

AGENDA ITEM 7.

**MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM
GRADUATION RATES FOR FY2003 PUBLIC SCHOOL MAP RECIPIENTS**

Submitted for: Information

Summary: At the June Commission meeting, staff outlined a plan to calculate graduation rates for Monetary Award Program (MAP) recipients. While the original goal of MAP was to provide access and choice to students with financial need, changing times have generated discussion on whether the Commission should also focus on college completion. Three trends provide impetus for this discussion: a dramatic increase in students seeking financial aid, changing demographics of MAP recipients, and funding that has not kept up with increasing need.

While access to post-secondary education and choice of schools are still important goals, from the state's viewpoint it is also critical to increase the performance of the workforce. For MAP recipients, as for all college students, succeeding in school and obtaining a degree or certificate is more important than ever to securing a job that pays well. Academic program completion is therefore critical to the goals of both the student and the state's economy.

Tracking graduation rates is an important first step to help the Commission and recipients get the most benefit from MAP dollars. While providing students with sufficient funding to go to college is important, getting students out of the academic world with post-secondary credentials is important for creating the educated workforce that will enable Illinois to compete in an increasingly sophisticated marketplace for labor.

Commission staff has begun tracking the progress of MAP recipients toward post-secondary credentials including certificates, Associate's degrees, and Bachelor's degrees. Four-, five-, and six-year graduation rates have been calculated for FY2003 first-time freshmen MAP recipients at public universities and community colleges.

Preliminary results indicate that MAP recipients graduate at rates similar to the general student population when the analysis controls dependency type, enrollment status, and school choice.

Action Requested: None

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM
GRADUATION RATES FOR FY2003 PUBLIC SCHOOL MAP RECIPIENTS

Introduction

At the June Commission meeting, staff outlined a plan to calculate graduation rates for Monetary Award Program (MAP) recipients. While the original goal of the MAP was to provide access and choice to students with financial need, changing times have generated discussion on whether the Commission should also focus on college completion. Three trends provide impetus for this discussion: a dramatic increase in students seeking financial aid, changing demographics of MAP recipients, and funding that has not kept up with demand for the program.

Between FY2000 and FY2009, the number of financial aid applications submitted by Illinois undergraduate residents planning to attend a MAP-eligible school increased 43 percent from about 282,000 to almost 402,000. The subset of these “announced” applicants who are eligible for an award increased 34 percent from 194,000 to more than 259,000. The current state of the economy has accelerated the increase; FY2010 eligible application volume is currently 21 percent higher than FY2009.

Students seeking financial aid include both “traditional” dependents just out of high school as well as non-traditional students. Since 1980 the percentage of high school graduates seeking post-secondary education has increased from 50 percent to 65 percent. Also, particularly in today’s economy, independent students are returning in large numbers to gain new skills and improve their marketability, often at community colleges. The shift in school choice of MAP recipients reflects the changing demographics. In 1990, 62 percent attended four-year institutions; by FY2009 this share declined to 54 percent, while 46 percent of MAP recipients attended community colleges, private two-year schools, or proprietary schools.

Finally, MAP appropriations have fallen far behind the level of support that was provided as recently as FY2002. As a result, components in the formula that calculates eligibility have not been updated in years; most notably, costs are represented by FY2004 tuition and fees plus a living allowance that was last increased eight years ago. At the same time tuition and fees have steadily increased by more than inflation – at public universities tuition and fees have increased by double digits annually. In FY2002 average public university tuition and fees were covered by the maximum announced MAP award. In FY2010 just under 48 percent of public university tuition and fees would have been covered *before* awards were subjected to a 50 percent reduction factor to handle the FY2010 appropriation decrease.

While access and choice to post-secondary education are still important goals, from the state’s viewpoint it is also critical to increase the performance of the workforce. For MAP recipients, as well as all college students, succeeding in school and obtaining a degree or certificate is more important than ever to securing a job that pays well and contributes to the state’s growing economy. Completing an academic program is critical to the goals of both the student and the state.

