



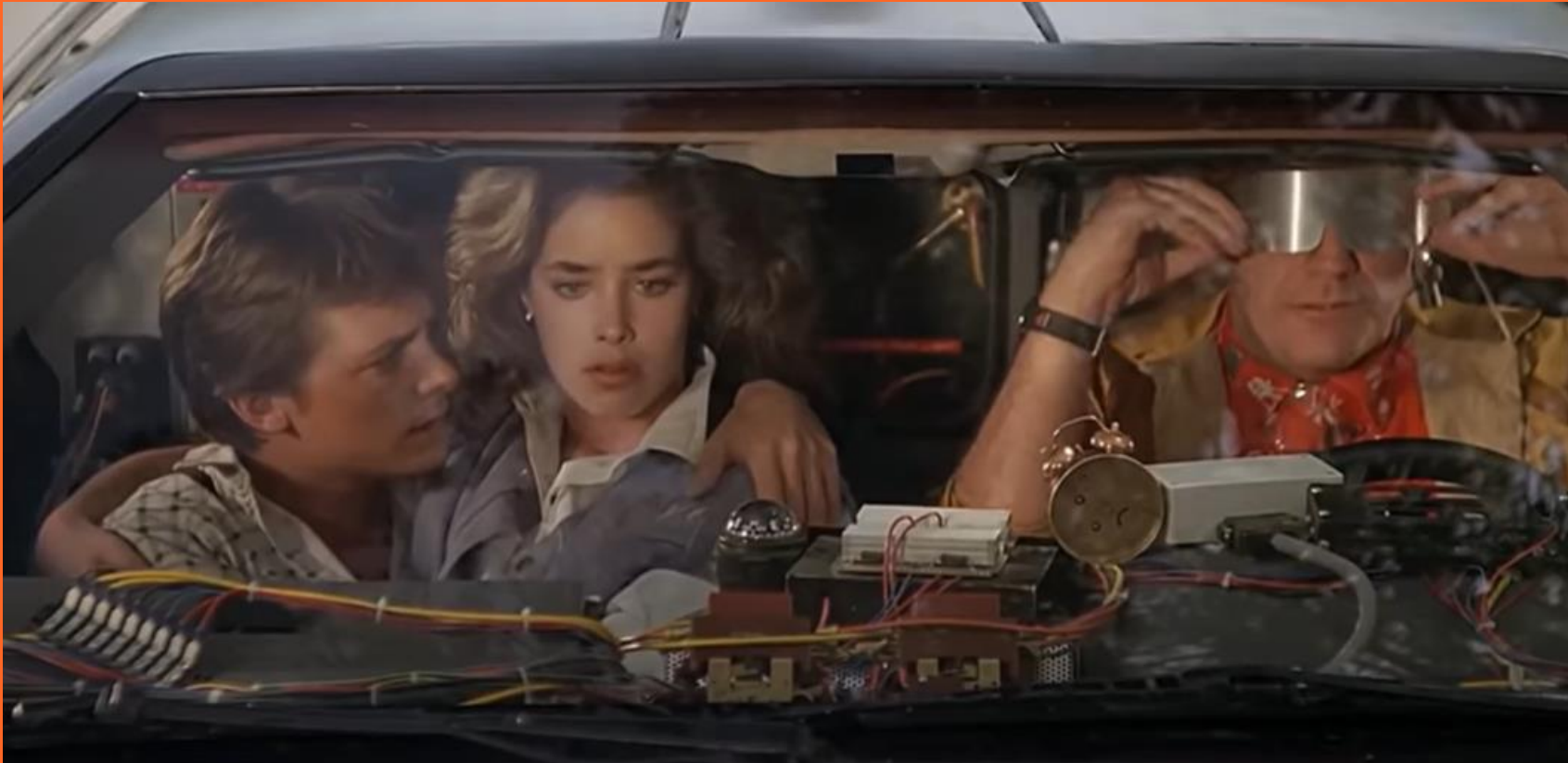
ISAC Update: *Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads!*

Eric Zarnikow
Katharine Gricevich
Stephanie Schmitz-Bechteler

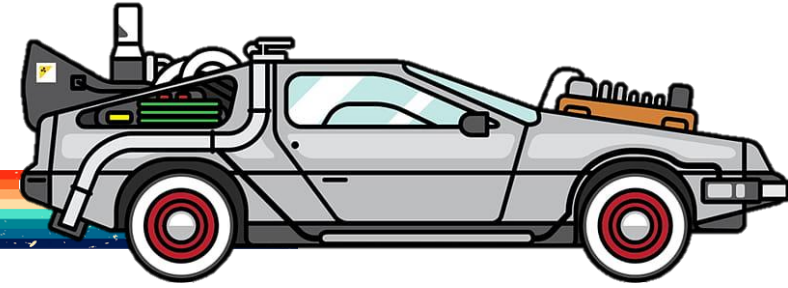
Tuesday, March 5, 2024



ISAC Update:
Eric Zarnikow
Executive Director,
Illinois Student Assistance Commission



Agenda



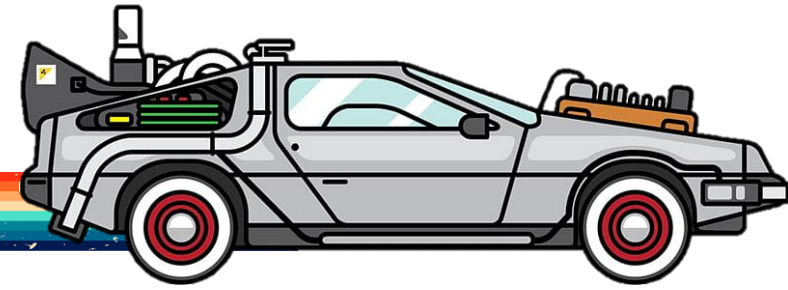
- FAFSA Simplification
- MAP
- Meeting the needs of students, families and communities
- Katharine Gricevich—Legislative Update
- Stephanie Schmitz-Bechteler—Operational Update

