

# ISAC Operational Update and Program News

April 24, 2024



# Agenda

- 2023-24 Operational Update
- 2024-25 Operational Update
- Federal Update
- Dates and Events to Remember
- ISAC Contact Information
- Questions

# 2023-24 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

# Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- ISAC continues to accept 2023-24 payment claims for the third quarter (and second semester for institutions with second semester starting after Feb. 15)
- The third quarter claim deadline date is **Friday, May 3, 2024**
  - Initial claims must be submitted no later than 7 p.m. (CT) to be considered timely
  - Any initial claims or increases to third-term claims made after the deadline date will be considered late and will only be paid if funding is available after paying timely claims
- ISAC continues to accept first- and second-term MAP claims
  - Initial claims and increases to previously-submitted claims are being held as late
- After the third-term claim deadline date, ISAC will make a determination whether or not late claims can be paid
  - Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit all claims and adjustments in the event that late claims are able to be paid
- **Reminder:** ISAC suspended the announcement of 2023-24 MAP awards for students whose initial 2023-24 FAFSA<sup>®</sup> or Alternative Application was received on or after September 23, 2023

# Spring Term Payment Processing

- Priority claim date is **Friday, May 3, 2024**, for these programs:
  - **Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)**
    - Submit claims for fall, winter and spring terms
  - **Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License (SWSP) Scholarship**
    - Submit claims for spring term
  - **Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship**
  - **Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship**
  - **Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois**
    - Submit claims for 2<sup>nd</sup> term (spring semester & winter quarter) and 3<sup>rd</sup> term (spring quarter)

# Spring Term Payment Processing

- The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable
- Claims submitted after a term's priority claim date will be paid only if funds remain after all timely claims have been paid
- By submitting a payment request, schools are certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria
- If an awarded student becomes ineligible, schools will need to provide an ineligible reason from the drop-down menu

# Spring Term Payment Processing

- Benefit usage data priority claim date is **Friday, May 31, 2024**, for:
  - **Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant**
    - Schools may submit benefit usage data for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term (spring)
    - Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit benefit usage data and adjustments for the fall term
  - **Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)**
    - Schools may submit benefit usage data for the 3<sup>rd</sup> term (spring)
    - Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit benefit usage data and adjustments for the summer and fall terms

# Spring Term Payment Processing

## Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers

- Priority claim date to return the Certification of Enrollment for Payment Rosters to ISAC is **Friday, May 10, 2024**
  - Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters for the winter and spring terms were emailed to financial aid directors during the week of April 1
  - Colleges that have not submitted the fall roster yet are encouraged to complete and submit the roster as soon as possible
  - Application remains available for students to submit for summer term only
    - Application deadline date for summer term consideration is **June 15, 2024**
  - Applicants must reapply each year



# Payment Offset & Reconciliation Processing Reminder

- The Payment Offset and Reconciliation procedures apply to the:
  - Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
  - Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program
  - Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Program
  - Monetary Award Program (MAP)
  - Nursing Education Scholarships (NES), and
  - Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program.
- Institutions are required to reconcile payments and submit all necessary corrections to student records on a timely basis
- Any funds determined to be owed to ISAC as a result, are to be held until the end of the regular school year

# Payment Offset & Reconciliation Processing Reminder

- As part of this process, new payment requests are compared to outstanding amounts owed to ISAC, and payment is made accordingly
- Review your payment results reports in GAP Access after submitting your program claims to ensure everything processed as expected
  - Link to User Guides for Result Codes: [isac.org/gap-access/index.html#guide](https://isac.org/gap-access/index.html#guide)
- Cancellations of prior payments will be deducted from any future payments until the end of the academic year, when refunds must be identified and returned to ISAC no later than 60 days after the term ends
- For more information about Payment Offset and Reconciliation, visit: [isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/payment-offset-and-reconciliation-map.html](https://isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/payment-offset-and-reconciliation-map.html)

# Returning Program Funds to ISAC

- As previously noted, funds should be returned to ISAC only after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular school year.
- All schools with an outstanding amount owed to ISAC at the end of the school year will receive a notice indicating the total amount to be returned.
- When it is necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, a Gift Assistance Programs Refund Check Form should be completed and submitted along with the payment.



