components, such as:

- Requiring participation in a support program
- Covering all of tuition and fees (after all other aid) for those under a certain income level – allowing the offer of a type of last-dollar college “promise” program
- Matching cost or matching out-of-pocket cost of attendance at a bordering state school
- Targeting awards to traditionally underrepresented or first-generation freshman students
- Specifically targeting students in MAP grant suspense (“waiting list”) or ineligibility status
- Providing an award allowance for books
- Focusing aid on students with an expected family contribution (EFC) between 0-\$9,000 (the same range for MAP eligibility)
- Awarding students from the City Colleges of Chicago’s Star Scholarship Program

Academic Year 2021-22 AIM HIGH Recipients and Grants

Each public university campus may determine the AIM HIGH award amounts for eligible students on an individual or broad basis. In the third year of the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program, about \$48.5 million was awarded to 12,891 undergraduate students at Illinois public universities, representing more than 9 percent of all public university degree/certificate seeking undergraduates and (see Table 7). The overall AIM HIGH average grant was \$3,761 with a minimum grant of \$38 and a maximum grant of \$19,616. There were 12 AIM HIGH students with state awards of less than \$250.

Of the 12,891 recipients, 5,427 (42%) received grants funded with only state funds, 4,631 (36%) received grants funded with only matching funds, and 2,833 (22%) received grants funded with both state and matching funds. The average grant funded with only state funds was \$3,488, with a minimum grant of \$38 and a maximum grant of \$19,616. The average grant funded with only matching funds was \$2,612, with a minimum grant of \$38 and a maximum grant of \$14,149. And, the average grant funded with both state and matching funds was \$6,158, with a minimum grant of \$145 and a maximum grant of \$14,000. A smaller number of AIM HIGH recipients received grants made with only matching funds than with only state funds, 4,631 versus 5,427, and at lower average amounts - \$2,612 versus \$3,488. This is most likely reflective of eight schools taking advantage of the lower required match rates. The smallest number of awards was made with both state and matching funds, 2,833 awards, but these awards had the highest average award amount, \$6,158.

The number of recipients by each school was dependent on the allocation they received, how much of that allocation the school chose to expend and match in the third year of the Program, how program(s) were designed, and their yield (how many newly awarded students decided to enroll and claim the grants, as well as how many year one and two recipients returned and were eligible for a renewal grant). ISU awarded the most dollars – about \$14 million with an average grant of \$6,724 (providing grants to 2,069 recipients). UIC awarded the highest average grant of \$8,148 (providing \$4.6 million to 563 recipients). WIU awarded the most students – 2,083 (awarding \$5.1 million with average grants of \$2,460). EIU awarded the lowest average grant at \$1,390 (providing \$1.8 million to 1,260 recipients), and CSU awarded the fewest dollars to the fewest students – about \$638,466 to 173 students (with average grants of \$3,690). Note that CSU has the smallest undergraduate enrollment amongst the 12 Illinois public universities. The average grant across all funding sources ranged from \$750 to \$7,909 except for a program at UIC. UIC awarded AIM HIGH grants with state funds only to 332 students with average grants of \$11,501.

Table 4: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients and Grants

RECIPIENTS	Total Amount Awarded (AIM HIGH State + Matching)		Total #*	Average Grant	Minimum Grant	Maximum Grant
TOTAL	\$48,477,322	TOTAL	12,891	\$3,761	\$38	\$19,616
		State AIM HIGH dollars only	5,427	\$3,488	\$38	\$19,616
		Matching fund dollars only	4,631	\$2,612	\$38	\$14,149
		Both State and matching dollars	2,833	\$6,158	\$145	\$14,000
CSU	\$638,466	State AIM HIGH dollars only	-	-	-	-
		Matching fund dollars only	-	-	-	-
		Both State and matching dollars	173	\$3,690	\$500	\$6,000
		Total Award from All Sources	173	\$3,690	\$500	\$6,000
EIU	\$1,752,151	State AIM HIGH dollars only	859	\$750	\$250	\$10,042
		Matching fund dollars only	144	\$2,215	\$1,000	\$3,000
		Both State and matching dollars	257	\$3,066	\$1,250	\$10,042
		Total Award from All Sources	1,260	\$1,390	\$250	\$10,042
GSU	\$1,850,184	State AIM HIGH dollars only	369	\$3,863	\$38	\$6,000
		Matching fund dollars only	209	\$2,032	\$38	\$6,000
		Both State and matching dollars	-	-	-	-
		Total Award from All Sources	578	\$3,201	\$38	\$6,000
ISU	\$13,912,685	State AIM HIGH dollars only	238	\$2,990	\$375	\$4,000
		Matching fund dollars only	-	-	-	-
		Both State and matching dollars	1,831	\$7,248	\$2,000	\$14,000
		Total Award from All Sources	2,069	\$6,724	\$375	\$14,000
NEIU	\$1,561,268	State AIM HIGH dollars only	226	\$3,557	\$2,000	\$4,000
		Matching fund dollars only	214	\$3,105	\$427	\$5,000
		Both State and matching dollars	12	\$7,715	\$4,500	\$9,000
		Total Award from All Sources	452	\$3,454	\$427	\$9,000
NIU	\$4,465,167	State AIM HIGH dollars only	1,316	\$1,977	\$135	\$10,700
		Matching fund dollars only	647	\$2,535	\$263	\$5,000
		Both State and matching dollars	60	\$4,778	\$1,750	\$9,874
		Total Award from All Sources	2,023	\$2,207	\$1350	\$10,700
SIUC	\$1,666,769	State AIM HIGH dollars only	331	\$2,413	\$122	\$7,040
		Matching fund dollars only	445	\$1,940	\$136	\$7,345
		Both State and matching dollars	1	-	-	-
		Total Award from All Sources	777	\$2,145	\$122	\$7,345
SIUE	\$4,009,247	State AIM HIGH dollars only	584	\$3,667	\$1,250	\$5,500
		Matching fund dollars only	474	\$3,939	\$1,250	\$5,500
		Both State and matching dollars	-	-	-	-
		Total Award from All Sources	1,058	\$3,789	\$1,250	\$5,500
UIC	\$4,587,657	State AIM HIGH dollars only	332	\$11,501	\$367	\$19,616
		Matching fund dollars only	231	\$3,329	\$755	\$3,700
		Both State and matching dollars	-	-	-	-
		Total Award from All Sources	563	\$8,148	\$367	\$19,616
UIS	\$1,123,460	State AIM HIGH dollars only	-	-	-	-
		Matching fund dollars only	-	-	-	-
		Both State and matching dollars	342	\$3,284	\$145	\$12,000
		Total Award from All Sources	342	\$3,284	\$145	\$12,000
UIUC	\$7,792,426	State AIM HIGH dollars only	987	\$4,933	\$750	\$5,000
		Matching fund dollars only	526	\$5,556	\$877	\$14,149
		Both State and matching dollars	-	-	-	-
		Total Award from All Sources	1,513	\$5,150	\$750	\$14,149
WIU	\$5,117,839	State AIM HIGH dollars only	185	\$6,407	\$1,350	\$7,000
		Matching fund dollars only	1,741	\$1,545	\$49	\$4,615
		Both State and matching dollars	157	\$7,909	\$2,638	\$10,500
		Total Award from All Sources	2,083	\$2,456	\$49	\$10,500
		Missing = 0	There were 12 AIM HIGH students with State awards of less than \$250.			

AIM HIGH “Maintenance of Effort” (MOE)

To be eligible to receive funds under the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program, a public university is required to meet a “Maintenance of Effort”, or “MOE”. The campus may not decrease the total amount of non-loan financial aid for undergraduate students to an amount lower than the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the public university campus to undergraduate students in academic year 2017-18 (FY18), not including any funds received from ISAC for AIM HIGH or any funds used to match AIM HIGH grant aid. (If enrollment is less than in academic year 2017-18, not including the summer term, the MOE level is that total amount calculated on a per student basis.)

In conjunction with the AIM HIGH Advisory Committee, six primary categories were identified that schools had been reporting on the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Student Financial Aid Survey (references included below) that would make up each institution’s total Illinois non-loan financial aid for the MOE:

- Partial Waivers for Children of University Employees;
- Total Scholarships, Grants, Fellowships, and Traineeships;
- Talent Waivers - Academic;
- Talent Waivers - Other Talent;
- Other Waivers - Financial Aid Waivers; and
- Other Waivers - Special Program Waivers.

To be eligible for a subsequent allocation of AIM HIGH funding, an institution must demonstrate that it met its MOE in the previous academic awarding year. In any academic year the public university fails to make its entire MOE, it must demonstrate that it made a good faith effort to make it eligible for:

- A) 100% of its allocation of AIM HIGH funds in the next allocation distribution if, in the preceding academic year, the public university campus made its entire MOE;
- B) 90% of its allocation of AIM HIGH funds in the next allocation distribution if it is the second consecutive academic year the public university campus fails to make its entire MOE; and
- C) an amount in the next allocation determination that is necessary to fund only renewal AIM HIGH funded awards when it is the third or more consecutive academic year that the public university campus fails to make its entire MOE.

When making the determination to reduce an award, or suspend a university campus from AIM HIGH for not meeting its matching requirement or MOE, ISAC is able to take into account the circumstances that may have contributed to this failure, such as, but not limited to:

- 1) a reduction in State appropriations to fund the public university campus in that academic year;
- 2) the number of matching requirements or MOE qualifying awards offered by the public institution, but not accepted by students in that academic year;
- 3) the matching award commitments already made to students for the academic year for which the AIM HIGH funds will be used; and
- 4) the commitment demonstrated by the public university campus to maintaining level tuition and mandatory fees for Illinois residents over multiple academic years.

As Table 5 shows, three universities, NEIU, SIUC, and UIS, were unable to make their MOE in academic year 2021-22. All three schools indicated that an overall decline in undergraduate enrollment, in part due to the continued impact of the COVID pandemic, made it difficult to award institutional aid in academic year 2021-22 at the same level as was awarded in academic year 2017-18 (the MOE baseline), and provide new institutional aid above baseline needed to match AIM HIGH state funds awarded. One

of the schools indicated they provide very generous institutional aid and it is difficult to offer more, especially with declining enrollments. Another school mentioned they have not raised tuition since fall 2018 to help ensure affordability, they offered enough aid to make MOE but all students did not accept that aid and enroll, and that efforts/changes are underway to meet the MOE in the current academic year. It was the first year that NEIU failed to meet the MOE. It was the third year that SIUC and UIS failed to meet the MOE. However, SIUC indicated that they provided more institutional aid *per student* in 2021-22 than they did in 2017-18. Statutorily, ISAC is able to take into account circumstances that may have contributed to a school not being able to make their MOE when deciding to reduce an allocation. Upon consideration of these institutions' circumstances, ISAC determined that it was appropriate to award their year five, FY23, AY23-24 allocation at 100 percent.

Year five is the final year of the Pilot and statutory action is needed for the continuation of the Program beyond this fifth year. Given the impact of the pandemic on enrollment patterns, the baseline year for MOE (assuming that provision is continued) should be reconsidered; moving it to a more recent year would be appropriate.

Table 5: FY22 AIM HIGH MOE Compared to FY18 MOE Baseline

School	Baseline FY18 MOE	Year 1 FY20 MOE*	Year 2 FY21 MOE*	Year 3 FY22 MOE*	FY18-FY22 Difference
CSU	\$903,643.00	\$1,260,094.00	\$2,387,884.00	\$2,171,608.00	\$1,267,965.00
EIU	\$33,909,854.96**	\$34,791,602.42**	\$39,304,695.11	\$43,833,819.05	\$9,923,964.09
GSU	\$336,416.30	\$374,314.13	\$474,069.47	\$424,562.17	\$88,145.87
ISU	\$26,092,180.00	\$32,851,660.00	\$35,165,975.00	\$41,834,394.00	\$15,742,214.00
NEIU	\$26,219,519.00	\$26,264,210.00	\$26,450,190.00	\$25,891,443.00	(\$328,076.00)
NIU	\$18,605,723.75	\$20,366,044.06	\$21,490,079.19	\$24,854,921.45	\$6,249,197.70
SIUC	\$23,913,376.00	\$20,122,269.00	\$21,563,180.00	\$17,799,502.00	(\$6,113,874.00)
SIUE	\$12,816,587.15	\$13,734,134.07	\$14,020,147.40	\$16,536,233.22	\$3,719,646.07
UIC	\$50,889,713.00	\$52,380,438.00	\$53,588,720.00	\$51,452,524.00	\$562,811.00
UIS	\$5,631,221.28	\$5,231,156.85	\$4,386,037.14	\$4,306,233.00	(\$1,324,988.28)
UIUC	\$109,829,520.00	\$124,688,091.00	\$135,295,823.00	\$147,167,339.00	\$37,337,819.00
WIU	\$10,583,011.00	\$9,258,094.82	\$10,431,173.00	\$14,825,940.00	\$4,242,929.00
Total	\$319,730,765.44	\$341,322,108.35	\$364,557,973.31	\$391,098,518.89	\$71,367,753.45

* AIM HIGH matching aid has been deducted from year one and two MOEs so amounts can be compared to baseline FY18 MOEs. MOEs reported in year three do not include AIM HIGH matching aid.

** Note: These amounts were incorrect in the Year One report and that error has been corrected here.

ISAC is required to report on the percentage of total non-loan financial aid distributed that the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program (in total – both state and matching funds) represents at each public university. Total non-loan financial aid for this purpose is defined as the MOE institutional aid total plus State and matching AIM HIGH funds expended. As Table 6 illustrates, the AIM HIGH state and matching funds expended in AY21-22 represent about 11 percent of the total institutional financial aid that make up the MOE (including all AIM HIGH spending) distributed by the public universities for academic year 2021-22. Percentages, however, varied considerably by institution, from 4 percent to 81 percent. For 5 universities the percentage was less than 10 percent (EIU, NEIU, SIUC, UIC, and UIUC), for 6 it was between 15 and 25 percent (CSU, ISU, NIU, SIUE, UIS, and WIU), and for GSU, it was 81 percent.

