Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

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Board Meeting

May 22, 2025

# Approve REVISIONS to the University of Illinois System Residency STATUS Policy

**Action:** Approve Revisions to the University of Illinois System Residency Status Policy

**Funding:** No new funding required

The University of Illinois System has a Residency Status Policy (the Policy) that sets forth criteria for students to possess in-state residency status for the purposes of admission and tuition assessment. The Policy has undergone periodic review, and the most recent reviews took place in 1997 and 2021. However, several federal and State laws regarding in-state tuition have been enacted or amended in recent years, necessitating updates to the Policy and prompting a re-evaluation of the Policy’s structure to distinguish between policy components and operational rules.

The purpose of this item is to approve significant reorganization of the Policy. The executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs, along with the provosts and vice chancellors from the three universities, other academic affairs staff members, enrollment management officials, and residency review staff members, recommend approval.

Under the current Policy, students may be eligible for in-state tuition by demonstrating residency based on domicile in Illinois or by meeting alternative measures, such as criteria defined in the Policy related to attendance at an Illinois school, teaching at an elementary or secondary school in Illinois, employment at a state-assisted Illinois university, certain job transfers for Illinois residents outside of the United States, or service in the military, among other criteria (collectively referred to as Eligibility Criteria). The current Policy, which follows this item, also includes rules, factors, and procedures used to determine eligibility for in-state tuition and language from specific statutory provisions regarding in-state tuition, as part of the Policy itself. As currently written, the Policy may require revisions when federal or State law changes and each time adjustments or clarifications are made to the rules, factors, and procedures.

The proposed revision of the Policy is designed to: (1) retain the Policy framework and guidelines to promote institutional goals, recognize the University’s status as a state tax-assisted institution by providing preferential tuition to Illinois residents and other qualifying individuals, and comply with applicable law, and (2) separate the rules, factors, and procedures used to operationalize the Policy from the Policy itself.

The revised Policy, which follows this item, includes the Eligibility Criteria to qualify for in-state tuition but authorizes the president of the University of Illinois System, or designee, in consultation with the universities, to establish and amend the rules to effectively implement the revised Policy, including factors and procedures to determine whether an individual meets the Eligibility Criteria. This flexibility will allow for the president or designee to make timely adjustments and needed clarification to the rules, factors, and procedures at the System and university levels to effectively implement the Policy.

The revised Policy also removes specific provisions of State and federal law from the Policy itself, so that the Policy does not become outdated when State or federal law changes. The revised Policy also requires the president, or designee, to periodically report updates or amendments to the rules, factors, and procedures to the Board of Trustees.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The president of the University of Illinois System concurs with this recommendation.