1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209  
866.247.2172  
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

## GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS REFUND CHECK FORM

Please report the dollar amount refunded for each program/year if submitting a single check with funds for **multiple** programs or academic years.

Mail Refund Checks to: Finance & Accounting Division - J10  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

To ensure refunds are credited to the correct account (both school and/or student) and the appropriate ISAC gift assistance program, please complete the requested information below.

DATE SENT TO ISAC	
SCHOOL NAME	
MAP CODE /ED CODE/IVG CODE	
PROGRAM(S)	
ACADEMIC YEAR(S)	
VOUCHER NUMBER <small>(specific to the above academic year)</small>	
TERM(S)	
CHECK NUMBER	
CHECK DOLLAR AMOUNT	\$

### REASON FOR REFUND

- Returning Amount Due at End of Year: Per ISAC's letter indicating total amount owed.
- Current and/or Prior Year Refund:
  - **Provide the students' names and Social Security numbers (last 4-digits);**
  - **Indicate actual credit hours enrolled;**
  - **List dollar amount refunded for each term; and**
  - **State the institution's reason for the refund.**
- External Compliance: ISAC's Finance & Accounting Division will forward a copy of the Final Program Review Report to the appropriate internal department.
- Other Refund: Provide Explanation

# Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

- **MAP Award Adjustments**

- To provide some administrative relief for colleges for the remainder of the 2023-24 award year, ISAC is:
  - Temporarily suspending the expectation to submit enrollment hour adjustments 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
    - It is also acceptable to adjust the award amount in the same budget code and not have to cancel the initial claim and submit a new one

- **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

# Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

- **Program Reviews – NEW Reviews**
  - ISAC will suspend announcing all NEW program reviews through June 2024
- **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

# **2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025**

# Timeline -- Preparing for 2024-25 MAP

- **April 2024**
  - 2024-25 MAP eligibility was made available in the MAP system in GAP Access
  - Schools may begin announcing estimated MAP awards, based on the Start-Up Formula
  - Collection of 2024-25 budget data from MAP-approved colleges began on April 1
- **May 2024**
  - Legislative session continues, with the hope that there will be a finalized state budget by end of the month
  - ILASFAA MAP Formula Committee Meeting may meet to discuss recommendations for the Recompute Formula, if needed
- **June 2024**
  - Schools' FY25 budget data due by June 1
  - Finalized state budget, including ISAC appropriations for FY25
  - MAP Recompute Formula recommendations to be presented to ISAC Commissioners for approval at the June 20<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting
  - Approved maximum annual award amount for the 2024-25 award year announced
    - Cannot exceed maximum in statute
  - Recompute Formula implemented and new award amounts announced, if applicable
    - Late June/early July (dependent on budget being final, if formula changes are needed, etc.)

# 2024-25 MAP Processing Cycle

- The 2024-25 MAP processing cycle began April 5
- Student eligibility information is available in the MAP system
  - This includes students who have submitted a 2024-25 FAFSA or a 2024-25 Alternative Application
- Visit our website for more information:
  - [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/)

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Monetary Award Program (MAP)

## Monetary Award Program (MAP)

### Program News

(last updated April 23, 2024)

- 2024-25 Start-up Implementation
- 2024-25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
- 2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
- 2024-25 Award Announcements
- 2024-25 Start-up Formula
- 2024-25 File Layout Specifications
- 2023-24 Program Funding
- Suspension of 2023-24 Award Announcements
- 2023-24 Payment (third-term claims due May 3; late first- and second term claims being held)
- 2023-24 Recompute Formula
- 2023-24 Award Announcements
- 2023-24 File Layout Specifications
- 2023-24 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
- 2023-24 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
- 2023-24 Start-up Implementation

Additional MAP References

- Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- Program Overview
- Applying
- Suspense
- Eligibility
- Award Announcements
- Formula
- MAP Paid Credit Hours
- Special Enrollment Circumstances
- Budget Reporting
- Payment
- Reconciliation
- MAP Electronic Processing