FAFSA Simplification

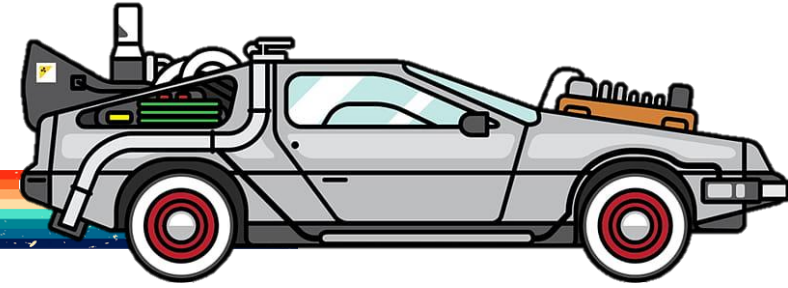
- YOU are superheroes (dated theme and so many mixed metaphors on this slide, but still true!)
- ISAC Supports
 - Data gathering and communication
 - Direct support to students and families
 - Partner training
 - FAFSA advertising
- What about the Alternative App?



This too shall pass



MAP: Vastly improved access and affordability



- The last **five** years of funding has been life-altering for students
 - Historic levels of funding: \$701 million (FY24); \$300 million increase in the last 5 years
 - Average MAP award increased 57%
 - Maximum MAP award increased 73%
- In FY24, meeting goal of *A Thriving Illinois* (higher education strategic plan)
 - Max. MAP grant covers about 60% of avg tuition and fees at community college and about 50% at a public university
- Serving more students: offered a grant to every eligible student that applied in FY22 and FY23.
 - Increased application volume in FY24 required suspense but still almost a year after the application opened; we project we will offer a grant to 95% of eligible students that apply
- Governor's proposed \$10 million increase for FY25 would help sustain progress; likely would not be able to increase award size.

Back to the Future: A holistic approach to meeting the needs of students and families

Services and Supports

- Thank you for all you do to support student needs—from food and housing insecurity to mental health services
- Collaborative efforts to support students: example – ECACE: targeted application, enrollment, and retention support

Back to the Future: A holistic approach to meeting the needs of students and families

Services and Supports

- ISAC is building on efforts to support students holistically:
 - MAP award letters share info re SNAP; adding questions to MAP survey to gather info on student needs/barriers and awareness of social benefit programs
 - Training on financial aid and related topics for groups that support students— ECACE navigators, HOUSE liaisons, Undocumented Student Liaisons, CTE Pathway personnel
 - Expanding audience and breadth of training to support development and efficacy of education professionals
 - ISAC College Q&A text messaging service
 - First Generations Scholars Network and First Up Podcast
 - Events and symposia focused on supporting the whole student and communities: *CCE Conference 2024*: The role of community health in advancing educational equity
 - Embarking on ISAC website redesign



**First Generation
Scholars Network**



Back to the Future: A holistic approach to meeting the needs of students and communities

Gift assistance and loan repayment programs

- With your help and support, ISAC has implemented 10 new programs over the last few years
- Newer, smaller programs address community and workforce needs, particularly mental health, e.g.
 - The Post-MSW School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program
 - The Social and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program, and
 - The Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment program

Thank you for your
partnership and support

Onward!

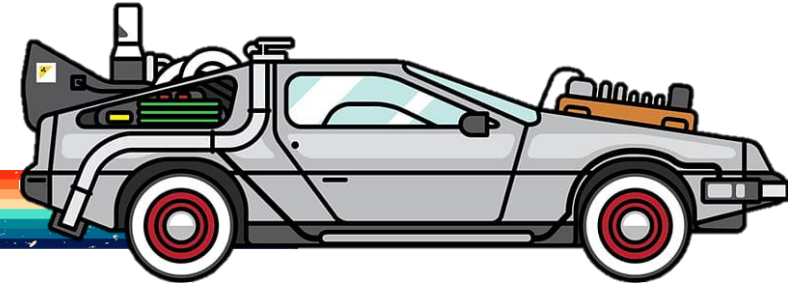


State Legislative Update:
Katharine Gricevich
Director of Government Relations
Illinois Student Assistance Commission



Proposed FY25 Budget

Governor's Request for FY25



“Budget in Brief” is available at budget.illinois.gov

Anticipates a return to tighter budgets (but includes some new initiatives)

Includes proposals to increase revenue:

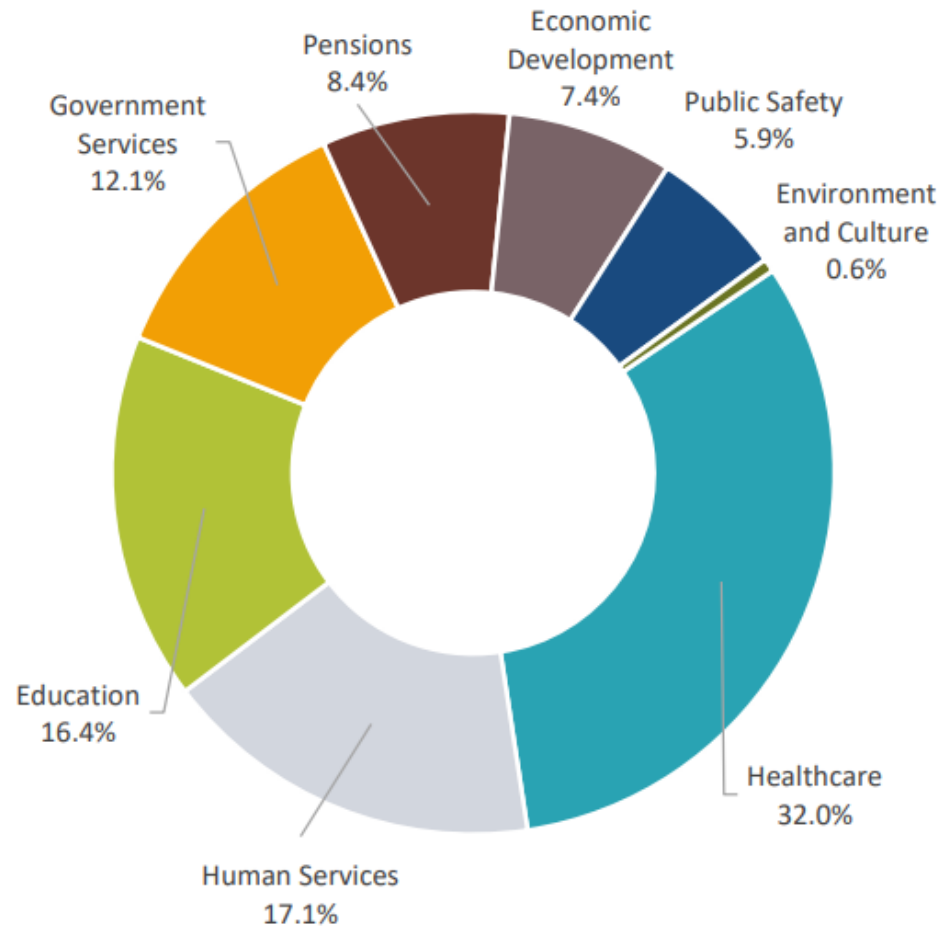
- would raise the cap on corporate deductions for operating losses instead of letting it expire completely (this cap would be eliminated if the law is left unchanged)
- increases the tax rate paid by sports wagering companies
- reduces a credit claimed by retailers for collecting sales tax

Assumes FY25 state general funds revenue of \$52.993 billion and spending of \$52.697 billion (\$296 million surplus)

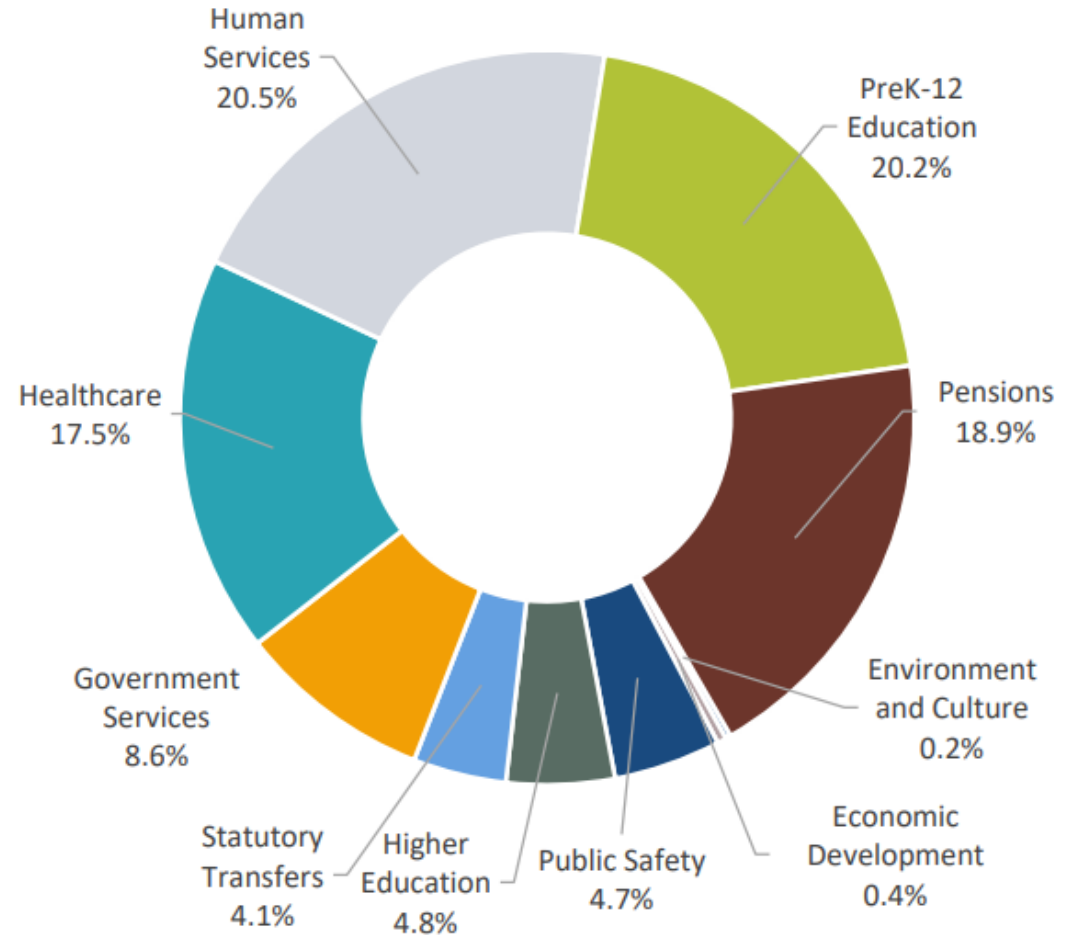


FY25 Proposed Operating Budget

All Funds: \$123.2 Billion



General Funds: \$52.7 Billion



Highlights: ISAC

MAP: \$711.6 million (+\$10 million)

- Up 77% from the FY19 approp of about \$401.3 million.

