

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The University of Illinois Act is amended by
5 adding Section 160 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 305/160 new)

7 Sec. 160. Benefits navigator.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
10 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
11 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
12 identify campuswide and community resource support.

13 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
14 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
15 the basis of need.

16 (b) The University shall:

17 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
18 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
19 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

20 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

21 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
22 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
23 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of

1 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
2 different institutions and developing best practices for
3 benefits navigators.

4 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
5 shall:

6 (1) assist students at the University in determining
7 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
8 campuswide and community resource support;

9 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
10 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
11 navigators at other public institutions of higher
12 education for the purpose of collecting data and
13 developing best practices for helping students apply for
14 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

15 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
16 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
17 to support students at the University.

18 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
19 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
20 internal process to enable students at the University to
21 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
22 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
23 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

24 Section 10. The Southern Illinois University Management
25 Act is amended by adding Section 135 as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 520/135 new)

2 Sec. 135. Benefits navigator.

3 (a) In this Section:

4 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
5 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
6 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
7 identify campuswide and community resource support.

8 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
9 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
10 the basis of need.

11 (b) The University shall:

12 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
13 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
14 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

15 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

16 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
17 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
18 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
19 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
20 different institutions and developing best practices for
21 benefits navigators.

22 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
23 shall:

24 (1) assist students at the University in determining
25 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying

1 campuswide and community resource support;

2 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
3 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
4 navigators at other public institutions of higher
5 education for the purpose of collecting data and
6 developing best practices for helping students apply for
7 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

8 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
9 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
10 to support students at the University.

11 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
12 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
13 internal process to enable students at the University to
14 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
15 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
16 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

17 Section 15. The Chicago State University Law is amended by
18 adding Section 5-245 as follows:

19 (110 ILCS 660/5-245 new)

20 Sec. 5-245. Benefits navigator.

21 (a) In this Section:

22 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
23 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
24 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and

1 identify campuswide and community resource support.

2 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
3 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
4 the basis of need.

5 (b) The University shall:

6 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
7 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
8 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

9 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

10 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
11 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
12 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
13 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
14 different institutions and developing best practices for
15 benefits navigators.

16 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
17 shall:

18 (1) assist students at the University in determining
19 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
20 campuswide and community resource support;

21 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
22 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
23 navigators at other public institutions of higher
24 education for the purpose of collecting data and
25 developing best practices for helping students apply for
26 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

1 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
2 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
3 to support students at the University.

4 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
5 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
6 internal process to enable students at the University to
7 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
8 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
9 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

10 Section 20. The Eastern Illinois University Law is amended
11 by adding Section 10-245 as follows:

12 (110 ILCS 665/10-245 new)

13 Sec. 10-245. Benefits navigator.

14 (a) In this Section:

15 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
16 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
17 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
18 identify campuswide and community resource support.

19 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
20 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
21 the basis of need.

22 (b) The University shall:

23 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
24 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit

1 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

2 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

3 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
4 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
5 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
6 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
7 different institutions and developing best practices for
8 benefits navigators.

9 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
10 shall:

11 (1) assist students at the University in determining
12 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
13 campuswide and community resource support;

14 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
15 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
16 navigators at other public institutions of higher
17 education for the purpose of collecting data and
18 developing best practices for helping students apply for
19 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

20 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
21 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
22 to support students at the University.

23 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
24 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
25 internal process to enable students at the University to
26 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can

1 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
2 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

3 Section 25. The Governors State University Law is amended
4 by adding Section 15-245 as follows:

5 (110 ILCS 670/15-245 new)

6 Sec. 15-245. Benefits navigator.

7 (a) In this Section:

8 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
9 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
10 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
11 identify campuswide and community resource support.

12 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
13 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
14 the basis of need.

15 (b) The University shall:

16 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
17 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
18 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

19 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

20 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
21 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
22 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
23 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
24 different institutions and developing best practices for

1 benefits navigators.

2 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
3 shall:

4 (1) assist students at the University in determining
5 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
6 campuswide and community resource support;

7 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
8 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
9 navigators at other public institutions of higher
10 education for the purpose of collecting data and
11 developing best practices for helping students apply for
12 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

13 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
14 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
15 to support students at the University.

16 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
17 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
18 internal process to enable students at the University to
19 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
20 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
21 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

22 Section 30. The Illinois State University Law is amended
23 by adding Section 20-250 as follows:

24 (110 ILCS 675/20-250 new)

1 Sec. 20-250. Benefits navigator.

2 (a) In this Section:

3 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
4 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
5 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
6 identify campuswide and community resource support.

7 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
8 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
9 the basis of need.

10 (b) The University shall:

11 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
12 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
13 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

14 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

15 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
16 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
17 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
18 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
19 different institutions and developing best practices for
20 benefits navigators.