Tracking graduation rates of MAP recipients is an important first step to help the Commission and program recipients get the most out of MAP dollars. Staff has begun tracking the progress of MAP recipients towards post-secondary credentials, including certificates, Associate’s degrees, and Bachelor’s

degrees. Four-, five-, and six-year graduation rates have been calculated for FY2003 first-time freshmen MAP recipients at public universities and community colleges. MAP records were matched with the Shared Enrollment and Graduation Consortia (SEG) data to identify students who had earned a certificate, Associate's, or Bachelor's degree.

To date, only public university and community college MAP recipient graduation rates have been calculated because only two private schools submit data to the SEG. Rates have been calculated both for students who graduate from the original school they attended and for those who earned a certificate or degree from a school different from the one where they first received a MAP grant. Unfortunately, due to a lack of data, MAP recipients who begin at a public school but graduate from a private school would not be included in the graduation rates. Graduation rates are calculated at four, five, and six-years after the students first received a MAP grant. Eventually students will be followed for ten years to capture graduation rates for part-time students.

Graduation rates have been calculated separately by dependency type and whether they are enrolled full-time (FT) or part-time (PT). For this study, students remain in the dependency type and enrollment status category where they were placed in the fall term of FY2003. Dependent and independent part-time rates are combined when their numbers are low.

For public university MAP recipients, schools are categorized by the midpoint ACT score of the 25th to 75th percentile of students enrolled at the school according to the U.S. News and World Report. Though not a true "average" ACT score, this factor will be referred to as "average ACT" for convenience in this report. Public university MAP recipient graduation rates are then compared to the range of graduation rates for the schools in each category as found at The Education Trust's College Results Online Website.

Tracking MAP Recipient Graduation Rates at Community Colleges

Table 1 shows graduation rates for MAP recipients who first received MAP at a community college. Nearly 22 percent of full-time dependent students and about 25 percent of full-time independent students earn a certificate or Associate's degree within six years from the school where they first receive MAP. When students who earn credentials from any public school are considered, the rates increase to nearly 38 percent for dependents and 33 percent for independents. It is interesting to note that part-time independent students are more likely to earn a certificate or degree than part-time dependent students.

TABLE 1: FY2003 1st-time Freshmen Community College MAP Recipients			Certificate						Certificate						Certificate or			
			Still Attending		From		AA/AS From		Different		From		BA/BS From		Degree From Any			
			Original School		Original School		Original School		School		School		School		Public School			
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%			
FY2006	Dep FT	5,638	212	3.8%	211	3.7%	744	13.2%	758	13.4%	46	0.8%	112	2.0%	158	2.8%	1,271	22.5%
	4-Year																	
	Ind FT	4,142	237	5.7%	369	8.9%	508	12.3%	231	5.6%	56	1.4%	85	2.1%	42	1.0%	1,060	25.6%
	Grad																	
Rates	Dep PT	1,661	129	7.8%	77	4.6%	69	4.2%	118	7.1%	19	1.1%	18	1.1%	5	0.3%	188	11.3%
	Ind PT	4,374	506	11.6%	333	7.6%	289	6.6%	193	4.4%	68	1.6%	52	1.2%	5	0.1%	747	17.1%
FY2007	Dep FT	5,638	115	2.0%	248	4.4%	875	15.5%	449	8.0%	64	1.1%	143	2.5%	457	8.1%	1,787	31.7%
	5-Year																	
	Ind FT	4,142	99	2.4%	395	9.5%	590	14.2%	157	3.8%	66	1.6%	99	2.4%	88	2.1%	1,238	29.9%
	Grad																	
Rates	Dep PT	1,661	60	3.6%	26	1.6%	104	6.3%	106	6.4%	26	1.6%	28	1.7%	16	1.0%	200	12.0%
	Ind PT	4,374	266	6.1%	371	8.5%	409	9.4%	156	3.6%	83	1.9%	80	1.8%	17	0.4%	960	21.9%
FY2008	Dep FT	5,638	76	1.3%	280	5.0%	939	16.7%	215	3.8%	80	1.4%	170	3.0%	647	11.5%	2,116	37.5%
	6-Year																	
	Ind FT	4,142	61	1.5%	411	9.9%	631	15.2%	111	2.7%	80	1.9%	112	2.7%	122	2.9%	1,356	32.7%
	Grad																	
Rates	Dep PT	1,661	39	2.3%	100	6.0%	123	7.4%	76	4.6%	32	1.9%	36	2.2%	42	2.5%	333	20.0%
	Ind PT	4,374	141	3.2%	402	9.2%	473	10.8%	137	3.1%	98	2.2%	105	2.4%	36	0.8%	1,114	25.5%

