

**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

Resolution No. 2025.10/34
Authorization to Approve
FY2027 Appropriated
Budget Request:
Operating and Capital

Whereas, Illinois State University is required to submit its appropriated operating budget request and its capital appropriation request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and

Whereas, the authority for approval of the appropriated operating budget request and the capital appropriation request resides with the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2027 appropriated operating budget request totaling \$102.2 million and the capital appropriation request totaling \$445.0 million as shown in Table 1 and Table 2, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Board Action on:	_____	Postpone:	_____
Motion by:	_____	Amend:	_____
Second by:	_____	Disapprove:	_____
Vote:	Yeas: _____ Nays: _____	Approve:	_____

ATTEST: _____ October 17, 2025

Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees
Illinois State University
Authorization to Approve FY2027 Appropriated Budget Request: Operating and Capital**

Illinois State University's FY2027 appropriation request supports the University's strategic plan, *Excellence by Design* and will allow the University to increase its contributions toward addressing critical statewide goals for higher education.

State appropriated dollars provide the critical and irreplaceable core of support for delivery of high-quality instructional programs and educational services to students. Maintaining strong and stable funding reduces the reliance on the university income fund, which is generated primarily from student tuition and fee revenues; therefore, helping to maintain the affordability of a college degree.

The University continues to redirect resources to high priority needs. For example, substantial funds are committed to student financial aid to attract and retain students who have few resources to pay college costs. As ISU awaits capital and deferred maintenance funding, scarce operating resources have also been redirected to address repair and maintenance of campus facilities.

FY2027 Operating Budget Request

As outlined in *Excellence by Design*, the University is committed to championing student success, bolstering faculty and staff success, and elevating institutional excellence. To continue to achieve the University's objectives and provide a vibrant learning environment ISU must receive adequate state support. In alignment with both the University's strategic plan goals and the Illinois Board of Higher Education's strategic plan: *A thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*, Illinois State University requests an additional \$20 million dollars, a 24.3% increase over the FY2026 appropriation, in state funding for FY2027.

In support of IBHE's Sustainability goal to "Build a stronger financial future for individuals and institutions," \$12 million is requested to replenish foregone revenue resulting from the application of state-mandated waivers. These waivers include teacher special education, veterans' grants and scholarships, children of employees, ROTC, and DCFS. ISU is the number one educator of special education teachers in the state of Illinois, and the foregone revenue of mandated waivers is currently supported by tuition paid by other students. Providing funding for mandated programs and services alleviates reliance on other students and university reserves to cover operating expenses associated with these programs.

Additionally, the University is requesting \$4 million in financial aid for students with the highest financial need to help address equity gaps facing low-income students and improve college affordability for Illinois students. This request is in support of IBHE's Equity goal: "Close the equity gaps for students who have historically been left behind." Strategically using resources to enhance student accessibility and affordability through financial scholarships also supports the core values of Illinois State University outlined in *Excellence by Design*.

In support of IBHE's Growth goal to "Increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth," the University is requesting \$4 million for support of targeted expansion efforts of high need disciplines within the state of Illinois. The University continues strategic expansion of the Mennonite College of Nursing and opened the College of Engineering this fall.

Table 1 below summarizes the University's proposed appropriated operating budget request for FY2027 and a request for distribution from the State College and University Trust Fund. The State College and University Trust fund is revenue from collegiate license plate sales held by the state for distribution to universities through an appropriation. These funds are used for student financial aid.

Table 1
Illinois State University FY2027 Appropriation Requests
(in thousands of dollars)

Appropriated Operating Funds Base – FY2026 level **\$ 82,175.3**

Increases

Replacement Revenue for State Mandated Waivers	12,000.0
Student Financial Aid for Need-Based Students	4,000.0
Support for Expansion of High Need Disciplines – Engineering and Nursing	<u>4,000.0</u>

Total Increase - \$20,000 / 24.3% **20,000.0**

FY2027 Appropriated Operating Funds Request \$102,175.3

FY2027 State College and University Trust Fund Request 30.0

Total: FY2027 Appropriation Requests **\$102,205.3**

FY2027 Capital Request

The capital projects for which funding is requested for FY2027 are instrumental in addressing the goals and priorities articulated in the University's strategic plan, *Excellence by Design*, as well as the recommendations in *Master Plan 2010-2030: Looking to the Future*. These projects are important to enhancing a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable campus and to ensuring the University has the physical infrastructure necessary for excellence in instruction, research, and service in the 21st century.

Identifying the projects included in the annual request to the state for capital improvement funding involves an ongoing process of assessing academic and support service capital needs, determining facility use strategies, analyzing facilities' conditions and opportunities, and evaluating available resources.

Table 2 summarizes the University's request for state funds for capital improvements in FY2027 totaling \$445.0 million, including \$418.0 million for seven major capital improvement projects and \$27.0 million for capital renewal projects.