# 2024-25 MAP Start-Up Formula

- ISAC Commissioners approved the 2024-25 MAP Start-Up formula in Sept. 2023
  - It is the same as the 2023-24 Recompute Formula, using
    - 2021-22 reported tuition and fees
    - 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule
    - a \$5,200 living allowance, and
    - an \$8,400 maximum award
  - Replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI)

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Monetary Award Program (MAP) > Formula > 2024-25 MAP Formula

## 2024-25 MAP Formula

[2024-25 MAP Start-up Formula](#)

Each year the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is responsible for adopting an allocation formula for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). The Commission approves a "start-up" formula that is used to begin making award announcements for students applying for the next academic year. Typically, once the Governor and General Assembly take final action on the budget, the Commission revisits the formula in June or July and takes action to approve a "recompute" formula.

Unless otherwise noted, all calculations should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar upward from .500 and downward from .499. Students who have been paid for 135 or more MAP Paid Credit Hours are not eligible for MAP.

### 2024-25 Start-up Formula

On September 21, 2023, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission [approved the 2024-25 \(FY25\) MAP start-up formula](#). Following the FY24 recompute formula, the start-up formula for 2024-25 MAP grants – which is outlined in Table One of [Agenda Item 5](#) from the [September 21, 2023 Commission meeting](#) – uses:

- 2021-22 reported tuition and fees;
- the 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule;
- a \$5,200 living allowance; and,
- an \$8,400 maximum award.

In addition, as necessitated by FAFSA Simplification, the 2024-25 MAP start-up formula **replaces**

**Monetary Award Program (MAP)**

- Program Overview
- Applying
- Suspense
- Eligibility
- Award Announcements
- Formula
  - 2023-24 MAP Formula
  - 2024-25 MAP Formula**
  - Hand Calculation Forms
  - Calculating MAP Awards
- MAP Paid Credit Hours
- Special Enrollment Circumstances
- Budget Reporting
- Payment
- Reconciliation
- MAP Electronic Processing

September 21, 2023  
1:00 p.m.

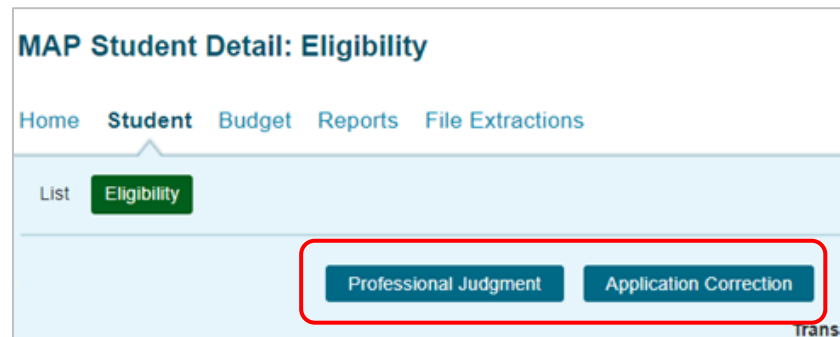
Deerfield Office  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Room 3030  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, Illinois

Springfield Office  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference  
500 W. Monroe  
Springfield, Illinois

1. Announcements (Action)
  - A. [Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates and Locations – Commission](#) (Action: Commission)  
Action Taken: Approved
  - B. [Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates and Locations – Investment Committee](#) (Action: Investment Committee)  
Action Taken: Approved
2. Approval of the Commission and Investment Committee Meeting Minutes (Action)
  - A. [Approval of Minutes of the June 22, 2023 Investment Portion of the Joint Meeting of the Commission and Investment Committee](#) (Action: Investment Committee)  
Action Taken: Approved
  - B. [Approval of Minutes of the June 22, 2023 Joint Meeting of the Commission and Investment Committee](#) (Action: Commission)  
Action Taken: Approved
3. Approval for the Destruction of Open Meeting Verbatim Records (Action)
  - A. [Approval of Investment Committee Open Meeting Verbatim Records for Destruction](#) (Action: Investment Committee)  
Action Taken: Approved
  - B. [Approval of the Commission Open Meeting Verbatim Records for Destruction](#) (Action: Commission)  
Action Taken: Approved
4. [Executive Director's Report](#) (Information)
5. [Monetary Award Program \(MAP\) Start-Up Formula](#) (Action)  
Action Taken: Approved