Tracking MAP Recipient Graduation Rates at Public Universities

Table 2 shows four, five, and six-year graduation rates for public university MAP recipients. After six years, nearly 44 percent of dependent full-time students earned a Bachelor's degree from the school where they started; the six-year rate for independent full-time students is not quite 24 percent. Rates for students earning a certificate, Associate's degree, or Bachelor's degree from *any* school increase to 57.0 percent for dependents and 38.2 percent for independents. There are relatively few part-time students at public universities and their six-year graduation rates are 9.2 percent from the same school and 15.0 percent at any school. Rates of part-time students still attending school after six years, measured by whether they still receive MAP, are fairly low. Students may receive up to 135 credit hours worth of MAP, which is equal to about 4.5 years of full-time attendance.

TABLE 2: FY2003 1st-time Freshmen Public University MAP Recipient Graduation Rates			Still Attending Original School		BA/BS Original School		Still Attending Different School		Certificate From Different School		AA/AS From Different School		BA/BS From Different School		Certificate or Degree From Any Public School	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
FY2006 4-Year Rates	Dep FT	6,450	1,870	29.0%	1,188	18.4%	459	7.1%	54	0.8%	105	1.6%	152	2.4%	1,499	23.2%
	Ind FT	579	134	23.1%	60	10.4%	51	8.8%	7	1.2%	7	1.2%	19	3.3%	93	16.1%
	PT	120	33	27.5%	2	1.7%	7	5.8%	2	1.7%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	8	6.7%
FY2007 5-Year Rates	Dep FT	6,450	644	10.0%	2,373	36.8%	310	4.8%	79	1.2%	167	2.6%	394	6.1%	3,013	46.7%
	Ind FT	579	58	10.0%	115	19.9%	33	5.7%	9	1.6%	13	2.2%	41	7.1%	178	30.7%
	PT	120	16	13.3%	6	5.0%	6	5.0%	3	2.5%	1	0.8%	1	0.8%	18	15.0%
FY2008 6-Year Rates	Dep FT	6,450	172	2.7%	2,808	43.5%	173	2.7%	111	1.7%	215	3.3%	541	8.4%	3,675	57.0%
	Ind FT	579	24	4.1%	137	23.7%	21	3.6%	9	1.6%	19	3.3%	56	9.7%	221	38.2%
	PT	120	8	6.7%	11	9.2%	2	1.7%	4	3.3%	1	0.8%	2	1.7%	18	15.0%

Public university graduation rates vary widely by the academic abilities of their students, among other factors. Tables 3 through 6 show public university graduation rates for MAP recipients categorized by the average ACT score of their enrollment.