Table 6: Percentage of Total Financial Aid Distributed (MOE) Under the AY21-22 AIM HIGH Program by the Public University Campus

School	AY21-22 Non-Loan Grant Aid to Undergrads (MOE) plus all AH	AY21-22 AIM HIGH State Funds Expended	AY21-22 AIM HIGH Matching Funds Expended	AY20-21 AIM HIGH State + Matching Funds Expended	AIM HIGH as a Percentage of Financial Aid (MOE) Distributed
CSU	\$2,810,074.00	\$510,592	\$127,874	\$638,466	23%
EIU	\$45,585,970.05	\$820,668	\$931,483	\$1,752,151	4%
GSU	\$2,274,746.17	\$1,425,483	\$424,701	\$1,850,184	81%
ISU	\$55,747,079.00	\$5,099,885	\$8,812,800	\$13,912,685	25%
NEIU	\$27,452,711.00	\$846,000	\$715,268	\$1,561,268	6%
NIU	\$29,320,088.45	\$2,727,519	\$1,737,648	\$4,465,167	15%
SIUC	\$19,466,272.00	\$801,467	\$865,303	\$1,666,770	9%
SIUE	\$20,545,480.22	\$2,141,784	\$1,867,463	\$4,009,247	20%
UIC	\$56,040,181.00	\$3,818,592	\$769,065	\$4,587,657	8%
UIS	\$5,429,694.00	\$702,163	\$421,298	\$1,123,461	21%
UIUC	\$154,959,765.00	\$4,869,678	\$2,922,748	\$7,792,426	5%
WIU	\$19,856,279.00	\$2,087,000	\$2,943,339	\$5,030,339	25%
Total	\$439,488,339.89	\$25,850,831	\$22,538,990	\$48,389,821	11%

Academic Year 2021-22 AIM HIGH Recipient Demographics

Table 7 provides available overall Illinois public university demographics to help provide some context for the AIM HIGH recipient demographics. When these data are not available, AIM HIGH recipient demographics may be compared to overall Illinois population demographics to provide context. AIM HIGH recipient overall demographics are impacted by the number of awards by institution, based on both its allocation, the amount the institution chose to award the first through third years, and their yield (how many awarded students decided to enroll as well as how many year one and two recipients returned and were eligible for a renewal), and those institutions' student demographics, as well as the criteria set for the various AIM HIGH Programs. It is also important to keep in mind that demographics will also be impacted by the fact that AIM HIGH is a merit-based, means-tested program. AIM HIGH recipient demographic data is shown in this section in total, by funding source (state only, matching only, or both state and matching), and by institution.

Table 7: AY2019-20/2020-21 Illinois Public University Undergraduate Demographics

Illinois Public University Undergraduate Demographics	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	CSU	EIU	GSU	ISU	NEIU	NIU	SIUC	SIUE	UIC	UIS	UIUC	WIU
Undergraduate Enrollment	144,989	--	2,490	7,557	3,899	19,798	6,822	13,333	9,523	11,861	23,451	3,125	36,277	6,853
Undergraduate Enrollment (Degree/certificate seeking)	138,000	--	2,405	5,232	3,820	19,656	6,581	13,227	9,313	11,648	22,468	3,030	33,848	6,772
Female	74,965	52%	69%	58%	63%	55%	57%	51%	46%	55%	52%	49%	46%	52%
Male	70,024	48%	31%	42%	37%	45%	43%	49%	54%	45%	48%	51%	54%	48%
American Indian or Alaska Native	177	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Asian	14,351	10%	1%	3%	2%	2%	9%	6%	2%	2%	20%	4%	19%	1%
Black or African American	18,169	13%	74%	16%	40%	9%	11%	17%	14%	14%	8%	14%	6%	19%
Hispanic or Latino	24,285	17%	9%	14%	15%	11%	39%	19%	10%	5%	33%	10%	12%	13%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	134	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
White	71,157	49%	3%	59%	30%	72%	27%	52%	67%	72%	27%	63%	42%	61%
Two or more races	4,509	3%	0%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Race/ethnicity unknown	3,177	2%	11%	4%	9%	1%	10%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Nonresident alien	8,850	6%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	7%	3%	15%	1%
Disability	**	**	<4%	6%	<4%	4%	5%	5%	7%	<4%	5%	<4%	8%	6%
Awarded Pell Grants	48,330*	37%	62%	35%	54%	30%	49%	43%	36%	33%	51%	36%	24%	48%
Awarded MAP Grants	49,114	36%	42%	44%	45%	30%	43%	42%	28%	22%	52%	35%	27%	38%
ACT Composite 75th percentile score	**	**	19	23	21	26	21	25	27	27	29	27	33	24
ACT Composite 25th percentile score	**	**	15	18	17	21	15	19	20	21	21	19	27	18
Full-Time Retention Rate	**	**	54%	74%	58%	84%	67%	78%	81%	78%	82%	74%	94%	77%
BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES Program of Study	16,983	13%	15%	13%	19%	20%	15%	17%	9%	9%	13%	19%	11%	14%
EDUCATION Program of Study	8,263	7%	10%	12%	6%	17%	8%	8%	8%	3%	3%	2%	3%	6%
ENGINEERING Program of Study	11,755	9%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	8%	5%	5%	12%	0%	22%	3%
BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES Program of Study	7,737	6%	7%	6%	3%	4%	4%	3%	7%	4%	11%	7%	6%	4%
PHYSICAL SCIENCES Program of Study	2,389	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%	3%
MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS Program of Study	2,346	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	3%	4%	<1%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), and ISAC Data Book. Most recent data available used.
 * Denominator used for calculating % with Pell Grant is a cohort comprised of those who could be considered for federal aid.
 ** Not available.

Differences in the number of recipients and the average grant size by funding source (state only, matching only, or both state and matching), as well as the differences in those recipients' demographics (again) were reflective of how many awards were made by each institution and the way they designed their program(s) in each of the program years. Matching programs, and the recipients who received AIM HIGH grants from only matching funds looked somewhat different than only state funded programs and programs funded with both state and matching funds, and their respective recipients. This is most likely due to the additional flexibility schools had when designing their match (only) program(s) – awards could go to recipients at any class level regardless of whether they were a first-time student or not, and awards could be renewable, but were not required to be. CSU, for example, chose to award both types of all of its AIM HIGH funding to (nearly all) the same students; which means that the demographic characteristics of its recipients are weighted heavily in this category of AIM HIGH awards and absent from the other two. ISU (and a couple of other schools) chose to meet their match by awarding grants through programs funded by both state and matching funds, resulting in their recipients' demographic characteristics being weighted heavily in this category.

Fourteen of the 42 AIM HIGH Programs were funded with only matching funds, nearly 36 percent of recipients were funded with only matching funds (4,631 of the total 12,891), and the average grant funded by only matching funds was less than the overall average (\$2,612 compared to \$3,761). Recipients receiving AIM HIGH grants with only matching funds were more likely than recipients who received AIM HIGH grants with only state funds or with both state and matching funds to be Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino (46% compared to 24% and 26%, respectively), to have smaller family sizes (1-2) (26% compared to 17% and 17%), to be a transfer student (27% compared to 18% and 7%), to have incomes of \$30,000 or less (33% compared to 20% and 24%), and to have lower GPAs (both freshmen entering with HS GPAs and current recipients with college GPAs) and standardized test scores.

The gender breakdown of AIM HIGH grant recipients was 62 percent female and 38 percent male. Females received grants at higher rates regardless of the funding source of their grant(s) – state funded, matching funded, or funded by both state and matching funds – and at every university, although that varies from 71 percent female at GSU to 55.1 percent female at NEIU. The most recent gender breakdown for all Illinois public university undergraduates is 52 percent female and 48 percent male.

Table 8: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Gender

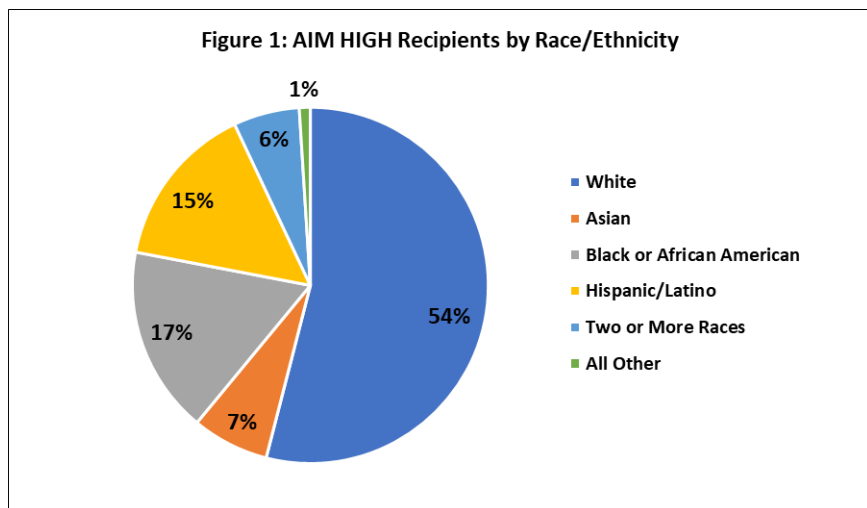
GENDER	Total #*	Male	Female
TOTAL	12,836	38.1%	61.9%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	5,405	38.6%	61.4%
Matching fund dollars only	4,606	40.0%	60.0%
Both State and matching dollars	2,825	34.1%	65.9%
CSU	173	31.8%	68.2%
EIU	1,214	33.4%	66.6%
GSU	578	28.7%	71.3%
ISU	2,069	34.3%	65.7%
NEIU	445	44.9%	55.1%
NIU	2,023	40.9%	59.1%
SIUC	776	43.4%	56.6%
SIUE	1,058	34.3%	65.7%
UIC	563	40.1%	59.9%
UIS	342	37.1%	62.9%
UIUC	1,512	44.5%	55.5%
WIU	2,083	38.5%	61.5%
*Missing = 55			

About 42 percent of AIM HIGH grant recipients were from the collar counties [DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Cook (outside of Chicago)], 17 percent were from Chicago, and about 41 percent from all other areas in Illinois. According to Census Bureau data, the current breakdown for the entire Illinois population is 25 percent collar area (excluding Cook County), 41 percent Cook County (including Chicago), and 34 percent all other counties in Illinois.² As expected, the AIM HIGH recipient geographic percentage breakdown by institution is reflective of the school’s geographic location, and the breakdown by funding source is reflective of how many awards were made by each institution and the way they funded their program(s). Eight of the 12 Illinois public universities are located outside the Chicago and collar area, three are located in Chicago, and one is located in the collar area. Schools do, however, draw students from surrounding areas and from across the State.

Table 9: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Geographic Area

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	Total #*	Chicago	Collar Area	All Other
TOTAL	12,626	16.8%	41.7%	41.4%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	5,411	10.5%	47.7%	41.8%
Matching fund dollars only	4,394	27.0%	30.5%	42.5%
Both State and matching dollars	2,821	13.2%	47.7%	39.1%
CSU	173	67.1%	29.5%	3.5%
EIU	1,214	8.7%	24.1%	67.2%
GSU	578	12.1%	77.7%	10.2%
ISU	2,069	7.3%	55.5%	37.2%
NEIU	238	63.9%	35.3%	0.8%
NIU	2,023	28.4%	54.1%	17.5%
SIUC	777	6.6%	23.8%	69.6%
SIUE	1,058	2.3%	7.2%	90.5%
UIC	563	35.5%	59.3%	5.2%
UIS	337	8.3%	21.7%	70.0%
UIUC	1,513	18.7%	58.2%	23.1%
WIU	2,083	17.7%	28.9%	53.4%
*Missing = 265				

The race/ethnicity breakdown of AIM HIGH grant recipients was 54 percent white, 15 percent Hispanic/Latino, 17 percent Black or African American, 7 percent Asian, and 6 percent two or more races. The remaining (less than) 2 percent of recipients were American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, non-resident alien, or race/ethnicity unknown. The breakdown of AIM HIGH recipients by race/ethnicity looked a lot like the



² “Population of Counties in Illinois (2022).” *World Population Review*, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/states/il>.

breakdown of Illinois public university undergraduates overall; AIM HIGH recipients were somewhat more likely to be White, Black or African American, or two or more races and less likely to be Asian, Hispanic, or a non-resident alien. For comparison, the most recent race/ethnicity breakdown for all Illinois public university undergraduates is 49 percent white, 17 percent Hispanic/Latino, 13 percent Black or African American, 10 percent Asian, 6 percent non-resident alien, 3 percent two or more races, and 2 percent the remaining categories identified above.

Compared to the race/ethnicity breakdown of all AIM HIGH recipients, students who identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino and/or Black or African American received grants at higher rates when funded by only matching funds and at lower rates when funded by only state funds or funded by both state and matching funds. This may be due to the criteria of the various AIM HIGH Programs and/or higher numbers of AIM HIGH recipients at universities that serve more minority students.

A comparison of the race/ethnicity breakdown of AIM HIGH recipients by university to the overall university breakdown in Table 7 shows that for 4 of the 12 universities, the percentage of people of color represented in their AIM HIGH recipients is higher than the percentage represented in their overall undergraduate population. For the other 8 universities, the percentage of people of color awarded AIM HIGH was similar or lower than the percentage of undergraduate people of color at their institution. The Public Act creating AIM HIGH instructed universities to use their best efforts to delegate grant funds amongst a racially diverse range of students.

