



ISAC 2020 FAFSA[®] Symposium

ISAC Update

Kim Eck,
Program Services & Compliance
September 29, 2020



Agenda

- ISAC Programs Update
 - Illinois State Scholar
 - Teacher Programs
 - Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- 2021-22 FAFSA & Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- Illinois FAFSA Mandate
- ISAC's FAFSA Completion Initiative

Illinois State Scholar Program (SSP)

- Due to Spring 2020 ACT and SAT exams being rescheduled in response to COVID-19, the 2021-22 State Scholar announcement schedule is being adjusted and award announcements will occur later in the year than they normally would
- ISAC continues to accept sixth semester data that will be used in determination of 2021-22 State Scholars, along with scores from rescheduled ACT and SAT tests
- The final date on which sixth semester data will be accepted has not yet been determined.
 - High school counselors will be notified later this fall once the deadline date is established.

Illinois State Scholar Program (SSP)

- Submitting Sixth Semester Data
 - The sixth semester data used to determine State Scholars must be submitted via the SSP system in ISAC's Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access portal
 - All data files must be formatted according to ISAC specifications
 - Data will continue to be accepted until a deadline date is announced
 - High schools are encouraged to submit their data as soon as they are able to do so.
 - Sixth semester is defined as the third semester prior to graduation, which is typically the end of a student's junior year (excluding summer term).
 - High schools may choose from two options to submit required data:
 - Option One: Batches (via Excel Spreadsheets) – **AVAILABLE NOW**
 - Option Two: Online Process – **NOT YET AVAILABLE**
 - Because this process relies on ISAC's receipt of ACT and SAT scores, the availability of this option has been delayed. Schools that may have used the online process in the past may wish to consider using Option One to submit sixth semester data this year.

Illinois State Scholar Program (SSP)

- To submit sixth semester data via Option One (Batches via Excel Spreadsheets)
 - Create an Excel spreadsheet using specifications in ISAC SSP File Upload Template
 - It must be created using the SSP Data Exchange Layout.
 - A sample template is available
 - Refer to the SSP File Upload User Guide to learn about how to upload the file, view when the file is validated and how to correct errors online
 - When the Excel spreadsheet is ready to submit, log in to the GAP Access portal to access the SSP system and follow the on-screen prompts to upload your file to ISAC.
 - Once the file has been uploaded, a file validation process will begin

The screenshot displays the ISAC SSP File Upload portal. At the top, a breadcrumb trail reads: Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > State Scholar Program > Required Sixth Semester Data. The main heading is "Required Sixth Semester* Data". Below this, a note states: "* Sixth semester is defined as the third semester prior to graduation, which is typically the end of a student's junior year (summer term not included)." Underneath, there are links for "Required Data", "High School Information", and "Test Scores". On the right side, a blue sidebar menu contains the following items: "State Scholar Program", "Program Overview", "Delivery Process And Timeframes", "Eligibility", "Required Sixth Semester Data" (highlighted with a red box), "SSP File Upload User Guide" (highlighted with a red box), "SSP Online Processing User Guide", "SSP Data Exchange Layout", "SSP File Upload Template" (highlighted with a red box), "State Scholar Selection Process", and "Finalists". In the bottom left corner, there is a sample Excel spreadsheet with the following columns: State Assigned Student ID, Last Name, First Name, MI, DSG NUMBER, 6th Sem Line GPA, 6th Sem Rank, Circularity Date, Transfer Out Date (MISSISSIPPI), Transfer Out To HS Date, Early Grad 4th Sem. Class Date, and Early Grad 4th Sem. Rank. A large "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid on the spreadsheet.