Table 2
FY2027 Capital Request

Request for funds for major capital projects are listed in priority order below:

New STEM/Science Lab Building	\$ 30,000,000
Milner Library Rehabilitation	60,000,000
Williams Hall Rehabilitation	120,000,000
Thomas Metcalf School Replacement	50,000,000
University High School Replacement	80,000,000
DeGarmo Hall Rehabilitation	60,000,000
New Mennonite College of Nursing Building	18,000,000
 FY2027 Major Capital Request	 \$418,000,000
FY2027 Capital Renewal Request	<u>\$ 27,000,000</u>
 Total FY2027 Capital Request	 <u>\$ 445,000,000</u>

The major capital projects focus on addressing academic programmatic needs and ensuring the University's facilities promote excellence in instruction, research, and service. They involve renovating and upgrading existing academic facilities; addressing life-safety requirements; replacing outdated mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; and upgrading utility and technology systems. The projects also involve the construction of new facilities for STEM/Sciences and the University's educational teaching laboratory schools. A considerable amount of the University's accumulated deferred maintenance needs can be addressed through these targeted rehabilitation and renovation projects.

The state's Capital Renewal Program provides resources for smaller remodeling, restoration, utility, and infrastructure projects. Funds from the program are distributed proportionately among state colleges and universities based upon their square footage maintained by state funds.

Summary descriptions of each of the requested major capital projects follow.

Partial FSA Replacement/STEM / Science Lab Building **\$30,000,000**

This project is for a New Felmley Science Annex (FSA) STEM/Science Building(SLB) for Illinois State University (ISU). Current space limitations at the University require new construction to provide a home for necessary lecture, lab, research, and collaborative learning spaces for existing and planned growth of ISU STEM programs.

FSA opened for classes in 1963 and is a four-story 80,784 gross square foot STEM facility that houses spaces for Geology/Geography, Health Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and General Classrooms. FSA has been renovated numerous times during the past 60 years, however not in a planned or comprehensive manner. As a result, changing ISU pedagogical requirements, aging, failed and obsolete infrastructure, and changing codes have resulted in the building not functioning as designed or required. Therefore, FSA is currently performing well below ISU requirements. Subsequently, several ISU biology and chemistry labs in FSA are not fully functional resulting in reduced ISU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) laboratory teaching capacity.

The FSA *Greenhouse opened in 1964. The greenhouse is currently used by the Biological Sciences Department to house and grow various plants that were previously used for multiple teaching pedagogies. ISU determined this greenhouse facility to be an unsafe teaching environment and unsuitable working facility and ISU subsequently terminated teaching activities in this facility. Up until this determination approximately 3,000 ISU students and 500 community visitors used this as a Biological Sciences teaching facility on an annual basis. The ISU CAS Biological Sciences department needs an environment to teach, not grow production plants. Therefore, the FSA Greenhouse needs to be replaced to restore ISU pedagogical functionality. The site of the existing Greenhouse combined with the site of the abandoned facility equipment is prime ISU academic real estate in very close proximity to existing STEM labs in Felmley and the main ISU Quad, therefore representing an ideal location for a new ISU STEM/SLB Greenhouse facility.

ISU has developed a program for the space needs to accommodate this new ISU STEM/SLB Greenhouse facility. The designed project involves constructing a new 4 story 44,000 GSF building with a greenhouse and head house at the top of the building. The building has been designed to accommodate up to 7 Biology and Chemistry Labs. This project would include a new south building entry and a connector to the existing FSA building.

The ISU Strategic Plan calls for STEM teaching capacity to be increased and to accommodate planned Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) growth starting in the Fall of 2024 and the introduction and growth of the new ISU Engineering program enrollment that started this Fall. In addition, ISU's existing STEM teaching laboratories are currently inadequate, in poor condition, and not functioning up to necessary pedagogical and program requirements.

Milner Library Rehabilitation **\$60,000,000**

This project will provide for the construction of an addition to Milner Library of approximately 140,000 square feet to house book stacks, study areas, library processing and support spaces and high-density storage of library materials. It will turn the library into a curricularly-integrated learning center. It will also include an addition to

Milner to provide computer areas for immediate retrieval of information and conferencing areas for dissemination of information.

The design of the rehabilitation of Milner Library and the addition of computer and storage areas would be planned and coordinated with work being discussed for Bone Student Center. An access-way, or “gallery,” identified in the Library’s planning documents, will also be created to provide for a path, vertical and horizontal, from the north side of campus to the Quadrangle. This will create a physical connection to make the campus more cohesive. Importantly, spaces will be created to encourage gathering of students, faculty and staff.

The remodeling will consist of the development of student group study areas, space for interactive technologies, exhibition space, staff work areas, and the reconfiguration of all of the shelving on each floor to accommodate accessibility. Remodeling also will involve enhancements to the heating, ventilating, air conditioning and electrical services in the facility.