# 2024-25 Alternative Application

- Changes have been made to the application to be consistent with the 2024-25 FAFSA to collect all data elements required to calculate an SAI
- Students may login to their application and make corrections, as needed
- FAAs may use the functionality in the MAP system for Alternative Application student records to make corrections or a professional judgment determination
- A 2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing is available to assist FAAs with processing question
  - [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2425-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Jan24.pdf](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2425-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Jan24.pdf)



# 2024-25 MAP Award Notification Language

- Other than award year reference, there are no changes to the required MAP award notification language for 2024-25
- An updated version of the language has been posted in the MAP section of the FAA area at [isac.org](https://isac.org)
- [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425MAPRqrdAwdNotifLang.pdf](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425MAPRqrdAwdNotifLang.pdf)

## 2024-25 School-Issued Award Notification Language

All schools are required to announce MAP Grant awards to all eligible students enrolled at their institutions, including students who are only eligible for a second semester/second and third quarter MAP award. Schools are required to clearly identify the awards on the award notification as: **State of IL MAP Grant (Est)**.

Schools are also required to include the following information with the award notification:

*By applying for financial aid and agreeing to share that information with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) you have been considered for the State of Illinois (IL) Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant. All MAP-approved institutions are required by the State of Illinois to announce MAP Grant awards to students who are enrolled or intending to enroll at their institution. An award amount is included in your financial aid package if you have met the eligibility criteria.*

*The MAP Grant award amount is an estimate made by the financial aid office and is identified as a "State of IL MAP Grant (Est)". Please be aware that the number of available MAP Grants is limited by funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor, and reductions to estimated or actual MAP Grants are possible.*

*There are also limitations to how long you can continue to receive a MAP Grant. Usage is tracked by the number of credit hours for which you've received MAP benefits and is referred to as MAP Paid Credit Hours (MPCHs). The maximum number of MPCHs that can be received is 135, which is equivalent to approximately four and a half years of full-time enrollment. For your reference, and to learn more about MPCH limitations, you may access a record of your MPCHs, as well as other student resources, through the ISAC Student Portal at [studentportal.isac.org](https://studentportal.isac.org).*

*Eligibility for the need-based MAP Grant award may indicate that you are eligible for assistance with expenses such as food, housing, or child care for dependent children. If you have dependent care expenses, ask the financial aid office about the federal dependent care allowance. For eligibility and application information about the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) and the [Child Care Assistance Program](#), contact the [Illinois Department of Human Services](#) at 800-843-6154 or [www.dhs.state.il.us](https://www.dhs.state.il.us). Contact the [Illinois Hunger Coalition](#) Hunger Hotline at 800-359-2163 or [www.ilhunger.org](https://www.ilhunger.org).*

# 2024-25 MAP Rights & Responsibilities

- An updated version of the document has been posted in the MAP section of the FAA area at [isac.org](https://isac.org)
- The document outlines a student's use of the MAP grant, and that the student understands and agrees to maintain all eligibility requirements
- Schools may want to provide students with a copy of this document or the link [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425-MAP-RR.pdf](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425-MAP-RR.pdf)



1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209  
800.899.ISAC (4722)  
Fax: 847.831.8549  
website: [isac.org](https://isac.org)  
e-mail: [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov)

## 2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP) Rights & Responsibilities

The information you reported on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)*\* for the 2024-25 academic year serves as your application for the need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant through the State of Illinois. MAP grants help Illinois students pay for tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois MAP-approved colleges\*\*. The MAP grant award amount is an estimate made by the college's financial aid office and is identified as a "State of Illinois MAP Grant (Est)" in your financial aid package. Please be aware that the number of available MAP grants is limited by funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the governor, and reductions to estimated or actual MAP grants are possible. The MAP grant is not a loan, so it does not have to be repaid. Your rights and responsibilities are outlined on this form. Use of this grant means that you understand and agree to maintain all eligibility requirements. If you fail to do so, you may no longer receive grant funds.

