



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

August 30, 2024

Mr. Chris Lowery
Commissioner
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Commissioner Lowery:

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and Trustees of Ball State University, I respectfully submit our operating and capital state appropriations request for FY 2025-27.

Our University is committed to providing our students with a high-quality educational experience, which provides them with the skills that will enable them to have fulfilling careers and that will fuel economic vitality all across the state. At the same time, we are also focused on providing an affordable education. For more than a decade, tuition has stayed at or below the targets set by ICHE.

Our University enthusiastically embraces our role as an Indiana-serving institution. Each year, more than 80% of our freshman class come from the State of Indiana. And throughout our students' experiences at Ball State, our faculty and staff partner with employers, communities, and regions to help our students find fulfilling careers and meaningful lives throughout the state – in companies large and small.

Our new line item request, Helping Indiana Thrive (\$1.5 million), will enable Ball State to expand our current work engaging Indiana employers and communities, leading to increased graduate retention to meet state and local needs. While we are committed to building Ball State pipelines, this support will also allow us to develop best practices and create tool kits to allow communities to build their own pipelines, based on their individualized workforce needs.

Our University will continue to collaborate with the Commission for Higher Education to support our students. I am grateful for your continued trust in and support of Ball State University.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey S. Mearns
President

Office of the President

Muncie, Indiana 47306-0005 | Phone: 765-285-5555 | gsmearns@bsu.edu

Attachment A
Ball State University
2025-27 Operating and Capital Budget Request

Below are the components to Ball State’s biennial budget request:

Operating Appropriations

Operating appropriations for public higher education institutions are adjusted to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education’s outcomes-based funding formula. This biennium, we are seeking a base adjustment to ameliorate the ongoing impact of high inflation, with additional funds to be distributed through the ICHE Outcomes Based Funding Formula without reallocation and a prospective funding mechanism designed by the Commission.

Dual Credit Line Item

Funding is formula-based, providing a particular dollar amount per college credits offered in Indiana high schools. For the 2025-27 biennium, dual credit was funded at \$50 per credit hour completed.

Repair & Rehabilitation

Funding for R&R is formula-based, providing funding based on a percentage (.5%) of facility replacement value.

Debt Service

Each institution confirms data from the Indiana Finance Authority related to its current debt portfolio.

Line Item Appropriations

Ball State supports the ICHE effort to fold existing line items that align with general operating costs into the operating appropriations base. Ball State supports our current Entrepreneurial University Line item (funded at \$2,500,000) be rolled into the FY 2025 base, rather than funded as a separate line item request.

Ball State has two line items requests:

- Helping Indiana Thrive

Appropriation	Request	
FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
none	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000

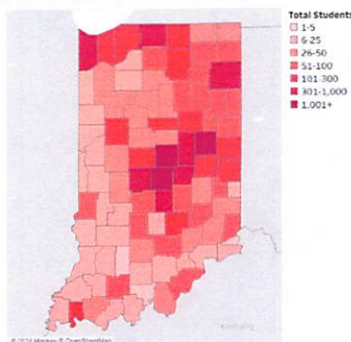
This funding will allow Ball State to build upon and grow programing, initiatives, and best practices that help to grow workforce pipelines in targeted industries throughout the state:

- Meaningful engagement with Indiana employers, and communities, leading to increased graduate retention tailored to meet state and local needs
- County Ambassadors Program – increased statewide engagement and training for Ambassadors
- Facilitating strategic faculty engagement with employers and regions to support projects and talent pipelines
- Mentoring Programs – Increase coordination with communities and industries throughout the state
- Building out best practices and tool kits for Indiana communities to use to grow their own talent pipelines

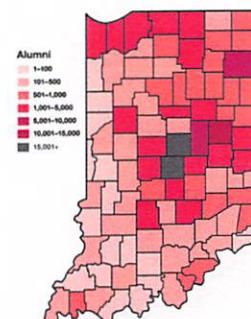
May 2023 Graduates



Fall 2024 Enrollment



2024 Ball State Alumni by County



- Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities

Appropriation	Request	
FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
\$4,384,956	\$4,473,000	\$4,562,000

Capital Budget Request

Top Priority: Bracken Learning Commons - \$88,420,000

- Support student success by transforming the physical collection spaces into flexible studio spaces which integrate a mix of support, experience, and technology to advance student learning and scholarship.
- Creates a dynamic sandbox for student needs, helping them develop ideas and concepts into realized work.
- 21st century demands for interactive, technologically advanced facilities that support student learning to increase capacity for transformative learning by becoming dynamic landscapes in which students, faculty, and community members discover, synthesize, create, and transform information into meaningful outcomes.
- Provide needed updates to the building’s original and inefficient mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.
- Restores and extends the state investment in this existing facility.

Alternative Request: Campus Infrastructure Improvements –\$38,000,000

- Utility Tunnel Repairs \$4.6M
- High Voltage Electric Power Improvements \$4.6M
- Natural Gas Steam Boiler Replacement \$13.8M
- Chilled and Hot Water Distribution Loops \$4.6M
- Centrifugal Chiller Replacement \$3.0M
- Lewellen Aquatics Center Facility Improvements \$7.4M