Table 10: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Race/Ethnicity

RACE/ ETHNICITY	Total #*	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	Non- resident Alien	Race/ ethnicity unknown
TOTAL	12,890	15.1%	0.1%	6.5%	16.9%	0.0%	54.4%	5.5%	0.0%	1.5%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	5,426	13.2%	0.1%	10.7%	10.3%	0.0%	56.5%	7.6%	0.0%	1.6%
Matching fund dollars only	4,631	18.7%	0.1%	4.1%	26.9%	0.0%	43.7%	4.6%	0.0%	1.8%
Both State and matching dollars	2,833	12.6%	0.2%	2.4%	13.2%	0.0%	67.9%	2.9%	0.0%	0.7%
CSU	173	11.0%	1.7%	2.9%	76.3%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%
EIU	1,260	10.0%	0.2%	1.7%	15.9%	0.2%	65.2%	3.6%	0.0%	3.3%
GSU	578	23.0%	0.3%	1.9%	31.3%	0.0%	34.9%	4.5%	0.0%	4.0%
ISU	2,069	12.4%	0.0%	2.9%	5.5%	0.0%	75.4%	3.5%	0.0%	0.2%
NEIU	452	49.4%	0.0%	7.5%	8.4%	0.0%	19.1%	3.5%	0.0%	12.2%
NIU	2,023	11.5%	0.1%	6.4%	27.2%	0.0%	38.2%	16.2%	0.0%	0.4%
SIUC	777	10.7%	0.0%	1.9%	10.8%	0.0%	73.0%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%
SIUE	1,058	5.9%	0.1%	1.6%	10.1%	0.0%	76.6%	4.2%	0.0%	1.6%
UIC	563	30.6%	0.0%	30.2%	6.9%	0.0%	28.2%	3.6%	0.2%	0.4%
UIS	342	16.1%	0.0%	2.3%	12.6%	0.0%	65.8%	2.9%	0.0%	0.3%
UIUC	1,513	20.7%	0.0%	22.1%	7.0%	0.0%	45.7%	3.8%	0.0%	0.6%
WIU	2,083	12.9%	0.2%	1.4%	28.1%	0.1%	53.4%	2.9%	0.0%	1.1%

*Missing = 1

About one-fifth each of AIM HIGH recipients either have a family size of 1 or 2 (20%) of 3 (23%), or of 5 (18%), a little more than one-quarter of AIM HIGH recipients have a family size of 4 (28%), and about 11 percent have a family size of 6 or more. Recipients of AIM HIGH grants made with only matching funds were more likely to have a family size of 1 or 2 (26%) than recipients of AIM HIGH grants made with only state funds or recipients of AIM HIGH grants made with both state and matching funds (17% each). Recipients of AIM HIGH grants made with only state funds or made with both state and matching funds were somewhat more likely to report a bigger family size (5 or more) than recipients of AIM HIGH grants made with only matching funds – 30 percent and 34 percent compared to 26 percent, respectively. NEIU was much more likely than schools overall to have reported a smaller family size (1 or 2), and less likely than schools overall to have reported a larger family size (5 or more) – 43 percent (compared to 20% overall) and 19 percent (compared to 29% overall), respectively. CSU and GSU were also more likely than schools overall to have reported recipients with a smaller family size.

Table 11: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Family Size

FAMILY SIZE	Total #*	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
TOTAL	9,649	7.1%	12.8%	22.8%	28.1%	17.9%	11.3%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	4,916	5.6%	11.4%	23.1%	30.2%	18.4%	11.5%
Matching fund dollars only	3,262	10.2%	15.6%	23.1%	24.8%	15.5%	10.7%
Both State and matching dollars	1,471	5.5%	11.5%	21.0%	28.4%	21.7%	11.9%
CSU	173	13.9%	22.5%	18.5%	15.6%	17.3%	12.1%
EIU	1,212	5.3%	12.8%	24.3%	29.4%	17.1%	11.2%
GSU	578	18.9%	17.5%	18.9%	19.7%	11.9%	13.1%
ISU	603	0.5%	6.3%	21.4%	32.0%	27.2%	12.6%
NEIU	424	30.4%	12.7%	18.9%	18.9%	10.4%	8.7%
NIU	2,023	8.7%	15.2%	22.4%	24.8%	17.3%	11.5%
SIUC	777	2.3%	15.6%	25.9%	29.3%	17.9%	9.0%
SIUE	469	2.3%	7.9%	23.2%	35.0%	18.3%	13.2%
UIC	563	3.2%	5.7%	19.5%	31.8%	22.6%	17.2%
UIS	337	7.1%	13.9%	21.4%	28.8%	14.2%	14.5%
UIUC	1,485	0.3%	12.7%	26.3%	34.5%	18.2%	8.0%
WIU	1,005	10.7%	11.5%	21.6%	25.7%	19.3%	11.1%
Missing = 3,242							

All newly awarded AIM HIGH recipients were required to file the FAFSA or the Alternative Application and demonstrate financial need, with an initial household income no greater than six times the poverty guideline established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The poverty guideline at time of awarding for a family of four was \$25,750; six times that amount for use in the AIM HIGH Program was about \$154,500. Larger families have larger thresholds. About one-quarter of all AIM HIGH recipients had family incomes of \$30,000 or less (9% had

incomes less than \$10,000), 35 percent had incomes between \$30,001 and \$75,000, and about 31 percent had family incomes of \$75,001 to \$150,000. The remaining 8 percent of recipients had family incomes more than \$150,000. AIM HIGH grants made with only matching funds were much more likely to be awarded to lower-income students (those making less than or equal to \$30,000) than grants made with only state funds or grants made with both state and matching funds – 33 percent compared to 20 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

Figure 2: AIM HIGH Recipients by Income Level

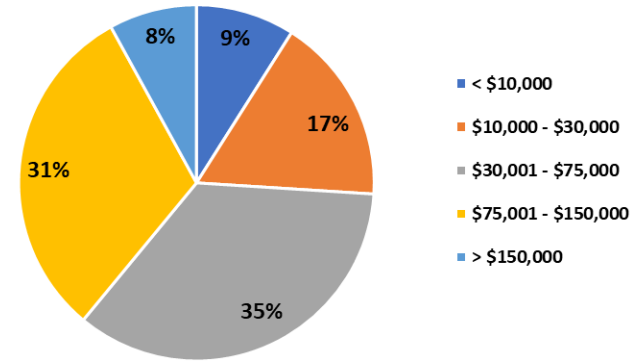


Table 12: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Income Range

INCOME	Total #*	Less than \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$30,000	\$30,001 - \$75,000	\$75,001 - \$150,000	More than \$150,000
TOTAL	10,404	8.5%	17.2%	35.4%	30.9%	8.0%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	4,812	6.4%	13.4%	32.3%	39.4%	8.5%
Matching fund dollars only	4,066	10.8%	22.3%	41.5%	18.1%	7.4%
Both State and matching dollars	1,526	8.8%	15.4%	29.4%	38.5%	7.8%
CSU	173	22.5%	34.1%	31.2%	11.0%	1.2%
EIU	1,214	9.9%	14.3%	32.3%	36.3%	7.2%
GSU	578	14.5%	26.8%	31.1%	21.6%	5.9%
ISU	603	3.5%	10.6%	20.7%	52.2%	12.9%
NEIU	265	36.6%	42.6%	17.4%	3.4%	0.0%
NIU	2,023	8.7%	20.3%	37.5%	27.6%	5.9%
SIUC	777	4.8%	13.3%	39.4%	35.6%	6.9%
SIUE	469	6.8%	9.8%	33.0%	43.1%	7.2%
UIC	563	7.6%	18.7%	37.1%	27.5%	9.1%
UIS	337	9.2%	16.0%	31.5%	36.5%	6.8%
UIUC	1,487	1.7%	7.2%	53.1%	29.2%	8.9%
WIU	1,915	9.3%	20.7%	29.6%	29.2%	11.1%

*Missing = 2,487

The breakdown of family income for AIM HIGH recipients by institution could be reflective of the population it serves and the income criteria of the Program, but also may be reflective of additional criteria schools set for their program(s). Three universities awarded more low-income students with AIM HIGH than the other 9 universities, with 41 percent or more of their recipients having family incomes of \$30,000 or less – CSU (57%), GSU (41%), and NEIU (79%) compared to 26 percent overall. A good indicator of the percentage of low-income students at an institution is the percentage who are eligible for a federal Pell Grant and/or the percentage who are eligible for an Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant.

Both grants are need-based, with grants based on a formula that calculates a family’s (or individual’s) ability to contribute to the cost of their education [the expected family contribution (EFC)]. Both Pell and MAP have an EFC cap to target aid to the students who have the fewest family resources available to pay for college. MAP grants are awarded to undergraduate Illinois students who attend MAP-approved Illinois institutions, which includes all Illinois public universities, community colleges, the majority of private non-profit institutions, and a handful of proprietary schools. MAP grants are applied to tuition and mandatory fees only and cannot exceed the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours. Pell Grants cover a wider range of college costs at a broader group of Illinois institutions, and they can be used for the equivalent of six years of full-time enrollment. The mean taxable income of a MAP-eligible dependent student in FY21 was \$33,882, and for an independent student was \$19,064 (among those whose income was greater than zero). Among the AIM HIGH recipients for whom Pell and MAP data were reported, more than half were Pell eligible (48%) and/or MAP eligible (50%). In comparison, 37 percent of all Illinois undergraduates at public universities received Pell Grants and 36 percent received MAP grants.

AIM HIGH recipients with awards funded with AIM HIGH matching funds were somewhat more likely to have been Pell Grant eligible (52%) than recipients with awards funded with AIM HIGH state funds (46%) or recipients with awards funded with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds (47%). Schools with 55 percent or more of their AIM HIGH recipients Pell eligible included CSU (87%), GSU (64%), NEIU (66%), NIU (59%), and UIUC (55%). As Table 7 shows, 4 of these 5 schools also have a higher proportion of their overall undergraduate population receiving Pell Grants compared to public universities overall.

Table 13: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Pell Grant Eligibility

PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY	Total #*	No	Yes
TOTAL	10,790	51.6%	48.4%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	4,945	54.0%	46.0%
Matching fund dollars only	4,309	48.5%	51.5%
Both State and matching dollars	1,536	52.6%	47.4%
CSU	173	13.3%	86.7%
EIU	1,214	48.9%	51.1%
GSU	578	35.6%	64.4%
ISU	603	68.7%	31.3%
NEIU	452	34.1%	65.9%
NIU	2,023	40.6%	59.4%
SIUC	777	47.6%	52.4%
SIUE	469	54.2%	45.8%
UIC	563	41.2%	58.8%
UIS	342	49.7%	50.3%
UIUC	1,513	45.3%	54.7%
WIU	2,083	78.9%	21.1%
*Missing = 2,101			

About half of AIM HIGH recipients were MAP grant eligible whether they received an award funded with AIM HIGH state funds (50%), AIM HIGH matching funds (49%), or an award funded with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds (52%). Nine of the 12 universities reported about half of their recipients were MAP eligible (ranging from 49% at SIUE to 87% at CSU), and the remaining 3 reported between 0 percent (UIC) to 36 percent (ISU) of recipients were MAP eligible.

Table 14: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by MAP Grant Eligibility

MAP GRANT ELIGIBILITY	Total #*	No	Yes
TOTAL	10,790	50.1%	49.9%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	4,945	50.2%	49.8%
Matching fund dollars only	4,309	50.8%	49.2%
Both State and matching dollars	1,536	47.6%	52.4%
CSU	173	12.7%	87.3%
EIU	1,214	46.0%	54.0%
GSU	578	29.8%	70.2%
ISU	603	63.8%	36.2%
NEIU	452	32.7%	67.3%
NIU	2,023	31.7%	68.3%
SIUC	777	41.1%	58.9%
SIUE	469	51.2%	48.8%
UIC	563	100.0%	0.0%
UIS	342	40.1%	59.9%
UIUC	1,513	37.9%	62.1%
WIU	2,083	78.9%	21.1%
*Missing = 2,101			

Only 2 of the 12 public universities, representing 10 percent of the AIM HIGH recipients, reported whether or not recipients reported a disability. Notably, unlike the K-12 level, students at the college level

self-report disabilities to their institutions. The percentage of recipients reporting a disability in total, by award funding source, and by institution all ranged in the four to six percent range. This is in line with the disability percentages reported for all undergraduate students by Illinois public universities reported in Table 7.

Table 15: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Disability Status

DISABILITY STATUS	Total #*	No	Yes
TOTAL	1,229	94.7%	5.3%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	557	95.0%	5.0%
Matching fund dollars only	659	94.4%	5.6%
Both State and matching dollars	13	100.0%	0.0%
CSU	-	-	-
EIU	-	-	-
GSU	-	-	-
ISU	-	-	-
NEIU	452	95.8%	4.2%
NIU	-	-	-
SIUC	777	94.1%	5.9%
SIUE	-	-	-
UIC	-	-	-
UIS	-	-	-
UIUC	-	-	-
WIU	-	-	-
*Missing = 11,662			

Among other criteria, institutions were required to either award first-time, full-time freshmen who recently graduated high school or first-time (at their institution), full-time transfer students, with AIM HIGH state funds, but could award full-time existing or transfer students at any class level with AIM HIGH matching funds. It is possible that a first-time student coming to the institution directly from high school could be at a sophomore grade level due to AP and/or dual credit coursework.

According to IPEDS data, about 22,970 of all undergraduates at Illinois public universities are full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students. About one-third of all AIM HIGH recipients (31%) in the third year of the Program were freshmen, 25 percent sophomores, 28 percent juniors, and 17 percent seniors. Assuming all individual freshman AIM HIGH recipients, regardless of funding source, were first-time freshmen (they did not have to be using matching funding, but are likely to be) results in about 17 percent of all public university full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates receiving an AIM HIGH grant in the third awarding year. Awards made with AIM HIGH matching funds and made with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds were somewhat more likely to be made to freshmen in the third year of the Program than were awards made with AIM HIGH state funds – 34 percent and 32 percent compared to 27 percent, respectively.

Class level of AIM HIGH recipients varied by institution and depended on how the institution designed their AIM HIGH Program(s), as well as how many year one and two AIM HIGH recipients returned in year three. About one-third (and up to 50%) of AIM HIGH grants were made to freshmen at five of the 12 public universities (CSU, EIU, NIU, SIUE, and UIUC), and less than one-third of grants were made to freshmen at the other seven universities (GSU, ISU, NEIU, SIUC, UIC, UIS, and WIU). Fifty-two percent of AIM HIGH recipients at UIC were seniors. Just 7 percent of recipients at UIC were freshmen, compared to 50 percent at CSU.

Table 16: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Grade Level

GRADE LEVEL	Total #*	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
TOTAL	12,891	30.5%	24.7%	27.8%	16.9%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	5,427	26.5%	21.8%	31.7%	20.0%
Matching fund dollars only	4,631	34.1%	23.7%	23.0%	19.2%
Both State and matching dollars	2,833	32.3%	32.1%	28.5%	7.2%
CSU	173	50.3%	26.0%	17.3%	6.4%
EIU	1,260	39.4%	24.2%	24.1%	12.3%
GSU	578	22.5%	13.0%	38.1%	26.5%
ISU	2,069	30.4%	35.4%	30.0%	4.2%
NEIU	452	17.7%	13.7%	33.8%	34.7%
NIU	2,023	34.4%	11.8%	35.4%	18.4%
SIUC	777	9.0%	25.0%	33.6%	32.4%
SIUE	1,058	32.1%	31.2%	23.6%	13.0%
UIC	563	7.1%	16.9%	23.8%	52.2%
UIS	342	18.4%	24.9%	24.9%	31.9%
UIUC	1,513	48.6%	26.8%	21.1%	3.5%
WIU	2,083	27.2%	29.8%	23.9%	19.1%
*Missing = 0					

Nineteen percent of AIM HIGH recipients were transfers, and that percentage was higher for grants made with AIM HIGH matching funds (28%) and made with AIM HIGH state funds (18%) than for grants made with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds (7%). Transfer status varied by institution and depended on how the institution designed their AIM HIGH Program(s). Some schools awarded little to no transfer students (ISU, SIUE, and UIUC) and two schools provided a substantial proportion of their awards to transfer students (NEIU and NIU).

