The ABCs of IMSA's Government Relations

IMSA's government relations = work with the legislative branch (177 State legislators), executive branch (Governor's Office), and state agencies (Illinois Board of Higher Education, Capital Development Board, etc) to positively impact three areas (the ABCs) of IMSA: administrative rules, budget, and capital:

Administrative Rules

- Legislative: procurement rules, program outcomes
- State Agency: Ilinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) requests

Budget

- Appropriations: State agency (IBHE) involvement and legislative committees
- Documents: Illinois State Legislature (ISL) and Budgeting for Results

Capital

- State agency involvement at start (IBHE) and end (Capital Development Board [CDB])
- Legislature, Governor pass capital bills and Governor's Office releases funds

<u>Administrative Rules</u>: IMSA seeks adjustments from the legislature and/or state agencies to rules and requests when fulfilling them would hinder IMSA's work. Examples include:

- Re-classification of procurement oversight from previous "state agency" rules to current "higher education" rules. IMSA's request for this change granted by legislature in 2012.
- Exemption from submitting program evaluations in specific manner required of state agencies.

Budget: IMSA's budget work involves the legislative branch, executive branch, and state agencies:

Budget Priorities (Summer- Fall)

- •IMSA leadership names areas needing increased state funding for next fiscal year. After Board approval, budget request presented to Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in fall.
- •IBHE sends budget recs for public higher ed and IMSA to Governor and legislature. Concurrently, Gov's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) develops state budget with Gov's priorities. Gov presents this in annual Budget Address in February.

Appropriations (February - April)

- Legislators begin deliberation on budget requests of Gov, IBHE, higher ed and IMSA.
- February: IMSA, higher ed give Illinois State Legislature (ISL) and Budgeting for Results (BFR) forms. ISL overview described below.
- March- April: IMSA, higher ed presidents present budget requests to House (23 members) and Senate (18) Appropriations Committees, discussing ISLs, BFR, more.

Legislative Votes (May)

- Each Approps Committee passes their own budget appropriation bill for higher ed and IMSA.
- Both bills move to full House (118 members) or Senate (59), respectively, then to other chamber for vote.

 Both chambers must agree to one approps bill with "simple majority vote" of 51% of 177 legislators approval by May 31st. If not, "super majority vote" of 60% needed for approps bill to go to Gov for approval.

Overview of Illinois State Legislature (ISL) Package

• What are ISLs? Each state agency and higher ed entity requesting state approps for next fiscal year must complete ISL package. Legislature sends Excel workbook of forms and requests written narratives for each entity to report approps allocated in individual line items. IMSA's Business and Human Resources Offices complete them by state deadline of 48 hours after Gov's Budget Address.

• What is requested in the ISLs? Detailed info, from numbers to narratives, is required for several categories, including but not limited to: programmatic info (summary of expenditures by fund and function, justifications for proposed personnel/program reductions/expansions, etc), personal services (vacancies, proposed new hires, etc), contractual services, travel, equipment, commodities, grants, leadership and governance (organization chart, Board of Trustees, etc), and more. The info exceeds over 140 pages submitted to State each year. To learn more about ISLs, contact Kimberly Corrao.

<u>Capital</u>: IBHE maintains lists of two types of capital projects, regular capital and capital renewal, requested by public higher ed and IMSA to be funded by the State:

- Regular capital projects: List of ~30 projects funded piecemeal from capital bills legislatively passed every few years. Projects primarily impact programs, e.g., new building for labs.
- <u>Capital renewal projects</u> are numerous, and focus on routine repairs, e.g., resurfacing floors. 2014 first year IMSA included in capital funds for these projects; info on attached capital doc.

Process for both types of capital projects (funding request to project completion), involves state agencies, legislature, and Governor:



Achieving the ABCs through Advocacy

The government relations work of advancing IMSA's ABCs is strengthened through advocacy.

External Govt Relations Team

- •Strategic counsel, actions, and relationships of an external government relations firm, advance the "A" and "B" (administrative rules needing legislative action and budget) for IMSA year-round.
- •The firm, which has worked with IMSA for ~20 years, continuously, comprehensively, and skillfully advocates for IMSA's needs in these two areas with legislators.

Internal Focus

- •External work coupled with internally-led actions strengthen legislative relationships. Students, alumni, staff, parents, others, involved in letters, events, district info, more.
- •Internally-led focus also on achieving "A" (if legislative action not needed) and "C". This work with agencies includes IBHE (admin rules and capital), Governor Offices (e.g., Trustee appointments), CDB (capital).

Advocacy of both the external government relations team and IMSA staff serves to advance the required and requested reports and materials provided year-round by IMSA's Offices of Business, Human Resources, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and multiple other departments. To learn more about government relations at IMSA, please contact Catherine Veal @ cveal@imsa.edu or 630-907-5034.