ECACE Scholarship: \$5 million

- Has been federally funded, will need state funds

Human Services Professional Loan Repayment: \$250,000

Scratch-off lotto proceeds: up to \$2.5 million each for the Illinois DREAM Fund and UNCF Illinois

Requests for other programs are flat at the current year's levels (AIM HIGH, MTI, Nursing Education, Golden Apple, etc.)

Highlights: Higher Ed

Increase of 2% in general funds for the operating costs of public universities (+\$24.6 million) and community colleges (+\$6 million)

\$450,000 to expand the Common App program for use by community college students transferring to Illinois public universities

\$450,000 for an IBHE/ICCB data dashboard to track institutions' progress toward closing student equity gaps

Level funding of nearly \$4.3m for ICCB to reimburse community colleges for waiving tuition and fees under the Illinois Veteran Grant and Illinois National Guard Grant

Legislative Proposals

Changes to Existing Programs

- New metrics for for-profits to stay in MAP (SB 93)
- No for-profits in ISAC-run programs (SB 3397)
- IVG sliding scale for eligibility and transfer to dependents (SB 2667)
- IVG longer window for return to Illinois (HB 4337)
- ECACE Scholarship in state law (HB 5024)
- Grow Your Own Teacher transferred from IBHE to ISAC (HB 5437)
- DCFS waiver changes (SB 3138)
- Tuition waivers for dependents of public university employees w/7 years' service and for dependent survivors of public university employees (HB 4492)

Eliminating repayment provisions for state grants

- Releasing recipients from repayment obligations for grant/loan programs, or “groans” (HB 5482)
 - New recipients would still pledge to complete work obligations and to provide evidence to ISAC that they’re fulfilling the pledge
 - Existing obligations would be cancelled
 - Affected programs would include Minority Teachers of Illinois, Golden Apple Scholars, Special Education Teacher Tuition Waivers, Optometric Education Scholarship Program, Post-MSW School Social Work Professional Educator License scholarships, the iGROW Tech Scholarship, and the Nursing Education Scholarship

Workforce Programs

- Workforce industry shortage scholarship (SB 102)
- Grants and loan repayment programs for:
 - Manufacturing (SB 3560)
 - Local Journalism (SB 3592)
 - Nurses in prisons (HB 5475)
 - School support personnel (counselors, psychologists, nurses, speech-language pathologists) (HB 5492)
 - Music education (SB 3395)
 - Hospice and Palliative Care workers (SB 3714)
 - Optometrists (SB 3579 and HB 4940)

Pay for Experiential Learning

- Student teaching stipend (SB 3215 and HB 4652)
- Larger Minority Teachers of Illinois grants for student teachers (SB 2040 and SB 2776)
- Extended MAP eligibility for student teachers, *with obligation to teach or repay* (SB 284)
- Nursing student stipend (SB 3703)
- Paid internships for school social workers (SB 2222)

Other aid policy changes

- RISE Act changes
 - To include students who didn't live with parents while attending high school in IL (SB 2404 and HB 5568)
 - To include grad students (HB 4725)
- Scholarship Displacement Act (HB 5292)

...and much more

- Uniform Admissions Program
- Set-aside for rural students in law, medical, and nursing schools
- Declarations of student rights, student-athlete rights
- Course material cost transparency
- Taxability of student loan repayment assistance, employer-funded tuition assistance, student loan payments
- Waived application fees for refugees
- Efforts to encourage baccalaureate completion (eliminating application fees for community college transfer students, increasing participation in the Illinois Articulation Initiative, establishing processes for cc campuses to bring in BA providers)



The State Legislative Update is in the
ISAC e-Library at isac.org.