TABLE 3: School Avg ACT < 21 FY2003 1st- time Freshmen Public University MAP Recipient Graduation Rates			Still Attending Original School		BA/BS Original School		Still Attending Different School		Certificate From Different School		AA/AS From Different School		BA/BS From Different School		Certificate or Degree From Any Public School	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
FY2006 4-Year Rates	Dep FT	622	180	28.9%	12	1.9%	51	8.2%	6	1.0%	5	0.8%	0	0.0%	23	3.7%
	Ind FT	157	37	23.6%	11	7.0%	18	11.5%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	7.6%
	PT	65	23	35.4%	0	0.0%	4	6.2%	2	3.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	3.1%
FY2007 5-Year Rates	Dep FT	622	133	21.4%	48	7.7%	40	6.4%	10	1.6%	7	1.1%	5	0.8%	70	11.3%
	Ind FT	157	23	14.6%	21	13.4%	9	5.7%	1	0.6%	1	0.6%	3	1.9%	26	16.6%
	PT	65	11	16.9%	2	3.1%	3	4.6%	3	4.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	7.7%
FY2008 6-Year Rates	Dep FT	622	64	10.3%	96	15.4%	25	4.0%	16	2.6%	12	1.9%	11	1.8%	135	21.7%
	Ind FT	157	14	8.9%	27	17.2%	6	3.8%	1	0.6%	3	1.9%	3	1.9%	34	21.7%
	PT	65	7	10.8%	6	9.2%	2	3.1%	4	6.2%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	11	16.9%

Table 3 shows MAP recipient graduation rates for students attending schools where the average ACT score is below 21. The overall student population six-year graduation rates at these schools are 18 to 19 percent. While MAP recipients who stay at these schools graduate at slightly lower rates – 15.4 percent for dependent full-timers and 17.2 percent for independent full-timers – nearly 22 percent do earn some type of credential from a public school within six-years.

Graduation rates for MAP recipients at public universities where the average ACT score is 21 to 22, slightly above the statewide average, are shown in Table 4 below. Nearly 32 percent of MAP

recipients graduate from the same school within six years. Those earning some type of certificate or degree from any public school increase to 53.3 percent for dependent and 41.2 percent for independent students. The six-year graduation rates for the general student population range from 41.8 to 60.5 percent at these schools though rates for three of the five schools are under 50 percent.

TABLE 4: School Avg ACT 21-22 FY2003 1st-time Freshmen Public University MAP Recipient Graduation Rates			Still Attending Original School				Still Attending				Certificate Different School		AA/AS Different School		BA/BS Different School		Certificate or Degree From Any Public School	
							Different School		Different School									
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
FY2006 4-Year Rates	Dep FT	2,944	851	28.9%	356	12.1%	204	6.9%	27	0.9%	61	2.1%	134	4.6%	578	19.6%		
	Ind FT	313	76	24.3%	25	8.0%	18	5.8%	2	0.6%	5	1.6%	19	6.1%	51	16.3%		
	PT	41	7	17.1%	0	0.0%	2	4.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%		
FY2007 5-Year Rates	Dep FT	2,944	295	10.0%	806	27.4%	135	4.6%	41	1.4%	93	3.2%	321	10.9%	1,261	42.8%		
	Ind FT	313	27	8.6%	54	17.3%	18	5.8%	3	1.0%	8	2.6%	36	11.5%	101	32.3%		
	PT	41	5	12.2%	0	0.0%	3	7.3%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%		
FY2008 6-Year Rates	Dep FT	2,944	69	2.3%	980	33.3%	78	2.6%	58	2.0%	110	3.7%	420	14.3%	1,568	53.3%		
	Ind FT	313	10	3.2%	64	20.4%	9	2.9%	3	1.0%	11	3.5%	51	16.3%	129	41.2%		
	PT	41	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	3	7.3%		

Performance improves as the school average ACT rises, as shown in Table 5. Over half of full-time dependent MAP recipients earn a Bachelor's degree from the school where they started within six years and 60 percent earn a credential from some school within that time frame. There are few independent students in this category, but 35.8 percent earn a Bachelor's degree and 48.1 percent gain some type of credential within six years of first receiving MAP. The overall student population graduation rates at the public universities in the 23-24 average ACT category range from 50.5 to 64.2 percent. MAP recipients at these schools compare quite favorably to the overall population.