### TRACKING MAP USAGE

Eligibility for a MAP grant is tracked by the equivalent number of semester credit hours of MAP benefits paid on your behalf. This is called MAP Paid Credit Hours. If you are attending a quarter college, your quarter credit hours will be converted to semester MAP Paid Credit Hours. Please contact your financial aid advisor if you have questions regarding the quarter college conversion. You may access a record of your MAP Paid Credit Hours through the ISAC Student Portal at <https://studentportal.isac.org/MPCH>.

**Limit for Each Term:** Payment for each term is made according to the equivalent number of credit hours eligible for MAP payment, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15 MAP Paid Credit Hours. If you are enrolled for the equivalent of 15 or more credit hours, the number of MAP Paid Credit Hours assessed to you will be 15.

**Total Limit:** The maximum number of MAP Paid Credit Hours is 135.

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE SHEET AND KEEP IT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

### STUDENT RIGHTS

#### You have a RIGHT to:

1. a fair and objective decision without regard to race, creed, gender, or national origin. We use the federal processing system to collect and update information so that uniform results are produced.
2. appeal an ISAC decision. You should be aware that ISAC must adhere to the rules and statutes governing the Monetary Award Program (MAP) in order to be fair and equitable to all applicants. If you feel that there are additional circumstances or documentation to be presented, a letter of appeal, signed by the applicant, should be submitted to: ISAC, Applicant Services/MAP Appeal, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield IL 60015. Appeals must include the student's Social Security number and be made within 60 days of the administrative decision made by ISAC.
3. expect prompt and courteous personal service from ISAC staff. We want to hear from you if you have comments about our customer service.
4. call the Federal Student Aid Information Center (800.433.3243) for general information about federal financial aid programs, application procedures, and for ordering a duplicate or corrected *FAFSA Submission Summary*. This number cannot be used to obtain information on ISAC's programs. To obtain information on ISAC's programs, call ISAC at 800.899.ISAC (4722), send an e-mail to [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov), or visit ISAC's website at [isac.org](https://isac.org). Correspondence should be sent to the ISAC office in Deerfield.
5. obtain the satisfactory academic progress standards of the college you have chosen and find out what will happen if you fail to meet them. You can obtain your college's standards by contacting your financial aid office.
6. know that all MAP grant funds are paid directly to the college on your behalf. The college requests payment in your name. ISAC will not send MAP money directly to you.
7. know that your file may be chosen for "verification." Your college or ISAC may ask you to provide supporting documentation for the information reported on your FAFSA Submission Summary. If you fail to provide requested information, you may no longer receive funding from the MAP grant or other aid programs for the 2024-25 academic year.
8. know that the MAP grant can only be used to cover tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois MAP-approved colleges. Mandatory fees are those charged to all students each year or term. For community college students, the grant is limited to the in-district tuition and mandatory fees. Out-of-district applicants must make arrangements to pay the additional college costs. The MAP grant does not pay for audit courses, credit-by-examination, life experience, or noncredit courses. Such course work cannot be used to determine enrollment status.

\* Throughout this document, references to the FAFSA also apply to the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

\*\* Throughout this document when a reference is made to "college," it means an Illinois MAP-approved postsecondary institution.

# MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications

- The final file layout for 2024-25 MAP processing has been posted to the Electronic Tools section of the E-Library
- For 2024-25, these data elements are no longer included on the file:
  - Student Social Security number (SSN)
  - Student Last Name (previously an optional field)
  - Original SSN
  - Name ID
- These Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data elements were removed to protect student identity when transmitting files between ISAC and colleges
- The student's Person Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) that is assigned to the student by the Department of Education (ED) by the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) replaced the SSN on the file
  - The Person UUID field is 36 characters in length, and the total number of characters removed was 36, so the length of the file did not change
  - The Person UUID stays the same for the student across FAFSA cycles
  - ISAC will generate a Person UUID for Alternative Application applicants
    - It will always begin with "ISAC" to be easily identified as an ISAC-assigned number

# 2024-25 MAP File Layouts

## 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	
Start	End				Payment or Cancellation Request	Elig File	Payment Results
					MAP Only	MAP	MAP
<b>160 Byte Format</b>							
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