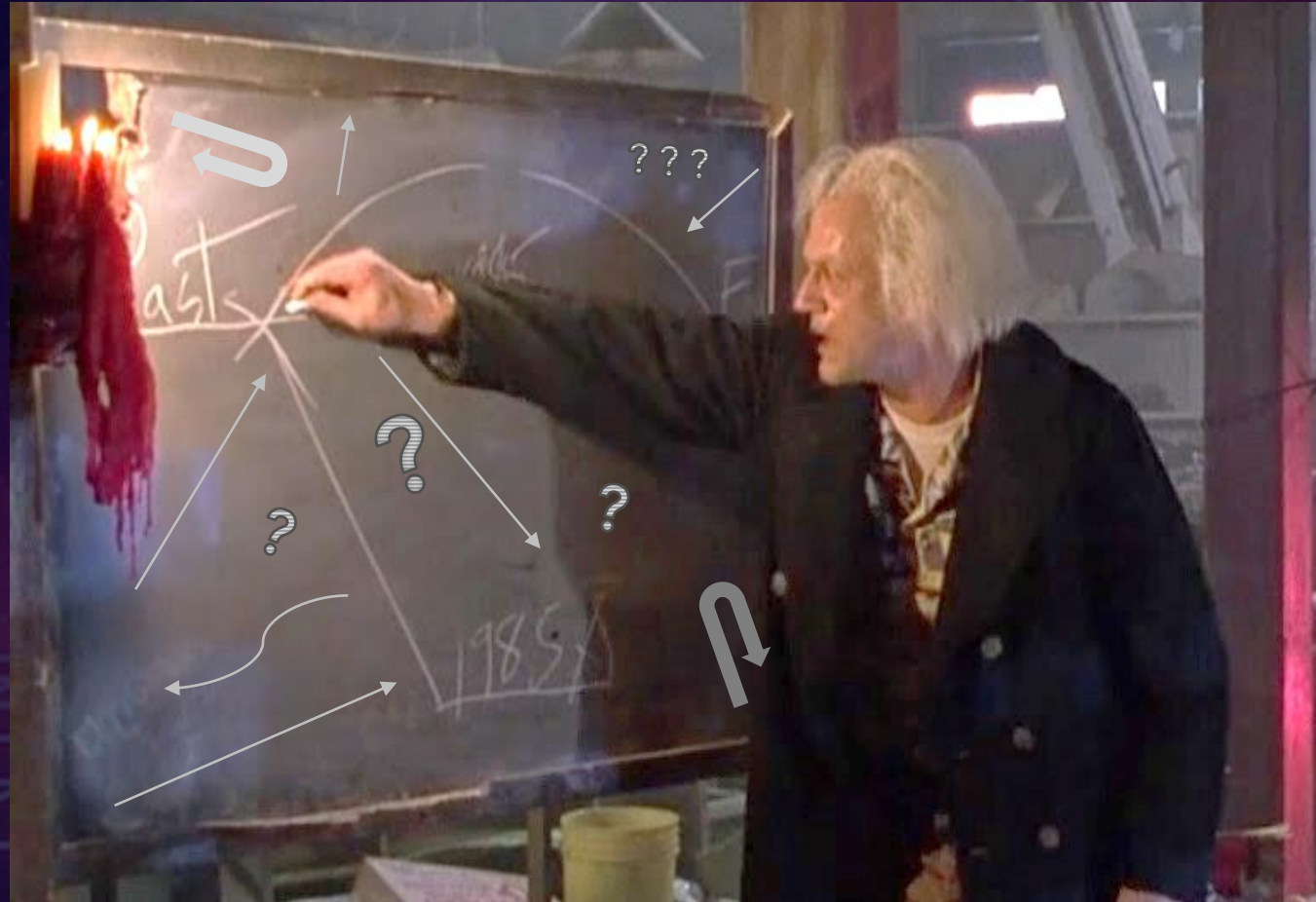
Bill text and status are at www.ilga.gov.

I'm at katharine.gricevich@illinois.gov



ISAC Operational Update:
Stephanie Schmitz-Bechteler
Managing Director,
Program Services and Compliance
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Your Moment of Zen...



Me, trying to explain our 24-25 production and implementation timelines to my boss.

Your Moment of Zen...



Me, trying to calibrate the new federal tool for downloading ISIRs.

Your Moment of Zen...



The spirits of my loved ones, trying to save me from myself during Public Comment period.

Our Roadmap

- 2023-24 Program Updates
- 2024-25 Program Updates
- What's Down the Road ...
- Resources for the Journey
- Customer Service When You Need It

2023-24 Monetary Award Program

- CLAIMS: Currently accepting Term 2 (Spring) claims
 - Spring term deadline date is **Friday, March 22**
 - *NOTE: Fall claims and upward adjustments submitted after the fall term claim deadline date are being held as late claims.*
 - **STAY TUNED**: Third term and late-start Spring term processing is expected to begin on March 21.
- SUSPENSE: Applicants whose 2023-24 FAFSA or Alternative Application were submitted on or after September 23, 2023 remain in suspense status.

Other 2023-24 Program Updates

- **Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program**
 - In the final year of a 3-year federally funded program
 - Effective **March 9, 2024** ISAC will pause 2023-24 application processing
 - *REMINDER: Application will remain on website, applicants will receive an unfunded letter*
 - **March 15, 2024** claims deadline: Please submit all first and second term claims
 - *REMINDER: If awarded, a student retains the full scholarship for the full year - Funds not used in one term may be used in a subsequent term*
 - We are on track to deliver the program through Summer 2024 term – stay tuned for additional updates.
- **Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program**
 - Continuing additional rounds of awarding while appropriations remain
 - *REMINDER: Be sure to check for dual-awarding situations for students - Students cannot receive assistance from more than one ISAC teacher program (MTI, Golden Apple, SETTW) in an award year*

Other 2023-24 Program Updates

- **Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program**
 - Application deadline date for summer term consideration is **June 15, 2024**
 - *REMINDER: Application deadline dates for first and second semester have passed*
- **Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program**
 - Priority application consideration date was August 28, 2023, however, the application remains available
 - *REMINDER: Complete applications submitted after the priority date will be considered only if available funding remains after all timely complete applicants have been awarded*

2024-25 Monetary Award Program

2024-25 MAP Formula – Timeline of FY24 Activities

- **Start-Up Formula** was approved at the **September 2023** Commission Meeting
 - Using 2021-22 reported tuition and fees and 2021-22 Pell tables in the formula
 - Maximum award amount is \$8,400
 - EFC is replaced with the SAI
 - *NOTE: If SAI is negative, it will be set to 0 in the MAP formula*
- **Recompute Formula** will be submitted for approval at the **June 2024** Commission Meeting
 - The process of approving the recompute formula is to:
 1. Meet with ILASFAA MAP Formula Committee to discuss recommendations
 2. Present the recompute formula to the Commission
 3. Approved formula and maximum award announced, if applicable

2024-25 MAP APPROPRIATION

- February 21 Governor's State of the State and Budget Address: a proposed increase of \$10M over the FY24 \$701M appropriation
- Spring legislative session is scheduled to adjourn near the end of May

2024-25 MAP SUSPENSE

- A suspense date has not been announced

2024-25 Monetary Award Program

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE – E-Library “Electronic Tools”

MAP160-byte file layout specifications

2024-25 MAP 160 Byte File Layout Specifications

F) The following 160 byte record layout will be used for transmitting data between schools and ISAC.