Table 17: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Transfer Status

TRANSFER STATUS	Total #*	No	Yes
TOTAL	12,890	81.2%	18.8%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	5,427	81.9%	18.1%
Matching fund dollars only	4,630	73.3%	26.7%
Both State and matching dollars	2,833	92.7%	7.3%
CSU	173	63.0%	37.0%
EIU	1,260	89.7%	10.3%
GSU	578	74.2%	25.8%
ISU	2,069	100.0%	0.0%
NEIU	452	47.1%	52.9%
NIU	2,023	55.1%	44.9%
SIUC	777	71.4%	28.6%
SIUE	1,058	99.8%	0.2%
UIC	563	89.3%	10.7%
UIS	342	70.5%	29.5%
UIUC	1,513	95.6%	4.4%
WIU	2,082	76.8%	23.2%
*Missing = 1			

In line with about one-third of AIM HIGH recipients being freshmen, and the criteria that AIM HIGH state funds be used for first-time freshmen who recently graduated high school or to first-time transfer students, 57 percent of all AIM HIGH recipients were age 20 or younger. Thirty-four percent were 21 to 22 years old, 5 percent 23 to 24 years old, and 5 percent were older than 24. AIM HIGH recipients awarded with AIM HIGH matching funds or awarded both AIM HIGH state and matching dollars were more likely to be younger than recipients awarded with AIM HIGH state funds – 61 percent and 63 percent were 20 years of age or younger compared to 50 percent, respectively.

Age of recipients varied by institution and depended on how the institution designed their AIM HIGH Program(s). It may have also been reflective of the age of the students that the institution serves overall. Three schools were much more likely to have awarded older students (23 years of age or older) than the other schools – 21 percent at CSU, 42 percent at GSU, and 47 percent at NEIU. For the other nine schools, the percentage in that age range varied from less than one percent (SIUE and ISU) to 18 percent (NIU).

Table 18: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Age

AGE	Total #*	<=18	19-20	21-22	23-24	>24
TOTAL	12,854	1.1%	55.5%	33.9%	4.5%	5.3%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	5,409	1.0%	48.6%	40.4%	5.0%	5.4%
Matching fund dollars only	4,612	1.3%	59.6%	26.3%	6.0%	7.3%
Both State and matching dollars	2,833	0.8%	61.8%	34.1%	1.2%	2.1%
CSU	173	2.9%	54.9%	20.8%	6.4%	15.0%
EIU	1,260	0.4%	58.9%	34.1%	2.8%	3.8%
GSU	576	1.4%	25.2%	32.3%	14.1%	27.4%
ISU	2,069	0.3%	62.3%	37.4%	0.0%	0.1%
NEIU	452	0.9%	18.4%	33.6%	14.4%	32.7%
NIU	2,023	1.2%	38.7%	42.5%	10.1%	7.5%
SIUC	777	0.3%	42.2%	47.7%	7.6%	2.2%
SIUE	1,023	3.8%	71.0%	28.5%	0.1%	0.0%
UIC	563	1.2%	51.3%	41.7%	3.2%	2.5%
UIS	342	1.8%	48.0%	38.9%	5.0%	6.4%
UIUC	1,513	0.9%	68.1%	29.3%	1.5%	0.1%
WIU	2,083	0.8%	69.9%	21.7%	3.0%	4.7%
*Missing = 37						

For first-time freshmen, which represented 31 percent of AIM HIGH recipients, universities used high school GPA for awarding. About 14 percent of first-time freshmen had a 3.00 GPA or lower, and about 86 percent had a GPA of 3.01 to 4.00 (about 34% had a GPA of 3.01 to 3.50, 38% had a GPA of 3.51 to 3.99, and 14% had a 4.00 GPA). GPAs for first-time freshmen receiving grants funded by state AIM HIGH dollars were higher than grants funded by matching funds or by both state and matching funds. GPA percentage breakdowns also varied by university due to the students that each school serves as well as the criteria they set for their program(s).

Table 19: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Freshman Recipients by High School GPA

GPA	Total #*	<2.00	2.00-3.00	3.01-3.50	3.51-3.99	4.00
TOTAL	3,872	0.2%	13.7%	33.9%	38.2%	14.2%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	1,383	0.1%	8.2%	21.1%	44.4%	26.1%
Matching fund dollars only	1,578	0.3%	24.1%	36.8%	28.8%	10.1%
Both State and matching dollars	911	0.0%	3.8%	48.1%	45.0%	3.1%
CSU	84	0.0%	32.1%	44.0%	23.8%	0.0%
EIU	495	0.0%	3.4%	39.6%	39.8%	17.2%
GSU	92	2.2%	21.7%	44.6%	28.3%	3.3%
ISU	629	0.0%	0.2%	42.8%	52.3%	4.8%
NEIU	80	0.0%	36.3%	35.0%	20.0%	8.8%
NIU	680	0.1%	20.0%	34.4%	26.6%	18.8%
SIUC	69	0.0%	47.8%	40.6%	10.1%	1.4%
SIUE	340	0.0%	8.5%	28.5%	37.6%	25.3%
UIC	40	0.0%	10.0%	47.5%	42.5%	0.0%
UIS	62	0.0%	6.5%	67.7%	24.2%	1.6%
UIUC	735	0.1%	1.1%	14.4%	56.6%	27.8%
WIU	566	0.4%	39.0%	37.8%	22.3%	0.5%
*Missing = 60						

For all other AIM HIGH recipients (the other 69% of total recipients), universities used college GPA for awarding. The GPAs were similar for this group; about 15 percent had a 3.00 GPA or lower (13% between 2.00-3.00), and 85 percent had a GPA of 3.01 to 4.00. GPAs for non-first-time freshmen receiving grants funded by state AIM HIGH dollars only or by both state and matching funds were somewhat higher than for students receiving grants funded by matching funds only. Again, GPA percentage breakdowns varied by university due to the students that each school serves as well as the criteria they set for their program(s).

Table 20: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Non-Freshman Recipients by College GPA

GPA	Total #*	<2.00	2.00-3.00	3.01-3.50	3.51-3.99	4.00
TOTAL	8,807	2.6%	12.8%	25.4%	43.6%	15.7%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	3,895	1.4%	7.9%	22.4%	47.8%	20.5%
Matching fund dollars only	3,013	5.4%	20.1%	27.1%	36.0%	11.3%
Both State and matching dollars	1,899	0.6%	11.1%	28.7%	47.0%	12.7%
CSU	86	5.8%	34.9%	30.2%	23.3%	5.8%
EIU	754	0.7%	12.3%	26.3%	43.8%	17.0%
GSU	395	3.5%	12.2%	21.8%	42.3%	20.3%
ISU	1,440	0.1%	8.1%	28.9%	47.5%	15.5%
NEIU	350	1.1%	10.3%	27.4%	42.9%	18.3%
NIU	1,284	2.0%	5.9%	29.8%	51.9%	10.4%
SIUC	707	7.4%	16.1%	19.0%	31.7%	25.9%
SIUE	712	2.1%	22.9%	33.6%	34.8%	6.6%
UIC	523	0.4%	13.6%	20.3%	39.0%	26.8%
UIS	262	0.8%	7.3%	28.6%	53.8%	9.5%
UIUC	778	0.0%	3.3%	15.8%	65.2%	15.7%
WIU	1,516	6.7%	22.0%	23.5%	32.7%	15.1%
*Missing = 152						

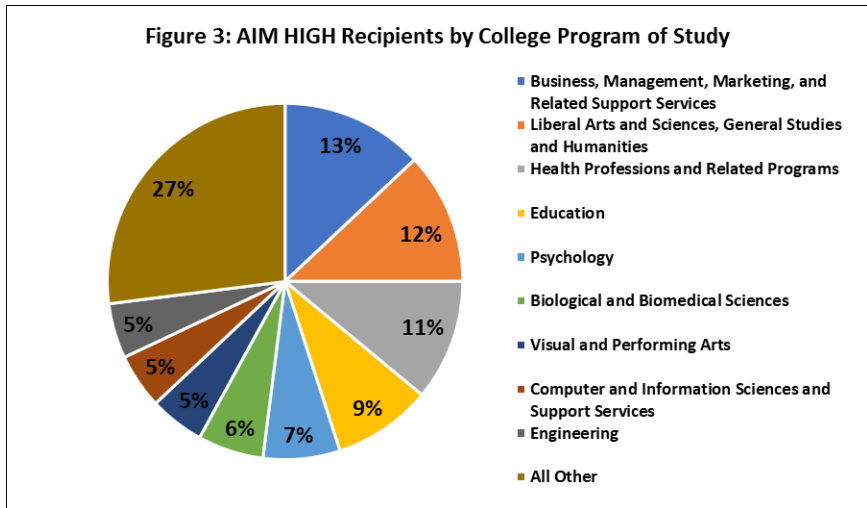
Standardized test scores, either ACT or SAT, were reported on 66 percent of all AIM HIGH recipients. About half of scores (49%) were ≤ 1150 SAT / ≤ 23 ACT and about half (51%) were ≥ 1160 SAT / ≥ 24 ACT. About one-fifth of all AIM HIGH recipients fell within the lowest standardized score range (≤ 1020 SAT / ≤ 19 ACT), while about 10 percent fell within the highest test score range (≥ 1440 SAT / ≥ 32 ACT). AIM HIGH recipients with grants funded with AIM HIGH state funds or funded by both AIM HIGH state and matching funds had higher standardized test scores than those funded by AIM HIGH matching funds: 65 percent and 57 percent had a ≥ 1160 SAT / ≥ 24 ACT compared to 28 percent, respectively. Standardized test scores for AIM HIGH recipients by institution varied greatly, just as they do for the entire undergraduate population by institution. Table 7 illustrates the variation of standardized test scores for all undergraduates by institution through the ACT Composite 25th and 75th percentile scores, which range from 15 to 32.

Table 21: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by Standardized Test Score

SAT/ACT Score	Total #*	Standardized Test Score					
		<= 1020 SAT / <= 19 ACT	1030 - 1090 SAT / 20 - 21 ACT	1100 - 1150 SAT / 22 - 23 ACT	1160 - 1250 SAT / 24 - 26 ACT	1260 - 1410 SAT / 27 - 31 ACT	>= 1440 SAT / >= 32 ACT
TOTAL	8,453	20.3%	13.6%	14.7%	21.1%	20.3%	10.0%
State AIM HIGH dollars only	3,640	13.1%	12.0%	10.2%	18.1%	26.0%	20.6%
Matching fund dollars only	2,570	39.6%	17.5%	14.6%	15.7%	10.9%	1.8%
Both State and matching dollars	2,243	9.7%	11.8%	22.0%	32.4%	21.8%	2.4%
CSU	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
EIU	1,066	26.3%	26.3%	17.4%	20.6%	8.9%	0.6%
GSU	46	47.8%	21.7%	13.0%	15.2%	2.2%	0.0%
ISU	1,889	3.1%	6.9%	21.8%	33.8%	29.2%	5.2%
NEIU	100	62.0%	15.0%	6.0%	6.0%	8.0%	3.0%
NIU	481	30.8%	17.7%	13.9%	18.7%	17.0%	1.9%
SIUC	632	20.3%	14.9%	16.8%	25.8%	20.1%	2.2%
SIUE	990	24.1%	18.2%	14.6%	22.9%	17.5%	2.6%
UIC	444	12.2%	8.3%	5.6%	10.1%	33.6%	30.2%
UIS	232	25.0%	23.3%	16.4%	19.4%	13.4%	2.6%
UIUC	1,234	1.9%	4.5%	6.1%	12.3%	31.6%	43.7%
WIU	1,339	47.7%	15.7%	13.1%	14.4%	8.1%	0.9%

*Missing = 4,438

As Table 22 illustrates, Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services was the college program of study for the most AIM HIGH grant recipients with about one in eight (13%) reporting this program of study, followed closely by Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities with about 12 percent reporting this program of study. More than half of the recipients at SIUE, and about 30 percent of the recipients at GSU and NEIU, reported their area of study as Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities. This would be a common program of study for first-time freshmen, which represent 31 percent of all AIM HIGH recipients, who often are not required to decide on a program of study until their second year of college. Eleven percent of AIM HIGH recipients' area of study was Health Professions and Related Programs, about nine percent Education, seven percent Psychology, and six percent reported Biological and Biomedical Sciences as their college program of study. No other area of study was identified by more than five percent of AIM HIGH recipients.



The Illinois Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) reports on the breakdown of undergraduates in just six programs of study (included in Table 7). A comparison of the breakdown between these six areas of study with a breakdown of AIM HIGH recipients between these same six areas

of study shows a similar percentage of recipients in the Business, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Mathematics areas. The percentage of AIM HIGH recipients in Education (in the breakdown of these six areas) was somewhat higher than for undergraduates overall (9% to 7%), and the percentage of AIM HIGH recipients in Engineering was somewhat lower than for undergraduates overall (5% to 9%). Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services was the most popular area of study among these six program areas of study and was the same when looking at AIM HIGH recipients for 6 of the 12 public universities (GSU, ISU, NIU, SIUE (tied for first), UIS, and WIU). For four schools, the most popular among the six areas of study was Education (CSU, EIU, NEIU, and SIUE (tied for first)), for two it was Biological and Biomedical Sciences (SIUC and UIC), and for UIUC it was Engineering.

In total, as Table 23 shows, Liberal Arts and Health Professions were both in the top three highest percentages of AIM HIGH recipients' programs of study whether the AIM HIGH grant was funded with only state funds, only matching funds, or funded with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds. Business was also in the top three programs of study for recipients funded with only state funds or only matching funds, while that was the area of study for just five percent of recipients funded with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds. Education was the other area of study in the top three for recipients funded with both AIM HIGH state and matching funds.

Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities was the college program of study reported the most for AIM HIGH grant recipients at 3 of the 12 universities – GSU, NEIU, and SIUE. Health Professions and Related Programs was the most popular area of study for the most AIM HIGH recipients at 3 of the 12 universities – CSU, NIU, and SIUC. Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services was the program of study reported for the most AIM HIGH recipients at ISU and UIS. Education was the most popular area of study for EIU AIM HIGH recipients, Biological and Biomedical Sciences for UIC recipients, Engineering for UIUC recipients, and Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services for WIU AIM HIGH recipients.