160-byte file layout specifications

```
ISACPLL3YyRh5E8EohuN58wgGndxcXdQPgKM
ISACPwHoPtRKMQxELuxwUCON0grXZKdeJjT6
ISACXPgKpacSIF8iOR0jPDzjjvzYN6N2wTN
```

Sample ISAC UUIDs

## 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	

Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications

# 2024-25 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- 2024-25 NES application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - Application period is **March 1 through April 30, 2024**
  - Final date is a deadline date, not a priority date
  - Applicants must re-apply each year, along with submitting a FAFSA or Alternative Application
  - The application process is not considered complete until the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note and FAFSA or Alternative Application have been submitted to ISAC on or before **April 30, 2024**
  - Due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be provided for applicants who are not able to submit their FAFSA by April 30
  - However, the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note should still be submitted by April 30 to be considered a timely applicant

# 2024-25 Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

- ECACE program has been federally-funded for the last three academic years, however, federal dollars will be unavailable after the 2023-24 academic year
- Proposed Illinois legislation – [House Bill \(HB\) 5024](#) -- would amend the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to include a state-funded program
  - Here is part of the bill's synopsis:
    - ... Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall implement and administer an early childhood educator scholarship program, to be known as the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program. Provides that under the Program, the Commission shall annually award scholarships to early childhood education students enrolled in the institutions of higher education participating in the Consortium. Provides for rulemaking and consultation. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to provide for emergency rulemaking for the Program. Effective immediately.
- ISAC will provide more information as it becomes available



# 2024-25 Teacher Program Updates

- **Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program**
  - The priority application consideration date was **March 1, 2024**
  - Does not require a FAFSA or Alternative Application to complete the application process
  - Applications continue to be accepted, but will only be considered if available waivers remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded
- **Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program**
  - The priority application consideration date was **March 31, 2024**
  - Applicants must also submit a 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application
  - Due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be provided for applicants who were not able to submit their FAFSA by March 31
  - **Reminder for Institutions:** 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
- **Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program**
  - The deadline application date was **April 1, 2024**
  - Applications for the program are processed by the Golden Apple Foundation  
[goldenapple.org/scholars](https://goldenapple.org/scholars)

# ISAC Budget Reporting

- Pursuant to ISAC Rules [Section 2700.30 (e)], postsecondary institutions participating in gift assistance programs with ISAC shall annually report tuition and fee charges to ISAC on or before June 1 preceding each academic year
- The process to collect 2024-25 budget data for MAP, IVG & ING opened on April 1, 2024
  - Colleges will continue to report main tuition and fee rates, and can report differential rates as needed
- The due date to submit budget data is **June 1, 2024**
  - If school budgets won't be final by then, estimated data may be submitted
  - Schools should notify School Services by e-mail if estimated data is being provide and will need to be updated during the summer months
  - All budget data must be submitted before MAP payment processing can begin
  - ISAC will offer a webinar on the Budget Reporting process on **Tuesday, May 14 at 10 a.m.**

# Enhancements to the GAP Access Registration Process

- Primary Administrators are now able to more easily provide access to new Administrators
- GAP Access User Guides have been updated
- Reminder -- Password resets can be done by the school
  - please see the prompt under the GAP Access Login Box
- See the April 17 e-Message more information: [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0417-2.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0417-2.html)

## 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 Administrator Accounts](#)
- [Activating GAP Access User Accounts](#)
- [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](#)

## Login

User ID

Password

Login

[Forgot Password? Forgot User ID?](#)

[Click here to register](#)

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ISAC STUDENT PORTAL

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## Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) e-Messaging

Please fill in the required details and select the Email List(s) you would like to subscribe by marking the boxes below.