[HOME](#)[STUDENTS & PARENTS >](#)[COLLEGE ILLINOIS! >](#)[RESEARCH & POLICY >](#)[NEWSROOM](#)[ABOUT ISAC >](#)[ISAC Gift Assistance Program \(GAP\) Access](#)[Home](#) > [Gap-Access](#)

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access

[Assigning an Administrator](#)[GAP Access User Guides](#)[GAP Access Login](#)[Functionality Available via GAP Access](#)

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs Access (or GAP Access) is the portal through which online interactions for the purpose of data inquiries and submissions, eligibility announcements and payment requests for ISAC-administered programs are conducted. Due to the confidential nature of the student-specific data involved, a secure authentication process is required before access can be

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](#)
- [FAFSA Completion Initiative – Access and Agreement](#)
- [GAP Access Two-Factor Authentication User Guide](#)
- [GAP Access User Verification](#)
- [Golden Apple Scholarship User Guide](#)
- [ING Benefits Usage Processing](#)
- [ING Eligibility User Guide](#)
- [IVG Program User Guide](#)
- [MAP Advising Data Collection User Guide](#)
- [MAP Eligibility User Guide](#)
- [MAP Payment User Guide](#)
- [MTI User Guide](#)
- [SSP File Upload Guide](#)
- [SSP GAP Access User Guide](#)

If you have a question about information that is not addressed in the Guides, contact a [School Services Representative](#).

2021-22 ISAC Teacher Programs

- Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver
 - 2021-22 application will available at isac.org in December 2020
 - Priority consideration date: March 1, 2021
- Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship
 - 2021-22 application will available at isac.org in December 2020
 - Priority consideration date: March 1, 2021
- Golden Apple Scholars
 - Visit goldenapple.org to apply
 - Priority Deadline: December 15, 2020
 - Deadline: April 1, 2021

2021-22 Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant

- The Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) start-up formula was approved at ISAC's September 17, 2020 Commission meeting
 - Maximum annual award amount of \$5,340
 - Based on projections; assumes level funding
- The approved start-up formula is outlined in Item 5 of the Commission Meeting Agenda Book and may also be found in the MAP section in the FAA area of ISAC's website

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Agenda Book - September 17, 2020

Joint Meeting of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the Investment Committee

WebEx Virtual Event
September 17, 2020
1:00 p.m.

1. Announcements
 - A. [Approval of 2021 Meeting Dates and Locations - Commission - \(Action\)](#)
Action Taken: Approved
 - B. [Approval of 2021 Meeting Dates and Locations - Investment Committee - \(Action\)](#)
Action Taken: Approved
2. Approval of the Commission and Investment Committee Meeting Minutes - (Action)
 - A. [Approval of the June 18, 2020 Minutes of the meeting of the Investment Committee \(Action: Investment Committee\)](#)
Action Taken: Approved
 - B. [Approval of the June 18, 2020 Minutes of the Commission meeting \(Action: Commission\)](#)
Action Taken: Approved
3. Strategic Plan for Higher Education - (Information)
4. Executive Director's Report - (Information)
5. [Monetary Award Program \(MAP\) Start-Up Formula - \(Action\)](#)
Action Taken: Approved
6. [Approval of Proposed Administrative Program Rules and Amendments - \(Action\)](#)
Action Taken: Approved
7. College Illinois Prepaid Tuition Program Investments

2021-22 Priority Deadline Date

- Returning MAP recipients who submit their FAFSA by the announced priority deadline date will receive priority access to appropriated MAP funds
 - Returning recipients are defined as those students who **received** MAP funds during the previous academic year
 - For example, a student who received a MAP award in the 2020-21 award year would be considered a returning MAP recipient in the 2021-22 award year
 - Applicants must also continue to meet all other MAP eligibility criteria
- For the 2021-22 award year, the MAP priority deadline date is **December 1, 2020**
 - The FAFSA application must be submitted on or before December 1 to be considered for priority access to MAP
 - Applications received on or after December 2 will still be considered for a MAP award and processed according to the usual MAP application and suspense process
 - Note: the 2020-21 MAP Suspense date is July 1, 2020
 - 2020-21 FAFSAs or Alternative Applications received on or after this date are in suspended status

2021-22 MAP Award Notification Language

- Minor changes were made to the award notification language that colleges are required to provide to enrolled, MAP-eligible students
 - in response to legislation requiring references to potential SNAP benefits for need-based students ([Public Act 101-0560](#))

2021-22 School-Issued Award Notification Letter

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.