Table 22: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by College Program of Study (by Institution)

COLLEGE PROGRAM OF STUDY	Total #*	TOTAL %	CSU	EIU	GSU	ISU	NEIU	NIU	SIUC	SIUE	UIC	UIS	UIUC	WIU
BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES.	1,592	12.4%	13.7%	12.7%	14.5%	18.2%	10.2%	16.8%	6.6%	4.3%	10.5%	14.7%	7.6%	12.1%
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, GENERAL STUDIES AND HUMANITIES.	1,495	11.7%		7.9%	30.4%	3.1%	28.8%	6.3%	3.1%	54.2%	9.2%	11.4%	10.2%	2.8%
HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS.	1,416	11.1%	21.6%	5.5%	7.4%	13.8%	0.4%	17.6%	12.1%	15.1%	9.4%	0.6%	5.4%	11.7%
EDUCATION.	1,198	9.3%	14.4%	14.3%	8.3%	17.8%	14.6%	8.8%	7.6%	4.3%	2.5%	6.5%	4.5%	6.3%
PSYCHOLOGY.	890	6.9%	11.8%	7.0%	14.9%	5.4%	8.9%	8.4%	3.1%	4.3%	5.5%	10.6%	5.2%	8.0%
BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES.	782	6.1%	9.2%	7.1%	1.9%	5.1%	6.2%	3.7%	10.6%	3.6%	18.8%	9.7%	6.5%	5.0%
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS.	621	4.8%	1.3%	8.5%	1.2%	4.9%	3.5%	5.6%	5.3%	2.1%	2.5%	2.6%	3.7%	6.5%
COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.	594	4.6%	5.9%	3.3%	5.9%	4.2%	6.2%	5.3%	3.5%	1.2%	11.2%	10.6%	5.6%	3.3%
ENGINEERING.	590	4.6%		0.6%				7.5%	4.8%	2.1%	13.9%		16.8%	2.0%
HOMELAND SECURITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTING AND RELATED PROTECTIVE SERVICES.	523	4.1%	9.2%	3.8%	6.1%	1.6%	2.4%			0.9%	3.0%	5.6%		16.6%
SOCIAL SCIENCES.	437	3.4%	3.3%	3.1%	1.7%	2.9%	2.4%	3.9%	6.3%	0.9%	2.5%	3.8%	5.0%	3.5%
PARKS, RECREATION, LEISURE, FITNESS, AND KINESIOLOGY.	382	3.0%		7.5%			2.8%	2.8%	3.1%	1.8%	2.8%	3.5%	2.7%	3.1%
COMMUNICATION, JOURNALISM, AND RELATED PROGRAMS.	377	2.9%	2.0%	7.1%	1.6%	2.9%	2.2%	2.3%	3.7%	1.5%	1.4%	4.4%	3.1%	2.2%
PHYSICAL SCIENCES.	253	2.0%	2.6%	1.6%	0.5%	1.9%	0.7%	2.1%	1.3%	0.9%	1.8%	0.9%	2.2%	3.7%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE/LETTERS.	248	1.9%					1.1%		7.1%				5.6%	4.2%
MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS.	230	1.8%	1.3%	3.8%	1.7%	2.3%	2.2%	1.4%	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%	1.2%	1.3%	1.9%
HISTORY.	206	1.6%	2.0%	0.9%	1.0%	4.4%	0.2%	1.1%	0.4%	0.8%	0.5%	0.9%	2.9%	0.5%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS.	186	1.5%	0.7%	2.5%			2.9%	0.9%	1.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%	2.6%	1.1%
AGRICULTURAL/ANIMAL/PLANT/VETERINARY SCIENCE AND RELATED FIELDS.	171	1.3%			2.6%	0.8%	6.9%	0.1%	1.9%	0.3%	0.2%	3.5%	1.4%	2.7%
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES/HUMAN SCIENCES.	120	0.9%		1.0%			1.3%		2.4%	0.4%		0.5%		1.6%
ENGINEERING/ENGINEERING-RELATED TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS.	104	0.8%		0.8%			0.7%		0.9%	4.6%				1.3%
NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION.	80	0.6%					0.3%	0.9%	1.0%	2.4%	0.3%		2.9%	1.1%
MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES.	72	0.6%		0.5%				0.4%		0.6%	0.3%	1.1%	0.9%	3.1%
FOREIGN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND LINGUISTICS.	71	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%			0.8%	1.1%	0.6%	1.2%	0.1%	0.4%		0.5%
TRANSPORTATION AND MATERIALS MOVING.	47	0.4%							6.0%					
ARCHITECTURE AND RELATED SERVICES.	44	0.3%					0.5%		0.3%			2.6%		1.1%
LEGAL PROFESSIONS AND STUDIES.	41	0.3%							1.4%		1.1%		1.6%	
AREA, ETHNIC, CULTURAL, GENDER, AND GROUP STUDIES.	18	0.1%	0.7%		0.2%			0.4%			0.2%		0.9%	
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES.	13	0.1%		0.2%			0.1%	0.2%	0.1%		0.1%	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS AND SUPPORT SERVICES.	<10	0.1%					0.3%							
CULINARY, ENTERTAINMENT, AND PERSONAL SERVICES.	<10	0.0%							0.8%					
TOTAL	12,814	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Missing = 77

Table 23: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Recipients by College Program of Study (by Funding Source)

COLLEGE PROGRAM OF STUDY	STATE #	STATE %	MATCH #	MATCH %	BOTH #	BOTH %	TOTAL #*	TOTAL %
TOTAL	5,423	100.0%	4,582	100.0%	2,809	100.0%	12,814	100.0%
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, GENERAL STUDIES AND HUMANITIES.	613	11.3%	509	11.1%	470	16.7%	1,592	12.4%
BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES.	786	14.5%	570	12.4%	139	4.9%	1,495	11.7%
HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS.	554	10.2%	530	11.6%	332	11.8%	1,416	11.1%
EDUCATION.	456	8.4%	311	6.8%	431	15.3%	1,198	9.3%
ENGINEERING.	337	6.2%	357	7.8%	196	7.0%	890	6.9%
BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES.	403	7.4%	220	4.8%	159	5.7%	782	6.1%
PSYCHOLOGY.	258	4.8%	211	4.6%	152	5.4%	621	4.8%
COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.	295	5.4%	168	3.7%	131	4.7%	594	4.6%
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS.	455	8.4%	128	2.8%	<10	0.2%	590	4.6%
SOCIAL SCIENCES.	88	1.6%	333	7.3%	102	3.6%	523	4.1%
COMMUNICATION, JOURNALISM, AND RELATED PROGRAMS.	172	3.2%	190	4.1%	75	2.7%	437	3.4%
PARKS, RECREATION, LEISURE, FITNESS, AND KINESIOLOGY.	137	2.5%	154	3.4%	91	3.2%	382	3.0%
PHYSICAL SCIENCES.	167	3.1%	117	2.6%	93	3.3%	377	2.9%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE/LETTERS.	101	1.9%	97	2.1%	55	2.0%	253	2.0%
MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS.	64	1.2%	158	3.4%	26	0.9%	248	1.9%
HOMELAND SECURITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTING AND RELATED PROTECTIVE SERVICES.	100	1.8%	72	1.6%	58	2.1%	230	1.8%
HISTORY.	93	1.7%	34	0.7%	79	2.8%	206	1.6%
AGRICULTURAL/ANIMAL/PLANT/VETERINARY SCIENCE AND RELATED FIELDS	68	1.3%	49	1.1%	69	2.5%	186	1.5%
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES/HUMAN SCIENCES.	31	0.6%	109	2.4%	31	1.1%	171	1.3%
MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES.	51	0.9%	42	0.9%	27	1.0%	120	0.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION.	26	0.5%	63	1.4%	15	0.5%	104	0.8%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS.	41	0.8%	22	0.5%	17	0.6%	80	0.6%
FOREIGN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND LINGUISTICS.	43	0.8%	25	0.5%	<10	0.1%	72	0.6%
ENGINEERING/ENGINEERING-RELATED TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS.	30	0.6%	21	0.5%	20	0.7%	71	0.6%
ARCHITECTURE AND RELATED SERVICES	21	0.4%	26	0.6%	<10	0.0%	47	0.4%
TRANSPORTATION AND MATERIALS MOVING.	<10	0.1%	23	0.5%	18	0.6%	44	0.3%
AREA, ETHNIC, CULTURAL, GENDER, AND GROUP STUDIES.	21	0.4%	20	0.4%	<10	0.0%	41	0.3%
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS AND SUPPORT SERVICES.	<10	0.0%	15	0.3%	<10	0.0%	18	0.1%
CULINARY, ENTERTAINMENT, AND PERSONAL SERVICES.	<10	0.1%	<10	0.1%	<10	0.1%	13	0.1%
LEGAL PROFESSIONS AND STUDIES.	<10	0.0%	<10	0.0%	<10	0.2%	<10	0.1%
LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.	<10	0.0%	<10	0.1%	<10	0.0%	<10	0.0%

*Missing = 77

AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program Year Two Recipient Retention

In the second year of the program, academic year 2020-21, there were 10,631 AIM HIGH recipients. Forty-five percent of those AIM HIGH recipients were freshmen (4,818) 25 percent sophomores (2,624), 18 percent juniors (1,946), 12 percent seniors (1,242), with one missing observation. Of those 10,631 recipients, 4,323 (41%) received grants from only State AIM HIGH funds, 4,188 (39%) from only AIM HIGH matching funds, and 2,119 (20%) received grants from both State and matching AIM HIGH funds. NIU awarded the most students (2,061), and CSU the fewest students (124). Again, institutions are required to guarantee renewability and predictability for recipients [i.e., an institution is awarding the State-funded AIM HIGH grant for four years (can be less for a transfer student)], and requirements for renewal must be made clear at the time of the initial award]. Schools have the option to renew awards made with only AIM HIGH matching funds if they choose but are required to be clear on that front when awarding.

Of the 10,631 AIM HIGH recipients in year two (AY20-21), 62 percent (6,630) received an AIM HIGH grant in year three (AY21-22), and 38 percent (4,001) did not receive a grant in year three. Although graduation status was not collected on year two recipients in year three, it is likely that a main reason that a senior in year two did not continue to receive an AIM HIGH grant in year three was because they had graduated college. Thus, both year-two seniors (as well as 1 recipient with an unclassified grade level) were excluded from the retention analysis by funding source and demographics. Eighty-eight percent (9,388) of the 10,631 AIM HIGH recipients in year two were freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. As Table 24 illustrates, of those 9,388 recipients, 65 percent (6,108) returned in the third year of the program **and received an AIM HIGH grant**. The status provided by each school for a student who did not continue to receive a grant in year three indicates that at least 85 percent of all freshmen, sophomore, and junior year-two grant recipients were retained into year three, although they did not all continue to receive an AIM HIGH Grant.

Table 24: Year Two (AY20-21) AIM HIGH Recipients in Year Three

	Total #*	Total %
TOTAL – All	10,631	100%
Retained in Program – All	6,630	62%
Not Retained in Program – All	4,001	38%
All Seniors	1,242	-
All Unclassified	1	-
TOTAL – Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors (F, S, J)	9,388	
Retained in Program Total – F, S, J	6,108	65%
Not Retained in Program Total – F, S, J	3,280	35%
Not Retained – F, S, J; Status Missing	1	<0.1%
Not Retained – F, S, J; Enrolled, eligible, unawarded	163	5%
Not Retained – F, S, J; Enrolled, non-eligible	1,662	51%
Not Retained – F, S, J; Not enrolled	1,368	42%
Not Retained – F, S, J; Enrolled, eligible, not included in match	86	2%

As Table 25 points out, the retention rates for students awarded grants in year two from State AIM HIGH funds only or from both State and matching AIM HIGH funds were higher than the retention rate for year two students awarded grants from AIM HIGH matching funds only – 76 percent and 79 percent, compared to 46 percent. Retention rates for grants made by institution were lower for grants made from only matching funds than for the grants they made from only State funds or from both State and matching funds for eight of the nine schools that made grants from AIM HIGH matching funds only (EIU, NEIU, NIU, SIUC, SIUE, UIC, UIUC, and WIU), and the rate was higher for the other school (GSU). The retention rate for recipients who returned in year three and continued to receive an AIM HIGH grant made from only matching funds could have been lower for several reasons: the demographics of those receiving

grants from AIM HIGH only matching funds differed from those receiving grants from only State funds or from both matching and State funds; grants made from only AIM HIGH matching funds did not have to be renewed (although the school could have chosen to do so); and/or, a school could have reported on a completely different group of students in year two in order to meet their matching requirement for the Program.

Due to the numerous reasons that retention rates could have been lower for recipients who received grants made from only matching AIM HIGH funds, the following analysis focuses on recipients who received only State-funded grants or grants made from both State and matching State funds. Absent recipients who received only matching-funded grants, retention rates for AIM HIGH recipients ranged from 34 percent at CSU (overall) to 97 percent at UIUC (for recipients paid with State funds only). Table 7 (on page 17) includes the most recently available overall, full-time retention rates by institution (attended the school full time in the fall 2020, and returned in fall 2021 to the same school either full time or part time); those retention rates ranged from 54 percent at CSU to 94 percent at UIUC. Those overall retention rates compared to the AIM HIGH retention rates (for only State-funded grants and grants made from both State and matching funds) show the AIM HIGH rates to be higher for seven schools (GSU, ISU, SIUC, SIUE, UIC, UIUC, and WIU), lower for three (CSU, NIU, and UIS), and varied for two schools (EIU and NEIU). The retention rate for EIU AIM HIGH recipients of grants made from both State and matching funds was slightly lower than their overall undergraduate retention rate, while their rate for recipients of grants made from only State funds was higher than their overall retention rate. At NEIU, the retention rate for their AIM HIGH recipients from only State-funded grants was lower than their overall undergraduate rate, while their rate for those funded from both State and matching funds was higher. AIM HIGH year two retention rates reflect those who returned in year three *and* were eligible for an AIM HIGH grant in year three. It is possible that a year two recipient could have been retained at the institution but not included in the AIM HIGH retention rates because they were no longer eligible for a grant (for example, they could have dropped to part-time status).