Position	Field #	Data Element	Type (Length)	School to ISAC	ISAC to School		
				Payment or Cancellation Request	Elig File	Payment Results	
Start	End			MAP Only	MAP	MAP	
160 Byte Format							
1	3	1	Applicable MAP School Code	9(03)	X	X	X
4	4	2	Record Type	X(01)	4	7	5 / 6
5	5	3	Term Enrolled	9(01)	=1, 2, or 3		=1, 2, or 3
6	7	4	College Year	9(02)	25	25	25
8	8	5	Payment Request Code (valid values = P or C)	X(01)	X		X
9	14	6	Title IV School Code	X(06)	X	X	X
15	50	7	Person UUID	X(36)	X	X	X

Sample ISAC UUIDs

```
ISACPLL3YyRh5E8EohuN58wgGndxcXdQPGKM
ISACPwHoPtRKMQxELuxwUCON0grXZKdeJjt6
ISACPXPGkpacsIF8iOR0jPDzjjvzYN6N2wTN
```

Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications

**2024–25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
As of 2/20/2024**

Field #	Start Position	End Position	Length	Field Name	Populated when Applicable	Data Format (same values and formatting as ISIR unless otherwise noted)
1	1	1	1	Year Indicator	Yes	
2	2	37	36	FAFSA UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
3	38	73	36	Transaction UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
4	74	109	36	Person UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
5	110	111	2	Transaction Number	Yes	
6	112	112	1	Dependency Model	Yes	

Other 2024-25 Program Updates

- **Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program**
 - Priority application date is **March 31, 2024**
 - *REMINDER: Applicants must submit BOTH (1) an ISAC MTI program application and (2) a 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application to have a complete file for processing*
 - Due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be provided for applicants who cannot submit their FAFSA by March 31
 - *NOTE: The FAFSA should be submitted as soon as possible, HOWEVER the student's MTI application should still be submitted by March 31 to be considered timely.*

Program Reminder for Institutions – INFO SESSIONS & ADVISING!

Participating colleges must host an annual information session about MTI for teacher candidates of color and require that each program recipient meet with an academic advisor at least once per academic year.

Other 2024-25 Programs Updates

- **Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program**
 - This program is not subject to an appropriation – it is a tuition waiver for attendance at public universities in Illinois
 - Application priority date was March 1, 2024
 - Application remains available – apps submitted after March 1 are accepted but considered not timely
 - *REMINDER 1: Students are encouraged to apply as long as the application remains available*
 - *REMINDER 2: Does not require a FAFSA or Alternative Application to complete the application process*
 - Next steps
 - Processing and award the program's 250 waivers
 - Students who are awarded will be notified by ISAC **by July 1, 2024**

Other 2024-25 Program Updates

- **Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) Program**
 - ISAC application is available **March 1 – April 30**
 - *REMINDER: Final date is a deadline date, not a priority date*
 - Students must re-apply for the NES program each year
 - Again, due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be provided for applicants who cannot submit their FAFSA by April 30
 - *NOTE: The FAFSA should be submitted as soon as possible, HOWEVER the student's NES application should still be submitted by April 30 to be considered timely.*
- **Illinois Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship Program**
 - Launching for 2024-25, subject to appropriation
 - 2023-24 rules can be reviewed at: isac.org/e-library/documents/administrative-rules/2023-24-Proposed-October-2023.pdf

Administrative Burden Reduction? Yes.

Greater Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

1. MAP Award Adjustments

- Temporarily suspending the expectation to submit an enrollment hours adjustment for students at 15 hours or above, if their award amount remains unchanged
- Temporarily suspending the expectation to edit a student's MAP code if a student changes programs during the term, if their award amount remains unchanged
 - Will also be acceptable to adjust the award amount in the same budget code, and not have to cancel initial claim and submit a new one

2. MAP Advising Data Collection

- ISAC will delay data collection until late Fall 2024 and will plan to leave it open through the end of the calendar year



**More
information to
follow post-
conference!**

Administrative Burden Reduction? Yes.

Greater Flexibilities in ISAC Program Review

1. Program Review Suspense – NEW Reviews

- ISAC will suspend all NEW routine program reviews through June 2024.

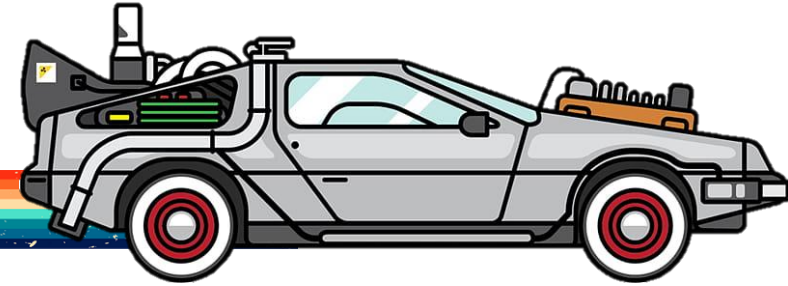
2. Program Review Extensions – CURRENT Reviews

- ISAC will work with the institutions currently undergoing a review to provide extensions for responses, reports or requests for additional documentation.



More
information to
follow post-
conference!

What's Down the Road ...