\*indicates required field

\* Email

\* First Name

# Sign-Up for e-Messaging

### \* Email Lists

- Business Officer - fiscal updates
- ECACE Administrators – program & processing updates about the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program
- FAA ISAC Update - monthly newsletter summarizing each month's announcements and updates
- Financial Aid Administrators - program & processing updates, rules & regulations, operational announcements
- Financial Aid Directors - administrative announcements
- MAP Users - operational updates for the Internet application used to process MAP data
- NESP Schools – operational announcements for schools participating in the Nursing Education Scholarship Program
- Public Schools - operational announcements for colleges participating in the ING Grant and IVG programs

- Subscription groups for specific programs are available

#### Quick Links

- Borrowers
- College Illinois®
- Counselors
- e-Library
- FAAs
- GAP Access
- Lenders
- Military Service
- Non-Eligible, Non-Citizens
- Transcript Exchange

#### About ISAC

- Contact ISAC
- Employment
- Executive Director
- The Commission
- FOIA

#### Social Networks



800.899.ISAC (4722)

e-Messaging

Get the latest news & updates from ISAC

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Applications

# Federal Updates

# Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Student Aid Knowledge Center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with dropdown menus for 'KNOWLEDGE CENTER', 'TRAINING', 'FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY', 'TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY', and 'PARTNER CONNECT SERVICES'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'What's New', 'Library', and 'Topics'. The main heading is 'Knowledge Center Home'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search Knowledge Center' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a link for 'Advanced Search'. The page is divided into two main columns. The left column features a 'What's New' section with a star icon, containing three items: 1) '(ANN-24-09) Live Internet Webinar – Preparing for FVT/GE Reporting – New NSLDS Reports' dated APRIL 23, 2024; 2) '(CB-24-09) Updated Federal Perkins Loan Assignment and Liquidation Guide Now Available' dated APRIL 23, 2024; and 3) 'Comment Request: Student Assistance General Provisions Subpart I Immigration Status Confirmation' dated APRIL 19, 2024. The right column features a 'Featured Information' section with a link icon, containing four items: 'E-App and Third-Party Servicer Inquiry Form Updates', '2024 Virtual FSA Training Conference Dec. 3–6', 'FAFSA Simplification Information' (highlighted with a red box), 'Prison Education Programs', 'Disaster Assistance', and 'Technology Security Alert'. Below this is a 'Quick Reference' section with a lightning bolt icon, containing 'FSA Handbook' and 'Dear Colleague Letters'.

# 2024-25 FAFSA Information from ED

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information>

Knowledge Center Home > Topics > FAFSA Simplification Information

## FAFSA Simplification Information

The *FAFSA Simplification Act* passed on Dec. 27, 2020 as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* and represents a significant overhaul of federal student aid, including the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>) form, need analysis, and many policies and procedures for schools that participate in the *Title IV* programs. FSA will be implementing the *FAFSA Simplification Act* alongside the FAFSA portion of the *Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act* which authorizes a direct data exchange with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to facilitate completing the FAFSA form. This page serves as a repository for all information, guidance, and training related to implementation of these laws.

 Print

### 2024-25 FAFSA News

- **Fast News:** April 24, 2024
- **Status:** April 24, 2024
- **Updates:** March 27, 2024
- **Issues:** April 19, 2024
- **FAQs:** March 27, 2024

### 2024-25 FAFSA News

- **Fast News:** April 24, 2024
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- **FAQs:** March 27, 2024

[2024-25 FAFSA News](#)

# FAFSA Simplification Q&As

[www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2009/fafsa-q-and-a.html](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2009/fafsa-q-and-a.html)



U.S. Department of Education

Student Loans

Grants

Laws

Data

## FAFSA Simplification Questions and Answers

Other than statutory and regulatory requirements included in the document, the contents of this guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public. This guidance is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Questions on this topic are divided into the following categories:

- Student Aid Index (SAI)
- Awarding Other Financial Assistance (OFA)
- Pell Grant Calculation (PEL)

You may refer additional questions to the Department using the Contact Customer Support form in [FSA's Partner Connect Help Center](#). To submit a question, please enter your name, email address, topic, and question. When submitting a question related to DCL GEN-23-11, please select the topic "FSA Ask-A-FED/Policy."

### Student Aid Index (SAI)

**SAI-Q1:** Can an institution adjust the SAI of an applicant to below -1500 using professional judgment?

**SAI-A1:** No. An institution may use professional judgment to adjust FAFSA data elements, but the Department's Federal Processing System (FPS) will never assign an SAI of less than -1500. [Guidance issued 08/04/2023]

**SAI-Q2:** Certain income items have been excluded from the FAFSA form. Can institutions add those items back in by professional judgment?