Table 25: Year Two (AY20-21) AIM HIGH Recipients (Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors) Who Returned in Year Three (AY21-22) and Received an AIM HIGH Grant

	Total # Recipients	Total # Retained	Total % Retained	State AIM HIGH Awarded Only % Retained	Matching AIM HIGH Awarded Only % Retained*	Both State and Matching AIM HIGH Awarded % Retained
TOTAL	9,388	6,108	65%	76%	46%	79%
CSU	94	32	34%	-	-	34%
EIU	868	679	78%	81%	70%	72%
GSU	343	237	69%	63%	74%	-
ISU	1707	1460	86%	86%	-	85%
NEIU	315	142	45%	49%	39%*	83%
NIU	1798	807	45%	67%	6%	46%
SIUC	598	469	78%	83%	75%*	-
SIUE	684	575	84%	85%	83%	-
UIC	247	143	58%	95%	1%	-
UIS	354	114	32%	55%	0%	-
UIUC	810	647	80%	97%	66%*	-
WIU	1570	803	51%	78%	43%	88%

* Retention rates for AIM HIGH grants made from only matching funds could have been lower for several reasons (as noted in the analysis above). Three schools (UIUC, SIUC, and NEIU) used a different group of students to meet their AIM HIGH match in year three than they used in year two, which may understate their overall calculated retention percentages.

Demographic breakdowns for year two AIM HIGH freshman, sophomore, and junior recipients who returned and received an AIM HIGH grant in year three and for those who did not return (or returned and were no longer eligible for a grant) are illustrated in Tables 26 and 27, respectively. Year two AIM HIGH recipients who did not continue to be AIM HIGH recipients in year three, compared to recipients who did continue to be AIM HIGH recipients in year three, were somewhat more likely to be male (41%

compared to 37%), and more likely to be Hispanic/Latino (17% compared to 14%). Those not retained in the Program in year three were also much more likely to be Black or African American (28% compared to 12%), to be lower income (34% had incomes \leq \$30,000 compared to 18%), and to be eligible for a Pell Grant (67% compared to 47%) or a MAP grant (60% compared to 48%). High school GPAs for year two freshman recipients who did not receive a grant in year three were much more likely to be lower than those for those who continued to receive a grant (34% had a high school GPA of 3.00 or lower compared to 8%), and similarly for college GPAs of non-freshmen recipients (23% of those who did not continue to receive a grant in year two had a college GPA of 3.00 or lower compared to 7 percent of those who did continue to receive a grant). Finally, SAT/ACT scores for those who did not continue to receive an AIM HIGH grant were lower than for those who did continue to receive a grant (42 percent with a SAT \leq 1020/ACT \leq 19 compared to 16 percent).

Table 26: Year Two (AY20-21) AIM HIGH Recipients (Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors) Who Returned in Year Three (AY21-22) and Received an AIM HIGH Grant by Various Demographics

	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	CSU	EIU	GSU	ISU	NEIU	NIU	SIUC	SIUE	UIC	UIS	UIUC	WIU
Male	2,251	36.9%	18.8%	32.8%	23.6%	36.5%	28.8%	39.0%	39.7%	36.5%	42.7%	39.5%	44.7%	36.6%
Female	3,834	62.8%	81.3%	67.2%	76.4%	63.5%	71.2%	61.0%	60.3%	63.5%	57.3%	60.5%	55.3%	63.4%
Hispanic or Latino	831	13.6%	12.5%	9.1%	21.9%	11.4%	46.5%	7.9%	10.2%	5.2%	22.4%	21.1%	24.6%	15.3%
Asian	302	4.9%	3.1%	1.6%	1.3%	2.8%	5.6%	8.6%	1.5%	1.6%	28.7%	2.6%	15.0%	1.5%
Black or African American	748	12.3%	75.0%	13.8%	29.1%	4.2%	8.5%	16.2%	4.7%	7.8%	3.5%	14.0%	8.8%	26.3%
White	3,803	62.3%	0.0%	68.2%	36.3%	78.1%	23.2%	47.7%	80.2%	80.3%	41.3%	57.9%	47.8%	52.8%
Less than \$10,000	367	6.0%	21.9%	8.9%	11.0%	2.9%	21.1%	4.3%	5.5%	4.1%	2.8%	10.5%	1.1%	13.1%
\$10,000 - \$30,000	709	11.6%	34.4%	13.3%	27.4%	8.1%	29.6%	11.5%	10.0%	10.9%	6.3%	19.3%	5.1%	18.7%
\$30,001 - \$75,000	1,978	32.4%	34.4%	35.2%	34.2%	24.7%	38.7%	41.8%	30.1%	25.5%	29.4%	29.8%	62.4%	25.9%
\$75,001 - \$150,000	2,340	38.3%	9.4%	35.8%	23.2%	54.5%	9.2%	36.4%	49.9%	54.9%	49.7%	32.5%	26.4%	33.7%
More than \$150,000	410	6.7%	0.0%	6.8%	4.2%	9.8%	1.4%	6.0%	4.5%	4.8%	11.9%	7.9%	5.0%	8.6%
Not Pell Grant eligible	2,564	42.0%	9.4%	51.7%	36.7%	70.3%	23.9%	1.7%	60.8%	64.2%	65.0%	46.5%	36.6%	25.9%
Pell Grant eligible	2,845	46.6%	87.5%	48.3%	63.3%	29.7%	76.1%	98.3%	39.2%	35.8%	35.0%	53.5%	63.4%	74.1%
Not MAP grant eligible	2,676	43.8%	6.3%	45.3%	36.3%	63.6%	8.9%	40.4%	52.9%	0.0%	100.0%	39.5%	31.7%	48.3%
MAP grant eligible	2,899	47.5%	71.7%	54.7%	63.7%	36.4%	91.1%	56.9%	47.1%	100.0%	0.0%	60.5%	68.9%	51.7%
Freshman	2,604	60.6%	50.0%	49.3%	27.4%	50.8%	30.3%	21.8%	33.3%	32.7%	0.7%	36.0%	5.9%	100.0%
Sophomore	2,101	21.6%	34.4%	31.7%	25.3%	45.3%	17.6%	42.0%	37.1%	45.2%	35.0%	50.0%	38.3%	0.0%
Junior	1,403	17.8%	15.6%	19.0%	47.3%	3.8%	52.1%	36.2%	29.6%	22.1%	64.3%	14.0%	55.8%	0.0%
Not a transfer	5,225	85.5%	87.5%	81.6%	38.4%	99.9%	38.0%	59.6%	89.6%	99.8%	-	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
A transfer	740	12.1%	12.5%	18.4%	61.6%	0.1%	62.0%	40.4%	10.4%	0.2%	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
HS GPA <2.00	59	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	7.2%
HS GPA 2.00-3.00	149	5.8%	37.5%	4.2%	21.6%	1.8%	7.3%	1.8%	3.8%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	10.8%
HS GPA 3.01-3.50	990	38.4%	50.0%	34.0%	29.4%	40.7%	41.5%	52.4%	33.3%	25.5%	0.0%	43.9%	55.3%	38.5%
HS GPA 3.51-3.99	1,151	44.7%	12.5%	39.4%	45.1%	52.7%	29.3%	38.4%	57.1%	40.4%	0.0%	43.9%	36.8%	41.1%
HS GPA 4.00	227	8.8%	0.0%	22.4%	3.9%	4.9%	22.0%	7.3%	5.8%	31.9%	100.0%	9.8%	2.6%	2.4%
College GPA <2.00	18	0.5%	0.0%	1.8%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
College GPA 2.00-3.00	229	6.6%	12.5%	8.9%	6.2%	5.8%	6.1%	4.0%	5.4%	15.1%	2.8%	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%
College GPA 3.01-3.50	843	24.4%	31.3%	28.8%	23.3%	25.2%	32.3%	23.0%	16.6%	36.3%	11.3%	38.4%	19.0%	0.0%
College GPA 3.51-3.99	1,676	48.5%	50.0%	42.1%	36.3%	50.0%	43.4%	56.8%	37.7%	38.9%	35.2%	56.2%	58.9%	0.0%
College GPA 4.00	693	20.0%	6.3%	18.4%	30.1%	18.9%	18.2%	16.1%	39.0%	9.4%	50.7%	5.5%	16.1%	0.0%
<= 1020 SAT / <= 19 ACT	834	16.1%	83.9%	18.7%	42.9%	1.4%	61.9%	31.1%	12.5%	17.0%	1.4%	15.4%	3.0%	44.3%
1030 - 1090 SAT / 20 - 21 ACT	706	13.6%	16.1%	29.5%	26.5%	4.8%	14.3%	17.5%	15.4%	19.3%	3.5%	15.4%	6.4%	16.9%
1100 - 1150 SAT / 22 - 23 ACT	861	16.6%	0.0%	19.0%	16.3%	23.2%	14.3%	13.5%	18.1%	15.9%	0.0%	15.4%	9.0%	13.9%
1160 - 1250 SAT / 24 - 26 ACT	1,262	24.4%	0.0%	22.3%	12.2%	36.1%	4.8%	18.8%	29.3%	24.8%	6.3%	30.8%	18.4%	14.1%
1260 - 1410 SAT / 27 - 31 ACT	1,148	22.2%	0.0%	10.1%	2.0%	29.2%	0.0%	17.3%	22.6%	20.3%	51.0%	15.4%	33.9%	10.0%
>= 1440 SAT / >= 32 ACT	362	7.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	5.3%	4.8%	1.7%	2.0%	2.7%	37.8%	7.7%	29.4%	0.8%

Percentages for individual measures may not add to 100 due to missing or omitted values.

**Table 27: Year Two (AY20-21) AIM HIGH Recipients (Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors) Who Did Not Return in Year Three (AY21-22)
by Various Demographics**

	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	CSU	EIU	GSU	ISU	NEIU	NIU	SIUC	SIUE	UIC	UIS	UIUC	WIU
Male	1,336	40.7%	26.2%	38.4%	30.2%	50.2%	41.9%	39.9%	34.9%	39.4%	51.0%	45.8%	37.0%	41.3%
Female	1,932	58.9%	73.8%	61.6%	69.8%	49.8%	58.1%	60.1%	65.1%	60.6%	49.0%	54.2%	63.0%	58.7%
Hispanic or Latino	551	16.8%	9.7%	12.2%	14.2%	17.8%	51.4%	12.2%	12.4%	4.1%	49.0%	15.0%	31.6%	11.9%
Asian	113	3.5%	0.0%	0.5%	3.8%	0.4%	9.8%	2.6%	0.8%	1.4%	26.0%	5.0%	9.8%	0.9%
Black or African American	922	28.1%	82.3%	22.2%	42.5%	11.7%	15.0%	41.8%	8.1%	6.2%	10.6%	15.0%	20.2%	27.6%
White	1,406	42.9%	4.8%	59.8%	29.2%	65.2%	15.0%	27.2%	72.5%	77.5%	11.5%	56.7%	35.6%	53.8%
Less than \$10,000	375	11.4%	16.1%	13.5%	10.4%	3.2%	19.1%	11.8%	4.7%	12.8%	12.5%	5.9%	0.6%	16.9%
\$10,000 - \$30,000	726	22.3%	32.3%	23.2%	20.8%	18.2%	27.7%	29.4%	14.7%	15.4%	29.8%	17.6%	1.2%	21.1%
\$30,001 - \$75,000	1,155	35.2%	35.5%	41.6%	36.8%	26.3%	42.2%	36.0%	31.0%	24.4%	49.0%	22.9%	95.1%	28.0%
\$75,001 - \$150,000	723	22.0%	16.1%	17.8%	27.4%	44.5%	11.0%	19.3%	44.2%	42.3%	8.7%	21.5%	2.5%	24.3%
More than \$150,000	217	6.6%	0.0%	3.8%	4.7%	7.7%	0.0%	3.5%	5.4%	5.1%	0.0%	32.2%	0.6%	9.6%
Not Pell Grant eligible	767	23.4%	19.4%	28.6%	34.0%	59.5%	32.4%	1.1%	55.8%	48.7%	13.5%	63.8%	8.0%	21.5%
Pell Grant eligible	2,205	67.2%	80.6%	71.4%	66.0%	40.5%	67.7%	98.9%	44.2%	51.3%	86.5%	36.3%	92.0%	78.5%
Not MAP grant eligible	1,151	35.1%	19.4%	32.4%	38.7%	52.2%	7.7%	20.1%	46.5%	0.0%	100.0%	63.8%	4.9%	49.3%
MAP grant eligible	1,969	60.1%	80.6%	67.6%	61.3%	47.8%	92.3%	79.9%	56.5%	100.0%	0.0%	36.3%	95.1%	50.7%
Freshman	2,214	67.5%	85.5%	67.2%	44.3%	83.4%	37.3%	63.8%	48.8%	72.5%	20.2%	52.1%	17.8%	100.7%
Sophomore	523	15.9%	6.5%	20.6%	19.8%	15.4%	16.2%	15.8%	29.5%	24.8%	38.5%	23.8%	45.4%	0.0%
Junior	543	16.6%	8.1%	12.2%	35.8%	1.2%	46.2%	20.4%	21.7%	2.8%	41.3%	24.2%	36.8%	0.0%
Not a transfer	2,866	87.4%	93.5%	86.2%	50.9%	100.0%	74.6%	74.3%	90.7%	100.0%	-	97.5%	100.0%	100.0%
A transfer	414	12.6%	6.5%	13.8%	49.1%	0.0%	25.4%	25.7%	8.7%	0.0%	-	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%
HS GPA <2.00	333	15.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.6%	0.0%	41.9%
HS GPA 2.00-3.00	400	18.3%	43.4%	9.4%	37.5%	10.2%	20.3%	19.0%	1.6%	15.2%	23.8%	3.2%	3.4%	15.1%
HS GPA 3.01-3.50	767	35.1%	41.5%	52.0%	37.5%	48.1%	43.8%	32.7%	39.7%	32.9%	57.1%	52.8%	65.5%	24.6%
HS GPA 3.51-3.99	565	25.9%	13.2%	31.5%	22.5%	39.8%	31.3%	24.9%	58.7%	40.5%	14.3%	34.4%	24.1%	17.3%
HS GPA 4.00	120	5.5%	1.9%	7.1%	2.5%	1.9%	4.7%	13.4%	0.0%	11.4%	4.8%	0.0%	6.9%	1.0%
College GPA <2.00	26	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	10.8%	0.0%	1.0%	3.2%	10.6%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	-
College GPA 2.00-3.00	201	20.6%	33.3%	28.0%	18.9%	53.7%	14.3%	18.2%	15.2%	37.0%	33.7%	13.0%	15.7%	-
College GPA 3.01-3.50	321	32.9%	33.3%	32.0%	18.9%	12.2%	40.8%	33.9%	18.2%	37.0%	36.1%	43.5%	30.6%	-
College GPA 3.51-3.99	336	34.4%	33.3%	32.0%	35.1%	24.4%	31.6%	34.8%	30.3%	11.1%	21.7%	40.0%	49.3%	-
College GPA 4.00	92	9.4%	0.0%	8.0%	16.2%	9.8%	12.2%	10.1%	25.8%	3.7%	8.4%	3.5%	3.7%	-
<= 1020 SAT / <= 19 ACT	946	41.8%	79.2%	19.0%	45.0%	1.2%	55.9%	62.7%	17.9%	25.7%	25.3%	28.0%	4.4%	59.4%
1030 - 1090 SAT / 20 - 21 ACT	391	17.3%	10.4%	37.5%	35.0%	5.7%	14.7%	15.8%	21.1%	21.8%	25.3%	20.0%	13.3%	15.6%
1100 - 1150 SAT / 22 - 23 ACT	314	13.9%	8.3%	18.5%	10.0%	30.8%	14.7%	7.7%	16.3%	19.8%	11.0%	4.0%	20.9%	10.4%
1160 - 1250 SAT / 24 - 26 ACT	361	15.9%	2.1%	15.2%	10.0%	38.1%	2.2%	9.1%	28.5%	20.8%	19.8%	8.0%	25.9%	9.6%
1260 - 1410 SAT / 27 - 31 ACT	225	9.9%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	21.9%	15.6%	4.5%	14.6%	11.9%	13.2%	28.0%	31.0%	4.2%
>= 1440 SAT / >= 32 ACT	28	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.1%	1.6%	0.0%	5.5%	12.0%	4.4%	0.8%

AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program Impact

For many, the 2021-22 academic year marked a return to college campuses and in-person instruction as the COVID-19 pandemic got more under control. However, the impacts of the pandemic continued to make it challenging for schools to anticipate enrollment patterns and to address the barriers that some students continued to face. Additionally, universities face declining high school graduating classes and continued challenges around perceptions of the value of a college degree and media attention on student loan debt. Overall fall 2021 enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by 1.2 percent compared to fall 2020, beating national trends in fall 2021 enrollment. This increase is the result of undergraduate enrollment being down by 0.9 percent, while graduate and professional enrollment increased by 6.4 percent. Freshmen enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by 7.8 percent year over year. This too bucked national trends, which indicated a 2.7 percent decline in freshmen at all public universities. The data suggest that AIM HIGH was one reason Illinois outperformed other states, with about one-third of AIM HIGH grants going to freshmen.³

Each public university was required to provide a statement on the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program's impact on tuition revenue, enrollment goals, access, and affordability for the third year of the Program, academic year 2021-22. The verbatim statements can be found in Table 2 in the Appendix. A variety of comments on the various positive impacts of AIM HIGH in the third year of the Program were provided by schools.

- Three of the of the 12 public universities mentioned the continued challenges they face with student enrollment, retention, and affordability as impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic linger. One of the schools indicated their enrollment goals were unaffected due to the direct impacts of the pandemic, one school reported that AIM HIGH was a critical component in maintaining stable enrollment through the pandemic, and one school suggested that AIM HIGH contributed to the success of students as they made their way through the pandemic.
- Three of the of the 12 public universities specifically indicated that AIM HIGH is an important component in their strategic enrollment management plans working to reach a broader group of possible students, attracting Illinois students who would otherwise migrate to institutions outside the State, improving student retention and success, reducing achievement gaps, and/or improving college affordability.
- All schools indicated that AIM HIGH allowed scholarship expansion that assisted with recruitment of new and/or transfer students overall or of other students they have been trying to attract and/or new groups of students they would like to attract: talented/high-achieving students (6 schools), low-income students (4 schools), students considering leaving Illinois to attend college in another state (4 schools), students who may not have thought attending was possible (3 schools), and/or students just above the thresholds for receiving federal and/or state need-based aid (1 school).
- Seventy-five percent (nine schools) indicated that AIM HIGH had a positive impact on student affordability (reduced student loan debt, unmet need, or out-of-pocket costs for students, etc.).
- One-third (4 universities) reported that AIM HIGH supported long-term success or improved student retention.
- One-quarter (3 universities) specifically indicated AIM HIGH allowed them to better assist underrepresented students, with one of those schools indicating AIM HIGH match-funded programs were specifically focused on diversity, inclusion, and community.
- Two universities reported AIM HIGH increased tuition revenue (1 of those schools indicated that allowed them to provide additional scholarships and grants to students), and one reported AIM HIGH allowed them to provide the full "college experience" to students by assisting with room and board costs.

³ See note 1 above

AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program Report Appendix

Table 1: AY21-22 AIM HIGH Programs and Criteria

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
Chicago State University (freshmen) https://www.csu.edu/financialaid/AIMHigh.htm					
AIM HIGH Merit Scholarship Funding Source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds	2.50+	18+/960+	\$6,000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous full-time enrollment; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress and good judicial standing
AIM HIGH SUCCESS U Scholarship Funding Source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds	Admission to the CSU Success U Program		\$3,000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous full-time enrollment; • Maintain SAP and good judicial standing
Chicago State University (transfer students) https://www.csu.edu/financialaid/AIMHigh.htm					
AIM HIGH Transfer Scholarship Funding Source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds	2.50+		\$6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have earned a minimum of 24 transfer hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous full-time enrollment; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress and good judicial standing
Eastern Illinois University https://www.eiu.edu/aimhigh/					
EIU Promise (EPROM) Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.0+		Full cost of tuition & fees up to 15 credit hours per semester, including textbook rental fees, minus other gift aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family AGI of \$66,000 or less; • Family assets of \$100,000 or less; • Admitted to EIU as full-time incoming freshman (maximum of 15 credit hours) in Fall 2019 or later; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.0+ GPA; • Continuous full-time enrollment; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress;

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
			Transfer students are eligible for up to 2 years of EIU Promise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIU financial aid packaged and completed by June 1. 	
EIU Freshman Merit Scholarship Distinguished Merit High Achieving Merit Academic Merit Funding Source: School matching funds	3.85-4.0 3.60-3.94 3.0-3.59		\$4,000 per year \$3,000 per year \$2,000 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transcripts can be updated through June 1 to qualify for the scholarship or qualify for a higher amount. If only one semester was taken at a community college or another university, the student may qualify for the freshman merit scholarships for 4 years (rather than the transfer merit scholarship for 2 years). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 3.0+ GPA Maintain 2.75+ GPA Maintain 2.5+ GPA Continuous full-time enrollment for all merit scholarships.
EIU Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship Tier One Tier Two Funding Source: School matching funds	3.5-4.0 3.0-3.49		\$2,500 per year \$1,500 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transcripts can be updated through the first day of classes to either qualify or go up a scholarship level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 3.0+ GPA Maintain 2.75+ GPA
EIU Cost Match (EMATCH) Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.3 minimum		Matches the out-of-pocket COA from any public 4-year in the U.S. (outside of IL) that is accredited by one of the six regional accrediting organizations for up to 8 continuous semesters: Higher Learning Commission; Middle States Commission on Higher Education; New England Commission of Higher Education; Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; Southern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit financial aid award letter from qualifying institution; One parent (listed on FAFSA) must be an IL resident; Athletic scholarships not considered as part of the match; Enrolled as incoming full-time freshman (12+ credit hours) in Fall 2019 or later; EIU financial aid packaged and completed by June 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain minimum 2.0 GPA; Continuous full-time enrollment; Maintain satisfactory academic progress

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
			Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; and Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Excludes costs not covered by other federal, state, institutional and private awards including Federal Pell Grant, State of Illinois MAP Program (MAP), Federal Loans and other awards.		
EIU Merit Bonus (MERITB) Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.3		\$500 Combines AIM High funds with existing EIU Merit Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admitted to EIU as full-time incoming freshman Enroll as full-time freshman (minimum 12 hours) EIU financial aid packaged and completed by June 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 2.00 GPA; Continuous full-time enrollment
EIU Transfer AIM High Bonus (MERITT) High Achieving Merit Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.3		\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll as full-time transfer student; EIU financial aid packaged and completed by June 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 2.75 GPA; Continuous full-time enrollment
Governors State University https://www.govst.edu/AimHigh/					
AIM HIGH Freshman Guaranteed Scholarships Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds and school matching funds	3.75+	19+/980+	\$6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant money can also be used for housing and meal charges and books and supplies; Must agree to participate in a guided pathway first year experience of your choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous full-time enrollment; Maintain satisfactory academic progress;
	3.25-3.749		\$5,000		
	3.0-3.249		\$4,000		
	2.75-2.99		\$3,000		
AIM HIGH Transfer Guaranteed Scholarships	3.75+	19+/980+	\$4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer students from community colleges must have earned an associate degree; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous full-time enrollment
	3.50-3.749		\$3,000		
	3.25-3.499		\$2,000		

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
Funding Source: School matching funds only	2.75-3.249		\$1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer students w/24+ credit hours from any 4-year school do not require earned Associate degree; • Transfer students w/less than 23 credit hours from 4-year school will be considered for first-Year AIM HIGH awards 	
Illinois State University https://financialaid.illinoisstate.edu/scholarships/aim-high/ https://illinoisstate.edu/admissions/scholarships/					
AIM HIGH Scholarship Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.8+		Up to \$2,000 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference given to students who file FASFA by March 1st 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.75+ GPA; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
AIM HIGH Transfer Student Scholarship Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.5+ cumulative transfer GPA		Up to \$1,500 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed 24+ credit hours at another institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.75+ GPA; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress; • Renewable for 1 year
Redbird Scholarship Funding Source: School matching funds only	3.0+/4.0 scale		\$1,000-5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference given to students who file FASFA by March 1st 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.75+ GPA; • Continuous full-time enrollment;
Presidential Scholarship Funding Source: School matching funds only	3.75+/4.0 scale		Up to \$12,000 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit ISU scholarship form by December 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0+ GPA; • Continuous full-time enrollment
University Scholarship Funding Source: School matching funds only	3.5+/4.0 scale		Minimum of \$10,000 Awarded to traditionally underrepresented or first-generation freshmen students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit ISU scholarship form by December 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.75+ GPA; • Continuous full-time enrollment

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
Northeastern Illinois University https://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/golden-opportunity-scholarship https://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/types-grant-assistance					
Golden Opportunity Scholarship Funding source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.0+ GPA	N/A	\$4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less; • Enrolled FT in 12+ credit hours • Freshman and transfer students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 2.5+ GPA
NEIU Eagle Performance Funding source: School matching funds only	3.0 (cumulative NEIU GPA)	N/A	Up to \$3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EFC of \$11,000 or less; • Full-time enrollment status (minimum 12 credit hours); • Be ineligible for a MAP Grant 	N/A
NEIU STAR Scholarship (City Colleges of Chicago Scholarship) Funding source: School matching funds only	3.0 CCC transfer GPA		Up to \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time enrollment status; • Graduates from one of the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) who participated in the STARS program and graduated with an AA or AS degree; • Complete 30 semester hours per year at NEIU; • Declare a major; • Two-year scholarship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0+ GPA; •
Northern Illinois University https://niu.edu/aimhigh/					
Freshmen Excellence AIM HIGH Scholarship (Cohort 1) Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds and school matching funds	NIU uses an academic index score, computed with the cumulative high school grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) and highest reported SAT (math plus verbal) or composite ACT score.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIU Scholars: \$2,466 • Huskie Excellence: \$1,000 • Northern Academic: \$1,000 • Centennial: \$1,000 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.0+ GPA; • Continuous full-time enrollment; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress
Transfer Excellence AIM HIGH Scholarship (Cohort 1)	3.25+ transfer GPA		\$2,500		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.25+ GPA; • Continuous full-time enrollment;

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/ Information	Renewal Requirements
Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain satisfactory academic progress
Huskie Pledge Program (Cohorts 2 and 3) Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.0		Issued to entering full-time freshman to cover tuition and fees that aren't met by other financial aid (grants and scholarships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family AGI and family assets of \$75,000 or less; Guarantees tuition and general fees are met with gift aid for at least a student's first year. Priority deadline, February 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewed regardless of increases/decreases to other gift aid, up to four more years.
AIM HIGH Transfer Achievement Award (Cohorts 2 and 3) Funding Source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2,000 	Receive a Transfer Merit Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable until student completes degree or reach 135 total earned hours
NIU Partnership Awards Funding Source: School matching funds only	3.0+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$2,000 	Freshman: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering graduates of DeKalb County high schools Entering graduates of all Chicago Public High Schools Transfer students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kishwaukee College Transfer Scholarship; City College STAR Transfer Scholarship; Transfer Achievement Award (transfer students who did not meet AIM HIGH criteria) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-year scholarship One-year scholarship One-year scholarship Two-year scholarship One-time scholarship All renewal criteria the same as AIM HIGH
Southern Illinois University Carbondale https://fao.siu.edu/types/saluki-commitment.php					
Saluki Commitment (Cohort 3)	2.75+ GPA		Amount needed to cover tuition and fees, after other aid is applied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family AGI of \$63,575; Family assets of less than \$50,000; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll in a degree program;

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
Funding Source: Aim HIGH State funds and school matching funds				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be combined with other merit SIUC aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous full-time enrollment for 8 semesters; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress
Saluki Transfer Commitment (Cohort 3) Funding Source: Aim HIGH State funds and school matching funds	2.0+ transfer GPA		Amount needed to cover tuition and fees, after other aid is applied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 or more transferable credits; • Family AGI of \$63,575; • Family assets of less than \$50,000; • Can be combined with other merit SIUC aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in a bachelor degree program; • Continuous full-time enrollment for 4 semesters; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress
Freshmen AIM HIGH Award (Cohorts 1 and 2) Funding Source: Aim HIGH State funds only	3.5 GPA	24/1160	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be combined with other merit SIUC aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0 GPA
Freshmen Saluki Scholars Award (Cohorts 1 and 2) Funding Source: Aim HIGH State funds only	3.0	18-23 ACT	\$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be combined with other SIUC merit aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0 GPA
Transfer Saluki Scholars Award (Cohorts 1 and 2) Funding Source: Aim HIGH State funds only	3.0 – 3.49 transfer GPA		\$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer a minimum of 30 credit hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0 GPA
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville https://www.siu.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/list-feed/aim-high.shtml					
AIM HIGH Grant (Cohort 3) Funding source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds	2.75+			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority consideration given to students meeting the December 1 scholarship deadline; • Does not have a third party pay; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 GPA; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not a Meridian Scholar 	
AIM HIGH Grant – (Cohort 2) Funding source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds (SIUE 2020 Scholarship)	3.0 (for school matching funds)	20+ACT/1030+ SAT	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority consideration given to students meeting the December 1 scholarship deadline; • Does not have a third party pay; • Is not a Meridian Scholar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 GPA; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress
AIM HIGH Grant (Cohort 1) Funding source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds	N/A	20+ACT/1030+ SAT	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority consideration given to students meeting the December 1 scholarship deadline; • Does not have a third party pay; • Is not a Meridian Scholar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 GPA; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress
University of Illinois at Chicago http://financialaid.uic.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/ https://financialaid.uic.edu/types-of-aid/grants/institutional-grants/					
AIM HIGH (Chancellor's Fellows Program) Funding source: AIM HIGH State funds only	Ranked 1 st in graduating class or 3.8+ GPA	Have at least 10 Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate in 11 th and 12 th grades combined in core subject areas (math, science, English/Language Arts, Social Sciences/ Humanities, or Foreign Language) OR 33 ACT/1450 SAT	Up to \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UIC application and FAFSA must be completed by December 1; • Total EFC may not exceed \$9,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0 GPA