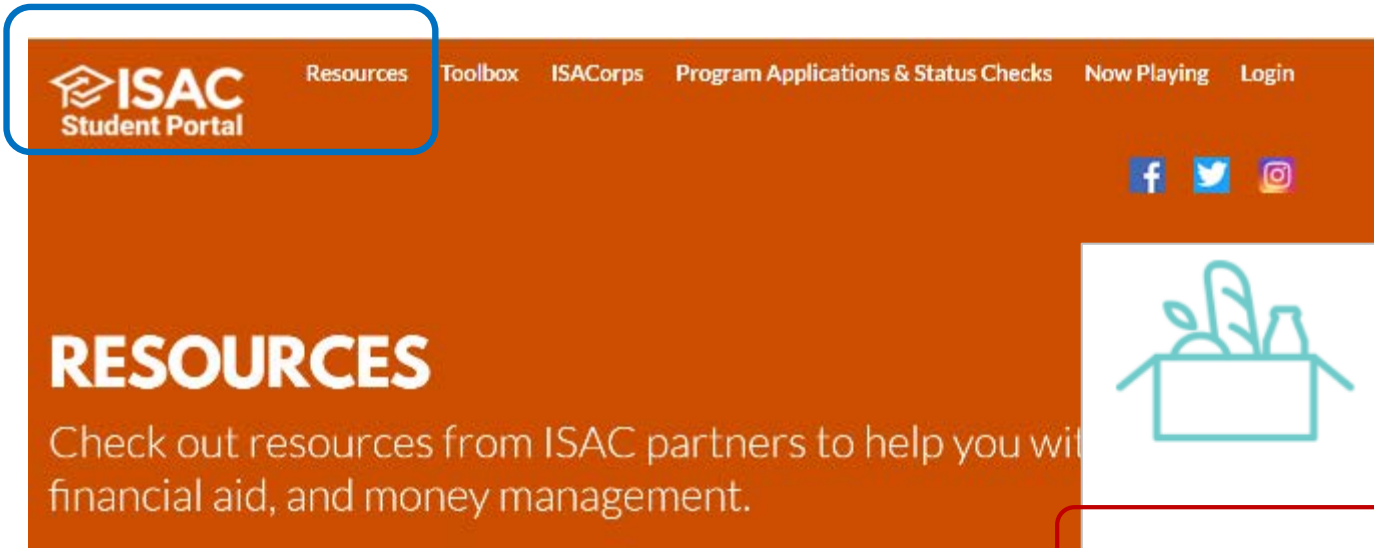
The MAP Grant award amount is an estimate made by the financial aid office and is identified as a "State of IL MAP Grant (Est)". Please be aware that the number of available MAP Grants is limited by funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor, and reductions to estimated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

Eligibility for the need-based MAP Grant award may be an indicator that you are eligible for state or federal benefits to assist you with cost of living expenses such as food or housing. For information about programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), contact the [Illinois Department of Human Services](#) at 1-800-843-6154 or visit www.dhs.state.il.us for eligibility and application information, or contact the [Illinois Hunger Coalition](#) Hunger Hotline at 1-800-359-2163 or visit www.ilhunger.org.

ISAC Student Portal Resources

studentportal.isac.org



[Student Resources Beyond Financial Aid](#) 

If you are an Illinois college student looking for help beyond financial aid – including resources for food, housing, medical care, child and dependent care assistance and consideration because of special circumstances – check out this area. You’ll also find a list of food pantries on or near Illinois college campuses.

<https://www.foodpantries.org/st/illinois>
An expanded list of Illinois food pantries.



Resources for Food, Housing and Medical Care

Ideally, a student's financial aid package will cover most of their cost of attendance charges, including tuition, fees and living expenses, however, when that is not the case, here are some suggested resources that may be available to students.

Food Resources

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) -- helps low-income people buy the food they need for good health.
 - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 800-843-6154
 - Eligibility and application information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=33698
- Illinois Hunger Coalition Hunger Hotline
 - 800-359-2163
 - www.ilhunger.org
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) -- provides temporary financial assistance for pregnant families with one or more dependent children.
 - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 800-843-6154
 - Eligibility and application information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30358
- Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) -- a food assistance program for women, infants, and children.
 - State WIC Office: 217-782-2166
 - Eligibility and application information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30513
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) -- a federal program that provides food at no cost to supplement the diets of needy low-income households.
 - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/emergency-food-assistance-program>
- Your institution's Student Services Department may be aware of school or community-based resource banks that can provide assistance if you do not meet the requirements for SNAP benefits. See the College Food Pantries on the following pages.
 - Links to other local food resources: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31245

Housing & Utilities Resources

- Emergency and Transitional Housing Program -- gives immediate and comprehensive shelter services to persons and persons at risk of becoming homeless.
 - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 800-843-6154
 - Information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30362
 - Other programs: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29723
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) -- helps keep families safe and healthy through that assist families with energy costs.
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocsp/programs/liheap>

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Child and Dependent Care

If you need help caring for children or other dependents while attending college, several resources are available to you.

Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to student parents who qualify. Eligible students are those who:

- live in Illinois
- work and/or are enrolled in an educational program
- have children under 13 who need care (or up to 19 for children with special needs), and
- have a family income below certain limits (based on family size).

With CCAP, child care co-pays could be as little as \$2 a month. To learn more about the Child Care Assistance Program and to apply, visit the Illinois Department of Human Services website (www.dhs.state.il.us). Also available at the DHS website:

- [Affordable Child Care Brochure \(English\)](#)
- [Cuidado de Niños a su alcance \(Español\)](#)
- [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\) Policy Manual](#)

Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies

For help in finding local child care options, visit the website of the [Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies](http://www.inccrra.org) (inccrra.org), a statewide organization that partners with local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies to make quality, affordable child care available to children and families in Illinois. Child care resource and referral services are available in all Illinois communities through a local CCR&R Agency.

- Available services by local area: <https://www.inccrra.org/about/sdasearch>
- Other resources: <https://www.inccrra.org/excelerate>

Dependent Care Allowance

A student's cost of attendance (COA) for college is a key factor in determining the amount of financial aid that a student may be able to receive. For students with dependents, an allowance for costs for dependent care can be included in the COA, and it can be for care that includes but is not limited to class time, study time, internships, and commuting time for the student. The amount of the allowance will be based on the number and age of the dependents and cannot exceed reasonable costs in the community for the type of care provided.

By including the costs of child and/or dependent care in a student's financial aid calculation, the student may be able to access additional financial assistance. This may include loans, which, it is important to note, must be repaid, but some students may also be eligible for more grant or scholarship money. Students should work directly with the financial aid office at their college or university to determine eligibility, get guidance on whether this adjustment would benefit them, and recalculate their financial aid.

Because the college is not always aware that a student has dependent care expenses, it's important for the student to initiate contact with the financial aid office and explain the need to include this allowance in their COA so it can be taken into consideration when determining the full amount of financial aid the student may be eligible to receive.

Additionally, if a student has a special circumstance that would justify an increase in the dependent care allowance, the student should provide that information to the financial aid office as well. The college may require supporting documentation for special circumstances.

2021-22 FAFSA

2021-2022 FAFSA

- Available on October 1, 2020
 - Paper FAFSA
 - Fillable PDF
 - 2021-22 FAFSA colors are green for student information and purple for parent information
 - Will be accepted for processing on October 1, 2020
 - FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)
 - fafsa.gov
 - studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa
 - FAFSA mobile app
 - Available in the Apple App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android)
 - An applicant can start on FOTW and finish on the mobile app, or vice versa
- No significant changes

FAFSA on the Web Demo Site

- Became available September 27, 2020
- URL: <https://fafsademotest.ed.gov>
 - A username and password is not required to access the site
 - Several types of test cases are provided and include FSA ID usernames and passwords to log in
- Can be used to:
 - Help you increase your understanding of fafsa.gov
 - Train new staff members or other school departments
 - Provide an introduction/orientation to students and parents
- At the demo site, you can:
 - Complete a sample FAFSA form
 - Make corrections
 - Check the status of the application

2021-22 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

RISE Act Implementation

- The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act went into effect Jan. 1, 2020
 - Allows eligible undocumented students and transgender students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for all forms of state financial aid
 - Removed the 75-hour cap on MAP paid credit hours for freshmen and sophomores; the overall maximum of 135 MAP paid credit hours remains in effect
 - See the RISE Act information page for eligibility criteria and resource information
 - isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/
- To accommodate RISE Act-eligible students, ISAC created an Illinois-specific online application for MAP grants that is patterned after the FAFSA
- Application data is used to calculate an EFC and determine eligibility for MAP
 - 2020-21 Alternative Application was launched on January 6, 2020 and will remain available for students to complete until June 30, 2021
 - Enhancements were made to allow students to make updates/corrections and to allow students to submit an application without parental data
 - **2021-22 Alternative Application will be launched on October 1, 2020**, the same day that the 2021-22 FAFSA will be made available
- The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is only available as an online application and it is not compatible with a mobile device

