

Gov. Pritzker Proposes Equitably Expanding Access to 4-Year Degrees for Underserved Populations

Community colleges are central to expanding access to affordable education, strengthening the state's workforce, and creating more economic opportunity for Illinoisans. Through the Community College Baccalaureate Degree Program (CCB), Illinois would become the 25th state to enable community colleges to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees based on local workforce need and student demand, helping meet the needs of Illinois employers in key sectors while lowering the costs for working families.

The Community College Baccalaureate Degree Program will:

Establish new CCB programs to meet specific, local workforce needs and existing student demand:

- Community colleges will be required to conduct feasibility studies to determine the viability of new CCB programs based on unmet workforce needs and student demand in the college's district.
- Proposed degree programs must go through a rigorous review and be approved by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

Foster partnership and collaboration with four-year institutions:

- Community colleges must participate in a collaboration period with universities to determine if partnerships or collaboration could help address the unmet workforce needs.

Close access gaps for working and low-income students:

- Students will have access to four-year degree programs in high demand fields that accommodate their work and life demands.
- The community college baccalaureate expands the tools available to reach underserved students in Illinois, providing viable options for those that might not otherwise pursue a four-year degree at all. Colleges will have to demonstrate how they will reach underserved students.

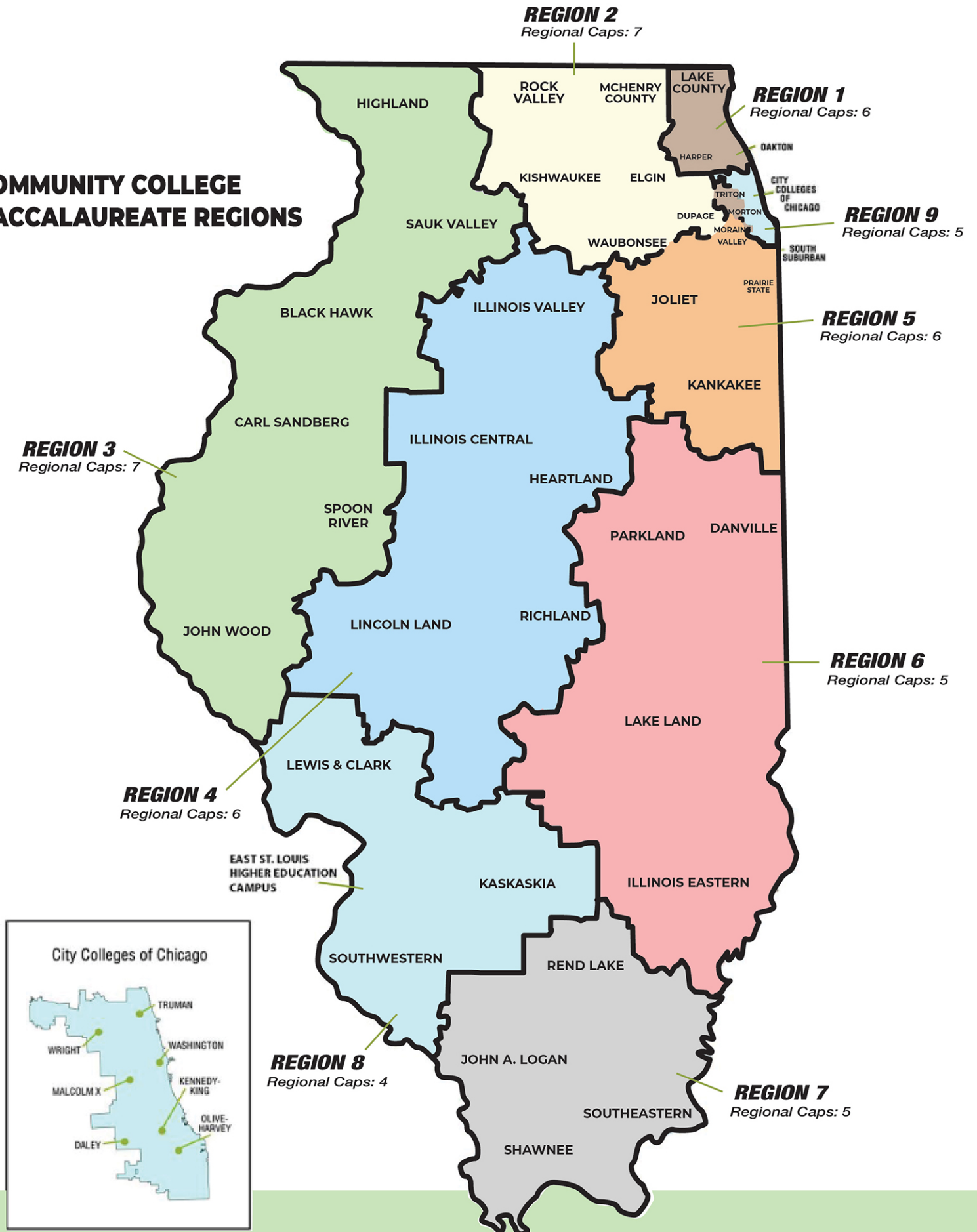
Keep community colleges affordable:

- Community colleges will not be able to charge more than 150 percent of their current tuition and fees for the third and fourth years required for a baccalaureate degree.

Avoid unnecessarily duplicative programs, ensuring that only programs with high need and demand are developed:

- Any proposed CCB program that overlaps with an existing nearby program or partnership, must provide additional evidence to support the development of the program, including in the areas of cost, seat capacity, mode of delivery, class schedule, and proximity to a workforce partner.
- Community colleges are capped at two baccalaureate degree programs—built upon existing associate of applied science degrees, with additional limits on the number of nursing, early childhood, and cybersecurity programs. Programs in technical fields not offered anywhere in a CCB region are not limited.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE REGIONS



CCB Region 1: Lake County, Harper, Oakton, Triton, Morton **CCB Region 2:** Elgin, Kishwaukee, Waubensee, McHenry, Rock Valley, College of DuPage
CCB Region 3: Black Hawk, Carl Sandburg, Highland, John Wood, Sauk Valley, Spoon River **CCB Region 4:** Heartland, Illinois Central, Illinois Valley, Lincoln Land, Richland
CCB Region 5: Joliet, Prairie State, South Suburban, Moraine Valley, Kankakee **CCB Region 6:** Parkland, Danville, Lake Land, Illinois Eastern
CCB Region 7: Rend Lake College, John A. Logan, Southeastern, Shawnee **CCB Region 8:** Lewis & Clark, Southwestern IL, Kaskaskia
CCB Region 9: City Colleges of Chicago