21 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
22 shall:

23 (1) assist students at the University in determining
24 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
25 campuswide and community resource support;

26 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of

1 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
2 navigators at other public institutions of higher
3 education for the purpose of collecting data and
4 developing best practices for helping students apply for
5 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

6 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
7 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
8 to support students at the University.

9 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
10 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
11 internal process to enable students at the University to
12 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
13 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
14 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

15 Section 35. The Northeastern Illinois University Law is
16 amended by adding Section 25-245 as follows:

17 (110 ILCS 680/25-245 new)

18 Sec. 25-245. Benefits navigator.

19 (a) In this Section:

20 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
21 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
22 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
23 identify campuswide and community resource support.

24 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local

1 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
2 the basis of need.

3 (b) The University shall:

4 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
5 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
6 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

7 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

8 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
9 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
10 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
11 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
12 different institutions and developing best practices for
13 benefits navigators.

14 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
15 shall:

16 (1) assist students at the University in determining
17 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
18 campuswide and community resource support;

19 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
20 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
21 navigators at other public institutions of higher
22 education for the purpose of collecting data and
23 developing best practices for helping students apply for
24 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

25 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
26 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,

1 to support students at the University.

2 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
3 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
4 internal process to enable students at the University to
5 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
6 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
7 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

8 Section 40. The Northern Illinois University Law is
9 amended by adding Section 30-255 as follows:

10 (110 ILCS 685/30-255 new)

11 Sec. 30-255. Benefits navigator.

12 (a) In this Section:

13 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
14 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
15 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
16 identify campuswide and community resource support.

17 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
18 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
19 the basis of need.

20 (b) The University shall:

21 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
22 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
23 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

24 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

1 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
2 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
3 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
4 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
5 different institutions and developing best practices for
6 benefits navigators.

7 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
8 shall:

9 (1) assist students at the University in determining
10 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
11 campuswide and community resource support;

12 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
13 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
14 navigators at other public institutions of higher
15 education for the purpose of collecting data and
16 developing best practices for helping students apply for
17 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

18 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
19 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
20 to support students at the University.

21 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
22 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
23 internal process to enable students at the University to
24 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
25 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
26 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

1 Section 45. The Western Illinois University Law is amended
2 by adding Section 35-250 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 690/35-250 new)

4 Sec. 35-250. Benefits navigator.

5 (a) In this Section:

6 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
7 by the University for the purpose of helping students at the
8 University determine eligibility for benefit programs and
9 identify campuswide and community resource support.

10 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
11 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
12 the basis of need.

13 (b) The University shall:

14 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
15 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
16 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

17 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

18 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
19 public institutions of higher education, facilitated by
20 the Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of
21 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
22 different institutions and developing best practices for
23 benefits navigators.

24 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section

1 shall:

2 (1) assist students at the University in determining
3 eligibility for benefit programs and identifying
4 campuswide and community resource support;

5 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
6 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
7 navigators at other public institutions of higher
8 education for the purpose of collecting data and
9 developing best practices for helping students apply for
10 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

11 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
12 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
13 to support students at the University.

14 (d) The University, in consultation with the benefits
15 navigator designated under this Section, shall develop an
16 internal process to enable students at the University to
17 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
18 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefit
19 programs and applying for assistance under benefit programs.

20 Section 50. The Public Community College Act is amended by
21 adding Section 3-29.20 as follows:

22 (110 ILCS 805/3-29.20 new)

23 Sec. 3-29.20. Benefits navigator.

24 (a) In this Section:

1 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is designated
2 by a community college for the purpose of helping students at
3 the community college determine eligibility for benefit
4 programs and identify campuswide and community resource
5 support.

6 "Benefit program" means any federal, State, or local
7 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
8 the basis of need.

9 (b) A community college shall:

10 (1) designate a benefits navigator who has a detailed
11 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit
12 programs and campuswide and community resource support;

13 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator; and

14 (3) participate in a statewide community college
15 consortium, facilitated by the State Board, for the
16 purpose of facilitating communication between benefits
17 navigators at different institutions and developing best
18 practices for benefits navigators.

19 (c) The benefits navigator designated under this Section
20 shall:

21 (1) assist students at the community college in
22 determining eligibility for benefit programs and
23 identifying campuswide and community resource support;

24 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
25 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
26 navigators at other public institutions of higher

1 education for the purpose of collecting data and
2 developing best practices for helping students apply for
3 and receive assistance from benefit programs; and

4 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
5 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
6 to support students at the community college.

7 (d) The community college, in consultation with the
8 benefits navigator designated under this Section, shall
9 develop an internal process to enable students at the
10 community college to provide feedback and recommendations on
11 how the community college can better assist students in
12 determining eligibility for benefit programs and applying for
13 assistance under benefit programs.

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
15 1, 2023.