- **Enhancements to the GAP Access registration process**

- Primary Administrators will be able to easily provide access to new Administrators
- User Guides are being updated
- *Reminder! Password resets can be done by the school – please see the prompt under the GAP Access Login Box*



<https://www.isac.org/gap-access/>

GAP Access User Guides

User Guides for all GAP Access functionality are below. General questions, user name and password maintenance, and technical information about GAP Access are answered in the Activating and Authentication User Guides.

- [Activating GAP Access User Accounts](#)
- [Activating Other GAP Access Administrators](#)
- [Activating Your GAP Access Primary Administrator Account](#)
- [AIM HIGH Data Collection](#)
- [Budget Reporting Process User Guide](#)
- [Deceased, Disabled, and MIA-POW Veterans' Dependents Scholarship](#)
- [ECACE Scholarship Program User Guide](#)
- [Enrollment Status Verification for the Teacher Programs User Guide](#)
- [Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative – Access and Agreement User Guide](#)
- [GAP Access Two-Factor Authentication User Guide](#)
- [GAP Access User Verification](#)



<https://isacportal.isac.org>

GAP ACCESS

ISAC Gift Assistance Program

User Login

Login

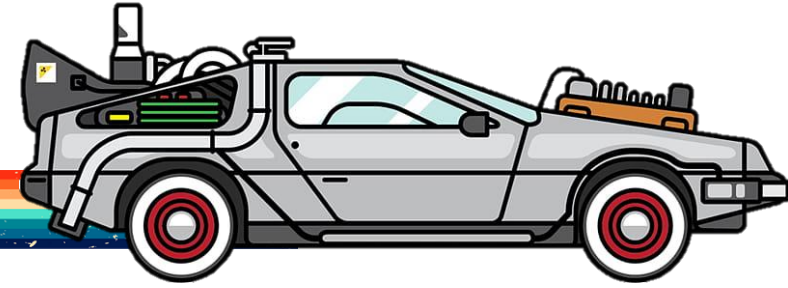
User ID

Password

Login

[Forgot Password? Forgot User ID?](#)
[Click here to register](#)

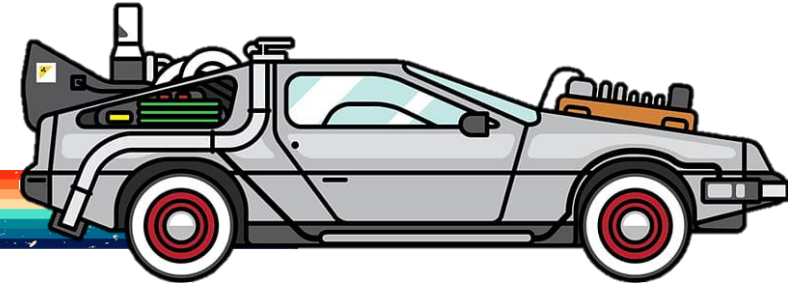
What's Down the Road ...



- **Annual Budget Data Collection Process**

- Will open in early April
 - *SAVE THE DATE: Policies & Procedures Webinar will be offered on **April 9, 2024***
- Due date to submit data will be **June 1, 2024**
 - *REMINDER 1: Colleges will continue to report main tuition and fee rates, can report differential rates as needed*
 - *REMINDER 2: If school budgets aren't final by then, estimated data may be submitted and updated during the summer*
 - *REMINDER 3: Schools cannot begin the MAP payment process until all budget data is provided*

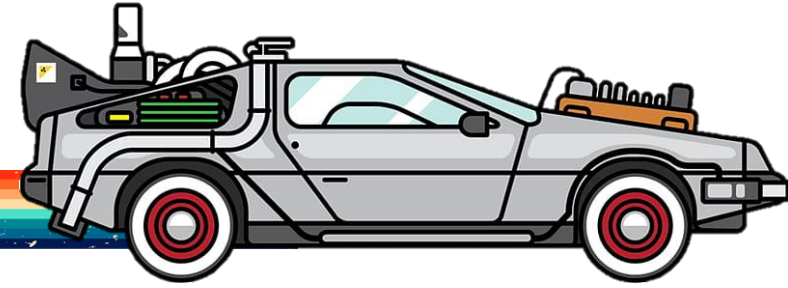
What's Down the Road ...



Proposed Rule Amendments for 2024-25 Award Year

- **Part 2700 – General Provisions**
 - Delete “Expected Family Contribution” definition
 - Revise “Resident of Illinois” definition to provide a residency override for dependent students negatively impacted by 2024-25 FAFSA changes
 - Add “Student Aid Index” definition
 - Clarify circumstances under which a residency override can be granted and provide verification documentation requirements
- **Part 2749 – Nursing Education Scholarships**
 - Revise several sections to better align the rules with ISAC’s automated processes and provide consistency with other ISAC programs following transfer of the program from IDPH

What's Down the Road ...



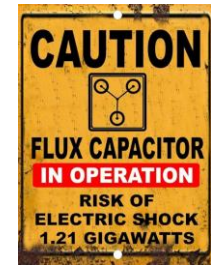
Proposed Rule Amendments for 2024-25 Award Year

- **Part 2750 – Illinois Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Support Program**
 - Clarify that FAFSA is required
 - Add information about awarding methodology
 - Add other awarding guidance
 - Add possible special circumstances that would warrant extension of repayment obligation
- **Part 2753 – Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program**
 - Add other qualifying mental health centers (P.A. 103-0056)
 - Add that 30% of funding shall be reserved for minority applicants (P.A. 103-0056)
 - Update repayment amounts and add additional professions (P.A. 103-0056)

Resources

You may find these resources helpful in answering your questions:

- Partner Training Page:
 - isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html
- Partner e-Messages:
 - isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/index.html
- ISAC Gift Assistance Programs:
 - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html
- FAA Processes (a how-to section for operational guidance):
 - isac.org/faas/processes/index.html
- 2024-25 MAP 160-Byte File Layout:
 - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425-MAP-160byte-File-Layout.pdf
- ISAC Gift Assistance Program Applications:
 - isac.org/e-library/applications-forms-brochures.html



Your Partners on the Journey ...

