



January 9, 2026

Honorable Governor JB Pritzker
207 State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

In accordance with the reporting requirement of the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act (110 ILCS 979/1 et seq.), I am sending you this letter as a certification that the College Illinois!® 529 Prepaid Tuition Program will not require any state financial support during Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 to fulfill FY 2027 obligations to students and families. During FY 2027, we estimate that approximately \$71 million will be paid out for prepaid tuition contract benefits, refunds, and expenses, netted for expected contributions. During January through June 2026, we anticipate net payouts of approximately \$43 million. The Commission is expected to approve the FY 2027 administrative budget for the College Illinois! 529 Prepaid Tuition Program in June 2026. Staff expects the request to include approximately \$3 million of program funds for operational expenses.

Program enrollment has been closed since the 2017-18 enrollment year and remains closed.

The plan is fully funded as of June 30, 2025. We are grateful for your support and the support of the General Assembly in providing State funding during FY 2021 and FY 2022 to address the College Illinois! unfunded liability.

The Program retains a substantial investment portfolio in a separate trust fund to pay obligations. According to the June 30, 2025 Actuarial Soundness Report, Program assets totaled about \$426 million, corresponding to a 113.3% funded ratio. As always, actuarial reports necessarily represent a point in time and will change in the future up or down based on a variety of factors, including tuition and fee growth and market volatility.

College Illinois! continues to prudently invest the trust fund assets. The portfolio currently consists largely of a ladder of U.S. Treasury Securities with maturities that align with expected future payments of tuition and fees.

Please contact me at eric.zarnikow@illinois.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Zarnikow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E".

Eric Zarnikow
Executive Director

cc: Martin V. Torres, Deputy Governor for Education, Office of the Governor
Alexis Sturm, Director, Office of Management and Budget