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
UIC Opportunity Grant UIC Access to Excellence Grant and UIC Gateway Grant programs have been combined into the UIC Opportunity Grant (some cohort 1 grants were awarded under the UIC Access to Excellence Grant) Funding source: School matching funds only			Up to \$3,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0-9,000 EFC; • Working towards first Bachelor's degree; • Submit FASFA by 3/15; • Maintain full-time enrollment; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing students who received the UIC Access to Excellence Grant must not have exceeded 8 paid semesters for 1st time students, or 4 paid semesters for transfer students
University of Illinois at Springfield https://www.uis.edu/cost-aid/scholarships/merit-scholarship					
Lincoln AIM HIGH Merit Scholarship Funding source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds	4.0+		\$8,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIM HIGH funds 50% of the scholarship amount, and the other 50% will come from UIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0+ GPA
	3.8-3.99		\$7,000		
	3.6-3.79		\$6,000		
	3.4-3.59		\$4,000		
	3.2-3.39		\$2,000		
	3.0-3.19		\$1,000		
Transfer Student AIM HIGH Merit Scholarship	3.75-4.0		\$3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have at least 30 transfer hours; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0+ GPA
	3.5-3.74		\$2,500		
	3.25-3.49		\$2,000		

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/Information	Renewal Requirements
Funding source: Both AIM HIGH State and school matching funds	3.0-3.24		\$1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer students enrolled part-time will receive pro-rated scholarship amounts; • AIM HIGH funds 50% of the scholarship amount, and the other 50% will come from UIS 	
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign https://osfa.illinois.edu/types-of-aid/aim-high-program https://osfa.illinois.edu/illinois-commitment/ https://osfa.illinois.edu/types-of-aid/grants/university-of-illinois-tuition-grant/					
AIM HIGH Program Funding source: AIM HIGH State funds only			\$5,000 to the top 5% of qualifying new in-state freshmen students admitted to each college	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference given to students that filed a FAFSA/RISE alternative application by January 5, 2021. • U of I will match the state funding with the IL Tuition Grant and IL Commitment programs; • Students awarded the AIM High Grant may also receive Illinois Commitment; • Students may change academic majors and/or colleges, without losing the scholarship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 GPA; • Continuous full-time enrollment; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress; • Not required to complete a FAFSA/RISE application; • Not required to meet income threshold
Illinois Commitment Program Funding source: School matching funds only			Provides scholarship and grant funding to cover the full cost of tuition and campus fees not covered by other federal, state, institutional and private awards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family income \$61,700 or less; • Family assets \$50,000 or less; • New freshman or transfer student; • Attended and graduated from IL high school; • Student and both parents must be IL residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable for up to 4 years (8 semesters) for incoming students, or up to 2 years (4 semesters) for transfer students
Illinois Tuition Grant Funding source: School matching funds only			Need-based grant - Awards vary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate student who has not earned a Bachelor's degree; • Student and both parents must be IL residents; 	

Program Name/Funding Source	HS GPA (unweighted)	Test Score ACT/SAT	Scholarship Amount (per academic year)	Additional Requirements/ Information	Renewal Requirements
				• Enrolled full-time	
Western Illinois University http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/financial_aid/aimhigh/index.php					
AIM HIGH Grant Funding source: AIM HIGH State funds only	3.4+		\$5,000-\$7,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum \$2,000 EFC and meet income requirements; • WIU will match the state funding with the Western Commitment Scholarship and the Leatherneck Book Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous full-time enrollment in degree-seeking program; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress
Western Commitment Scholarship Funding source: School matching funds only	3.9+ 3.6+ 3.3+		\$8,000 \$6,000 \$3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Commitment Scholarships are automatically awarded to incoming freshmen with a 3.3 GPA or higher (on a 4.0 scale) on a sliding scale with a maximum award of \$8,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous full-time enrollment; • Maintain satisfactory academic progress
Leatherneck (Freshman) Book Award Funding source: School matching funds only			\$1,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be Pell eligible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable for an additional 3 years

Table 2: AIM HIGH AY21-22 Statements of Program Impact

Public University	Statement of AIM HIGH Program Impact
CSU	<p><i>AIM HIGH has had a significant impact on the ability of Chicago State University to award grant funding to residents of the state of Illinois who may not otherwise be eligible. AIM HIGH has also had a direct impact on students with a higher EFC who would typically not be eligible for grants. Because of the income threshold and no EFC requirement, students who would normally receive no grant aid are receiving some assistance in covering the cost of attending CSU.</i></p> <p><i>12% of the students who received AIM HIGH were not eligible for either Pell nor MAP grants.</i></p> <p><i>3% of the students who received AIM HIGH were not eligible for one of the grants, either Pell or MAP grant.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, first-time full-time freshmen have been able to receive funding to assist with the cost of room and board. This has had a significant impact on residents being able to attend college in Illinois while still being able to have the college experience of residing in the residence hall. These students may not have been able to afford the cost of on campus room and board without the monetary assistance of AIM HIGH.</i></p> <p><i>21% of FY21 AIM HIGH recipients lived in on campus housing for the 2021-22 academic year.</i></p> <p><i>Enrollment goals were unaffected due to the direct impact of the pandemic in reducing overall college enrollment across the country. In addition, this also affected any impact AIM HIGH would have had on tuition revenue. Reduced enrollment prevented any positive impact that was anticipated based upon this grant.</i></p>
EIU	<p><i>Eastern Illinois University's programs this past year aimed to keep more college-bound students in Illinois with our cost-match program, make college accessible and promote student success for low-income student populations with EIU Promise, and keep our most talented college-bound students in Illinois with our freshman and Transfer merit bonus programs.</i></p> <p><i>AIM HIGH programs were a critical component for maintaining stable enrollment through the pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>AIM HIGH helped reduce the unmet need of Fall incoming Freshman by an average of \$314 in comparison to the previous year which ultimately contributed to greater access, and will support long-term student success for those students as they continue their education at EIU. This past year the AIM HIGH program continued to serve as a critical component in Eastern Illinois University's continuing efforts to improve enrollment, affordability, and access to the superior undergraduate education Eastern Illinois University has to offer.</i></p>
GSU	<p><i>The State of Illinois AIM HIGH Grant turned out to be an instrumental funding source in the development of GSU grants and scholarships. We were able to reach a broader group of students and generate more incentive for first-time enrollees and transfers. The AIM HIGH grant has become the centerpiece for determining future institutional scholarship budgets and will play a major role</i></p>

in our strategic enrollment planning. It has also greatly increased the affordability for all students but especially our full-time, on-campus students; many of whom are minorities and first generation college attendees.

ISU *The state Aim High Program continues to have a positive impact on tuition revenue, enrollment goals, access and affordability. The Aim High Program was a significant factor in the recruitment of high achieving Illinois students. During the 2021-2022 academic year students receiving AIM High funds attended in higher percentages when compared to the students who did not receive Aim High funds.*

NEIU *Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) provides Illinois resident students and families with another opportunity to reduce the overall cost of going to college and avert high indebtedness – via accounts receivable and student loans. NEIU continues to increase the institution’s visibility to a population who may not have thought attending a four-year university was possible. NEIU students graduate with the lowest loan indebtedness among all four-year public and private institutions of higher learning in Illinois. NEIU continues to implement initiatives with the intent of increasing yield, student persistence, and meeting direct costs. Of those offered the Golden Opportunity Scholarship (400 target first-time, full-time enrollment) for 2021-2022, 37% committed to NEIU. This cohort reflects a 50% increase of newly enrolled students over cohort two. 62% of cohort one recipients successfully persisted at full-time status throughout year three (2021-2022).*

NIU *NIU’s Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, dubbed “SEM 2.0”, for 2022 -2025 includes stable undergraduate enrollment. Attracting Illinois students who would otherwise migrate to higher education institutions in other states is a critical piece to achieving this goal in light of the declining demographics for new Illinois college bound and transfer students.*

Strategies within the SEM 2.0 Plan included a focus on improving undergraduate retention and student success, reducing achievement gaps and new approaches to financial aid and scholarships. The AIM HIGH program was a component of each of these strategies with criteria for State funds tied to merit and institutional new matching programs focused on diversity, inclusion and community.

Although 2021-2022 academic year was a year of uncertainty and continued to prove challenging to anticipate enrollment patterns and unusual barriers due to the continuance of the pandemic, the AIM HIGH program statistics continue to tell a story of students who were able to overcome these barriers to achieve their dream of obtaining a college degree.

- 39% of the incoming class received NIU’s Huskie Pledge and paid no out-of-pocket expenses for tuition and general fees. The average recipient was offered \$2,898 through the program.*
- The average high school GPA of the Huskie Pledge recipients was 3.53, which is considerably higher than the 3.34 average for the freshmen class despite being the second highest incoming overall GPA in the past decade.*
- 75% of new first-time freshman who received NIU’s Huskie Pledge Grant were Black or Hispanic.*
- Over 72% of all new students who received an AIM HIGH for Fall 2021 were also eligible for MAP. Our Huskie Pledge program combines AIM HIGH with MAP and Pell to give students a consistent aid package year after year.*
- Our matching programs provided access and opportunity to students who otherwise may not have been able to afford to come. 707 students received at least one scholarship from at least one NIU AIM HIGH matching program.*

SIUC	<p><i>SIUC is using AIM High to recruit high-achieving students by awarding funds to cover any gap in tuition and fees for students who meet the criteria. The awards are for four-years as long as the recipient maintains full time status and a 2.0 SIU GPA. SIU offered 722 AIM HIGH awards with a total of \$1,975,639.50, but only 455 accepted. Matching funds we offered 561 totaling \$1,297,401 and only 484 accepted.</i></p>
SIUE	<p><i>The AIM High program helped us renew our focus on enrolling and retaining Illinois residents. When AIM High funds were added to institutional aid strategies, we significantly reduced unmet need and out of pocket costs for Illinois residents. We increased the likelihood of enrolling an Illinois resident who was also considering leaving the state to attend college. For Fall 2021, SIUE had an increase of 9.5% Black and 7% of Hispanic undergraduate students from Fall 2020. There was an overall increase of 27% first year, first time students, a big shift from students who decide to are returning or transfer into SIUE.</i></p>
UIC	<p><i>UIC has effectively used its AIM HIGH allocation to recruit, attract, and retain high performing students by offering a sizeable financial award and admission to the Honors College. The program has allowed the university to recruit these high performing students all of whom have demonstrated financial need and offer them a place at an R1 institution with as little debt as possible upon graduation. It is the university's hope that Illinois General Assembly continues to support this program, so as to retain within Illinois this population of high performers.</i></p>
UIS	<p><i>The AIM HIGH program helps UIS attract and enroll new freshmen and transfer students, by supplementing institutional scholarship and grant programs. The impact is an increase in undergraduate tuition revenue, with the help of this state funding. UIS uses the funding to award additional scholarships to attract IL resident students who might have been ready for college, but may have struggled to pay for it. The AIM HIGH program contributes to students' access to college and success.</i></p>
UIUC	<p><i>The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is charged by our state to enhance the lives of citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through our leadership in learning, discovery, engagement, and economic development. The Office of Student Financial Aid administers financial aid programs and services to students and their families, striving to increase affordability and enhance student enrollment and graduation.</i></p>
	<p><i>The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign implemented the AIM High Pilot Program as part of the university's strategic enrollment plan, targeting Illinois resident, first-year students. Students awarded were identified as high achieving, academically talented, and financially needy. Beginning with the 2019-20 award year, the AIM HIGH Grant program has provided merit-based awards to undergraduate students. The award is designed to encourage Illinois students to attend an in-state university, improve college affordability, and reduce student loan debt. It is the university's goal that providing this new opportunity will increase enrollment, as well as retention, for Illinois resident students.</i></p>
WIU	<p><i>Western Illinois University appreciates the State's support of promoting access and affordability on behalf of students through its mission of the AIM High program. This demonstrates the State's knowledge of the value higher education provides to the State and its residents. The a/location awarded to the University has allowed WIU to expand its scholarship offerings to help with recruitment efforts. WIU has experienced high retention rates of its AIM High recipients.</i></p>

ISAC Overview

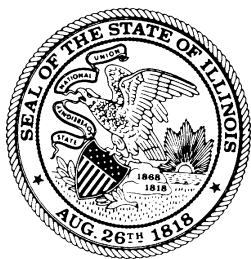
The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is a state agency with a mission to provide Illinois students with information and assistance to help make education beyond high school accessible and affordable. Unaffiliated with any school or sector, ISAC provides objective and comprehensive information to help students and families make informed choices about postsecondary education. Then, through the Monetary Award Program and other scholarship and grant programs ISAC administers, ISAC can help students make those choices a reality. Since 1957, ISAC has assisted Illinois families by providing nearly 5.5 million awards, totaling almost \$11.4 billion in grants, scholarships and non-loan aid.

In the 13 years since ISAC launched its ISACorps outreach program, the ISACorps have held more than 42,800 college and financial aid outreach events, interacted with nearly 1.3 million students and parents, and provided one-on-one assistance to more than 63,000 students.

For Additional Information

ISAC can create tables, charts, or other information products for the programs it administers, or for higher education issues in general, including data by school and cost information. If there is something you would like to see, please ask!

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