

## AGENDA ITEM 5.

### ADOPTION OF ILLINOIS PaCE: POSTSECONDARY AND CAREER EXPECTATIONS

**Submitted for:** Action

**Summary:** In the Spring of 2015, HR 477, a resolution calling for the agencies participating in the Illinois Pathways Interagency Committee, which included the State Board of Education, Community College Board, Board of Higher Education, Student Assistance Commission, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and Department of Employment Security, to study methods to better prepare high school graduates for success in college and/or career, was adopted. That resolution led to the formation of four advisory committees focused on distinct strategy areas for improving student outcomes. More than 120 stakeholders participated in the study and consensus building work and recommendations were presented to the Illinois P-20 Council. The College and Career Readiness Committee of the P-20 council adopted the recommendations. In 2016, HB 5729, which incorporated the work of the HR477 committees and community feedback, was introduced. The bill was passed and in July of 2016, Public Act 99-0674 established the Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Act.

#### **Overview**

The Education & Career Development Planning committee, established as part of HR477, gathered extensive input from stakeholders and subject matter experts and used it to establish a framework for benchmarking college and career readiness for students in grades eight through 12. The framework, the Postsecondary and Career Expectations, or Illinois PaCE, is intended to provide guidance to students, families, educators, administrators, and community-based organizations on what types of experiences and information a student should have in order to have the most opportunities and make the most informed decisions about college and career plans during their life after high school. The framework addresses three content areas, (i) career exploration and development, (ii) college exploration, preparation, and selection, and (iii) financial literacy and financing postsecondary education. The benchmarks describe what students need to know, how students need to be supported, and provides guidance for state agencies in targeting resources.

#### **Implementation**

The Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (PWR) indicates that education agencies must jointly adopt the Illinois PaCE or similar framework by July 1, 2017. While adoption must take place by July 1, 2017, the legislation imposes no mandate on the implementation of the framework. The expectation is not that PaCE creates new barriers for students and schools, but rather that it serves as an organizing tool for planning – for families, for schools, and for state agencies.

**Action requested:** That the Commission approve the adoption by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, as a member of the Illinois Pathways Interagency Committee, of the Postsecondary and Career Expectations, or PaCE by July 1, 2017.

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help make decisions on careers and post-secondary (PS) education or training, plan a course of study, and make financial aid assessments with family members.