TABLE 5: School Avg ACT 23-24 FY2003 1st-time Freshmen Public University MAP Recipient Graduation Rates			Still Attending Original School				Still Attending				Certificate Different School		AA/AS Different School		BA/BS Different School		Certificate or Degree From Any Public School	
							Different School		Different School									
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
FY2006 4-Year Rates	Dep FT	1,694	492	29.0%	322	19.0%	158	9.3%	15	0.9%	31	1.8%	9	0.5%	377	22.3%		
	Ind FT	81	11	13.6%	15	18.5%	12	14.8%	4	4.9%	2	2.5%	0	0.0%	21	25.9%		
	PT	12	2	16.7%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
FY2007 5-Year Rates	Dep FT	1,694	141	8.3%	728	43.0%	100	5.9%	20	1.2%	56	3.3%	35	2.1%	839	49.5%		
	Ind FT	81	5	6.2%	24	29.6%	4	4.9%	5	6.2%	3	3.7%	2	2.5%	34	42.0%		
	PT	12	0	0.0%	2	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	3	25.0%		
FY2008 6-Year Rates	Dep FT	1,694	31	1.8%	859	50.7%	55	3.2%	26	1.5%	77	4.5%	55	3.2%	1,017	60.0%		
	Ind FT	81	0	0.0%	29	35.8%	6	7.4%	5	6.2%	3	3.7%	2	2.5%	39	48.1%		
	PT	12	0	0.0%	2	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	3	25.0%		

The final category, shown in Table 6, includes MAP recipients attending the public university where average ACT scores are higher than 24. Overall, nearly 82 percent of students graduate within six years from this school. Over 73 percent of dependent MAP recipients graduate within that time frame and over 80 percent earn a credential -- 78 percent Bachelor's degrees -- from some school.

TABLE 6: School Avg ACT > 24 FY2003 1st- time Freshmen Public University MAP Recipient Graduation Rates			Still Attending		BA/BS Original		Still		Certificate		AA/AS		BA/BS From		Certificate or	
			Original School		School		Different		From		From		Different		Degree From	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
FY2006 4-Year Rates	Dep FT	1,190	347	29.2%	498	41.8%	46	3.9%	6	0.5%	8	0.7%	9	0.8%	521	43.8%
	Ind FT	27	10	37.0%	8	29.6%	3	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	29.6%
FY2007 5-Year Rates	Dep FT	1,190	75	6.3%	791	66.5%	35	2.9%	8	0.7%	11	0.9%	33	2.8%	843	70.8%
	Ind FT	27	3	11.1%	15	55.6%	2	7.4%	0	0.0%	1	3.7%	0	0.0%	16	59.3%
FY2008 6-Year Rates	Dep FT	1,190	8	0.7%	873	73.4%	15	1.3%	11	0.9%	16	1.3%	55	4.6%	955	80.3%
	Ind FT	27	0	0.0%	16	59.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	7.4%	0	0.0%	18	66.7%

Summary

The analysis summarized in this item helps set a baseline for the Commission to track graduation rates for MAP recipients four, five, and six years from the time they first receive a grant. While graduation rates at the same public university are lower for MAP recipients than for the general population at schools with lower average ACT scores, MAP recipients compare favorably when certificates and degrees from any school are considered. MAP recipients at schools with higher average ACT scores tend to graduate at levels very similar to the general population of those schools.

In the near future this baseline will be expanded by adding four and five-year rates for FY2004 and four-year rates for FY2005 first-time freshmen MAP recipients. Analysis can be done at the individual school level and rates can be calculated by income level and generational status. Data required to calculate graduation rates for MAP recipients at private schools is expensive but is not unobtainable. If or when funding allows, MAP records will be matched against National Student Clearinghouse data. Staff plans to update the MAP recipient graduation database every year.