Program Services & Compliance (PSC) Team

Stephanie Schmitz-Bechteler, Managing Director, Program Services & Compliance

Christy Shields, Director, Program and Product Services

Nicole Kelleher, Manager, Applicant Services

Steve Markese, Manager, Product Delivery Services

Paul Oliver, Manager, Student & Parent Services, Call Center

* These staff are here at the conference!

Kim Eck, Assistant Director, Partner Services

Stephanie Claudio, Training Services Specialist

Daniela Rios, Training Services Specialist

Sherry Schonauer, Training Services Specialist

Jackie Eckley, Assistant Director, Program Communication Services

Darla Puckel, Assistant Director, College Illinois!® Operations



For school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

~~ISAC's School Services Department~~

Phone: **866-247-2172**

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: **isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov**

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT



COMING SOON!
School Services →
PARTNER SERVICES

If unable to assist you, your inquiry will be forwarded to the appropriate person in PSC.

For inquiries from students, parents, and the public:

ISAC's Student & Parent Services Department

Phone: **800-899-ISAC (4722)**

Fax: 847-831-8549

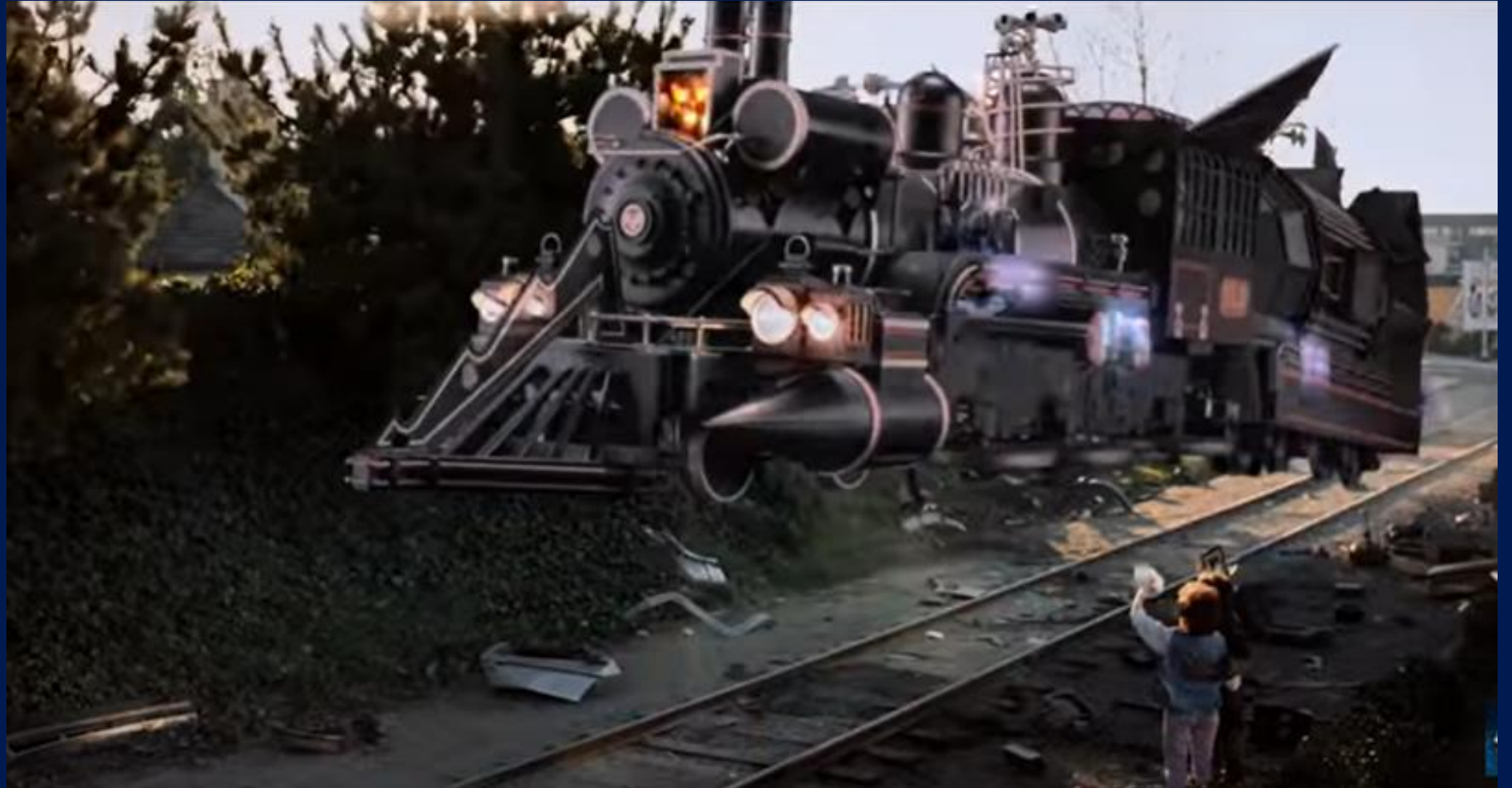
E-mail: **isac.studentservices@illinois.gov**

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

**Home to ISAC's
Call Center
and Applicant
Services teams!**

**Reminder: Spanish-speaking
counselors are available!**

Thank
you from
all of us
at ISAC!



“The future is what you make it.”
--Doc Brown