

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Midwestern Higher Education Compact

Overview

The purpose of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) is to provide greater higher education opportunities and services in the Midwestern region of the U.S., with the aim of furthering regional access to, research in, and choice of higher education for the citizens residing in the several states that are parties to the compact. The MHEC was founded in 1991 and serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The MHEC provides cost-savings opportunities to the member states in the areas of technology, property insurance, and health care benefits. The MHEC's cost-savings programs can also be used by K-12 districts and schools, state and local governments, and nonprofit entities. In 2011, Iowa entities participated only in the technology cost-savings opportunities. The MHEC also provides policy research to legislators, governors, trustees, and college and university leaders.

The MHEC established a commission that is responsible for implementing the Compact's mission. The commission consists of five resident members of each state as follows: the Governor or the Governor's designee, to serve during the tenure of office of the Governor; two legislators, one from each house (except Nebraska, which may appoint two legislators from its unicameral legislature), to serve two-year terms and be appointed by the appropriate appointing authority in each house of the legislature; and two other at-large members, with at least one selected from the field of higher education. One of the two at-large members initially appointed in each state serves a two-year term. The other, and any regularly appointed successor to either at-large member, serves a four-year term.

Funding

Iowa became a member of the MHEC in FY 2006. The Department of Education currently receives a General Fund appropriation of \$100,000 that covers most of the \$115,000 annual cost for Iowa's membership in MHEC.

Related Statute

Iowa Code chapter [261D](#)

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More Information

Midwestern Higher Education Compact: <http://www.mhec.org/MHECHomePage>

State of Iowa MHEC Page: <http://www.mhec.org/state-members/iowa>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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