**SAI-A2:** Institutions have broad flexibility in exercising professional judgment (PJ). However, institutions may not request additional information or require additional forms beyond the FAFSA form unless the Department or the school selects the student for verification, or the student has requested either a review of their dependency status or special circumstances adjustment. [Guidance issued 08/04/2023]

**SAI-Q3:** Now that the number of family members in college is not considered in the need analysis, may financial aid administrators (FAAs) use their PJ authority to account for the cost of other family members who are enrolled in college?

**SAI-A3:** Yes, the law permits FAAs to exercise PJ to adjust the elements in the cost of attendance or the values of data used on the FAFSA form to calculate the SAI (e.g., AGI, taxes paid) when special circumstances exist. The Simplification Act revised the HEA to include any family members enrolled in postsecondary education in the list of circumstances that an FAA might consider when deciding whether to use PJ. FAAs are also reminded to indicate they are using their PJ authority by setting the FAA Adjustment flag in the FAFSA Partner Portal (formerly FAAAccess) or via Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) if the values of data used on the FAFSA form are

### How Do I Find...

- Student loans, forgiveness
- Higher Education Rulemaking
- College accreditation
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- FERPA
- FAFSA
- 1098, tax forms

[More >](#)

### Information About...

- Elevating Teaching
- Early Learning
- Engage Every Student
- Unlocking Career Success
- Cybersecurity



# NASFAA Upcoming Webinars

Sessions are scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m.

- The Basics of Gainful Employment & Financial Value Transparency – May 8
- Annual Business Meeting & Policy Update: Spring 2024 – May 22
- Hot Topic – May 29
- [nasfaa.org/Webinars\\_Live\\_and\\_On\\_Demand](https://nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand)

The screenshot displays the NASFAA website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the NASFAA logo and navigation links for 'JOIN', 'LOG IN', and a search bar. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with categories: NEWS, TRAINING & EVENTS, TOOLS & RESOURCES, ADVOCACY, POLICY & RESEARCH, MEMBERSHIP, and ABOUT NASFAA. The main content area is white and features a breadcrumb trail: Home » Training & Events » Webinars - Live and On-Demand. The 'Webinars' section includes a description of the program, a list of upcoming sessions, and a prominent green button that says 'PROCEED TO WEBINAR REGISTRATION'. A sidebar on the left lists various training and event options.

# ILASFAA Roundtable Discussion

- ILASFAA will be hosting a virtual event on April 30 from 12 -1 PM
- This will be an open forum discussion where there will be talk about everything 2024-2025 FAFSA, verification, delays, corrections, and anything else that may be on your mind!
- This is an open forum so all mics will be open for questions and comments.
- If you have any questions, you would like posed to the group, please feel free to submit them in advance to [sherry.schonauer@illinois.gov](mailto:sherry.schonauer@illinois.gov) or [adavis11@illinois.edu](mailto:adavis11@illinois.edu).
- You can register for the event at:  
<https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/r31e0b2dce5a4453db6a22e8dad48dfcc>

# ISAC's Webinars for FAAs

## Monthly Operational Update & Program News

- These webinars will provide operational updates about ISAC programs along with any federal or state updates and announcements
  - Last Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.
    - ❖ May 29
    - ❖ June 26
    - ❖ July 31

## Tuesday Training - Policies & Procedures

- These webinars focus on policies and procedures for ISAC programs and processes
  - Second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.
    - ❖ May 14 – Budget Reporting

To participate in these webinars, visit the Partner Training page in the e-Library on the day of the training for the webinar link and presentation materials

- [isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html)

# ISAC's Student Services Department

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: 800-899-ISAC (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov)

Spanish-speaking counselors are available

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

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## **Call Center Reps**

Bertha Esquivel

Ghouse Farooqi

Matt Setnicar

Manju Thomas

Larry Thompson

# ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information and support to schools and other ISAC partners
- Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations
- Responds to school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: [isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov)

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## Partner Services Staff

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# Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!