<u>Williams Hall Rehabilitation</u>	<u>\$120,000,000</u>
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This project will rehabilitate Williams Hall, which was originally built in 1940 as the University Library. The project will restore the quality and integrity of the original University library building. Selective demolition will be completed to allow a program specific addition. The interior of the old library building will be renovated. This project will replace and/or upgrade the building’s mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. The remodeling will correct code deficiencies, remove asbestos, repair/replace the slate roof, and bring the structure back to its original architectural significance. The building is on a prominent site on the Quadrangle and represents a classic form of collegiate Georgian style architecture. Williams Hall is planned to be used for University academic program space comprised of classroom and office spaces. This project is recommended in the *Master Plan 2010-2030*.

<u>Thomas Metcalf Laboratory School Replacement</u>	<u>\$50,000,000</u>
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The Thomas Metcalf School building, which was constructed in 1955, houses the University’s laboratory school for kindergarten through the eighth grade. The facility is outdated and aging. The infrastructure is in extremely poor condition and the Facilities Condition Assessment reported high figures, indicating poor condition, identifying the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire alarm systems. More importantly, the geographic location on the campus is problematic with poor vehicular access to the building and less than adequate outdoor space for elementary school-aged children. It is critical to construct a larger, modern laboratory school to resolve those inadequacies that now exist and to meet the 21st century requirements on campus.

<u>University High School Replacement</u>	<u>\$80,000,000</u>
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The current University High School building was constructed in 1965 and houses the University’s laboratory school for ninth through twelfth grades. The facility is outdated and aging, and the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire alarm systems are in need of upgrading or replacement. Its geographic location on the campus is problematic with poor vehicular access to the building and less than adequate outdoor space. This project provides for the construction of a larger, modern laboratory school to meet the 21st century requirements on campus. This project is recommended in *Master Plan 2010-2030*.

<u>DeGarmo Hall Rehabilitation</u>	<u>\$60,000,000</u>
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DeGarmo Hall was an architectural award-winning building in 1972. Fifty-one years later, it is in need of infrastructure updates and program-driven improvements. The “curtain wall” exterior has deteriorated to a point where it is difficult to maintain, and the interior spaces need to be reconfigured to better serve the 21st century program requirements. Space needs have grown substantially since 1972. Interior spaces no longer meet the needs of current or future programs. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing improvements also need to be addressed. This project is recommended *Master Plan 2010-2030*.

New Mennonite College of Nursing Building**\$18,000,000**

The Mennonite College of Nursing offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs and ranks among the top nursing schools in the country. Mennonite College of Nursing administration and faculty offices are located in Edwards Hall. Courses are held in facilities throughout the campus.

The College has been growing steadily since becoming a part of Illinois State University in July of 1999. The primary mission of the Mennonite College of Nursing is to educate nursing students to serve the citizens of Illinois, the nation, and the global community. The College recognizes the immediate need to provide inter-disciplinary education for its graduates and to create partnerships in the wellness community to prepare them for the future of health care. The health care profession is a rapidly changing field. Graduates need to be fully trained on what is being used in today's medicine.

The College uses a separate 9,570 gross square foot modular facility that opened in fall 2011 as a nursing simulation laboratory to meet a portion of the clinical laboratory needs of the College. The University completed construction of a Nursing Simulation Laboratory Building connected to the existing modular building. This new expanded Mennonite Simulation Lab Building will help to meet the immediate facility needs and some of the program enrollment growth plans of the College.

This project addresses space needs and will provide for the construction of a new home for the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. The new facility will be designed to meet current consolidation needs and future growth requirements. This space will include offices for College faculty and staff, meeting rooms, conference rooms, and special teaching laboratories and classrooms to meet specific needs of the nursing program. Preliminary planning suggests that this should provide for the College to grow to 1,000 students. The building will be sited to best address the specific goals and requirements of the program, which not only include instruction but also the clinical health care industry relationships. This project is recommended in the *Master Plan 2010-2030*.

Capital Renewal Projects**\$27,000,000**

Resource constraints have prevented the University from routinely remodeling and rehabilitating facilities in accordance with current higher education pedagogical requirements and facility standards. Many ISU academic facilities need an extensive amount of work to replace, upgrade, and/or improve mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems as well as to address basic facility infrastructure needs such as building envelopes, roofing, flooring, and windows.

The projects identified for Capital Renewal funding address critical facility, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and building envelopes across campus. The projects will enable the University to ensure the structural integrity and operations of facilities and thereby improve pedagogical efficiency, productivity, cost-effectiveness, and accountability by reducing the backlog of deferred maintenance and improving energy conservation, reliability and efficiency.

Illinois State University FY27 Capital Renewal Plan

<u>University Priority</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>State Funding Request</u>
1	Fell Hall Roof & Cornice Replacement	\$5,000,000
2	Cook Hall Infrastructure Replacements/Repairs	3,000,000
3	Milner Library Elevator Modernization	4,000,000
4	Fire House/604 N Adelaide	5,000,000
5	Old Union Infrastructure Master Plan Implementation	10,000,000
Total FY27 Capital Renewal Plan Request		<u>\$ 27,000,000</u>