Accessing the Alternative Application

- The Alternative Application can be accessed at isac.org
- Must navigate to the RISE Act information page from the home page
 - Spanish resources are available
- The Alternative Application is not accessible in ISAC's Student Portal or on the general ISAC Applications page with other ISAC program applications

The screenshot shows the ISAC website home page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for COUNSELORS, E-LIBRARY, FAA'S, GAP ACCESS, and a SEARCH bar. The main header features the ISAC logo and a prominent banner for 'Important information for Undocumented & Transgender Students' with the text 'ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID' and 'A new path for qualified undocumented students and transgender students who are not eligible for federal financial aid to apply for MAP grants'. A 'LEARN MORE' button is highlighted with a red box. Below the banner is a horizontal menu with 'Alternative App' highlighted by a red box. A red arrow points from the left side of the page towards the 'Alternative App' link. At the bottom, a 'Featured' section lists several items, with 'Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid' highlighted by a red box. The ISAC logo is also present in the bottom left corner.

Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

[En Español](#)

(last updated February 4, 2020) This page is updated as new information becomes available during the implementation of the RISE Act; check back on a regular basis.

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students and transgender students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for all forms of state financial aid. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid provides a pathway for these qualified students to apply for Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, the state's largest need-based grant program for low-income college students.



The RISE Act also removed the 75-hour cap on Monetary Award Program (MAP) paid credit hours for freshmen and sophomores as of January 1, 2020. The overall maximum of 135 MAP paid credit hours remains in effect.

- [Pathway to Apply for ISAC Programs](#)
- [Application for MAP: Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid](#)
- [Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Process](#)
- [Applying for Other ISAC Programs](#)

- [About The ISACorps](#)
- [College And Career Exploration And Planning](#)
- [Financial Aid Planning](#)
 - [Completing The FAFSA®](#)
 - [RISE Act/Alternative Application](#)
 - [Alternative Application FAQs](#)
 - [Alternative Application User Guide & Resources](#)
 - [Types Of Financial Aid](#)
- [Making An Informed College Choice](#)
- [Outreach Activities/Event Calendar](#)

Pathway to Apply for ISAC Programs

The RISE Act creates a pathway to apply for ISAC gift assistance programs for the 2020-21 academic year – including MAP, the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program, the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Programs and others – to those who meet the RISE Act criteria and each program's eligibility requirements. **The RISE Act does not exempt applicants from meeting existing program eligibility criteria.**

• Undocumented Students

Undocumented students may be eligible to apply for ISAC's programs if they meet all of these criteria, which are based on Illinois statute regarding in-state tuition eligibility:

- the individual resided with his or her parent or guardian while attending an Illinois public or private high school;
- the individual graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois;
- the individual attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years; or the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent diploma;
- the individual provides an affidavit stating that the individual applied to become a permanent resident of the United States and that the individual is eligible to do so; and
- the individual has not established a residence outside of Illinois.

• Transgender Students

- Transgender students are also included in those eligible for financial aid consideration under the RISE Act. The RISE Act provides an application process for financial aid consideration other than using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), which is used to qualify for both federal and state financial aid. Transgender students may choose the application process that best suits their situation.

Application for MAP

To accommodate RISE Act-eligible students (both undocumented and transgender students), ISAC has created an Illinois-specific online application for MAP grants. Instead of completing the FAFSA to begin the MAP application process, these students may choose to complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. The data from the application will be used to calculate an Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is used in determining a student's MAP eligibility. The application, patterned after the FAFSA, is now available for the 2020-21 academic year.

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is not currently compatible with mobile devices.

Application Process for MAP

The following describes in general terms the steps of application completion and the process used to determine MAP eligibility.

- The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is accessible online through the ISAC website.
- Pre-screening questions at the beginning of the application help students determine which application (RISE vs. FAFSA) should be completed.
- If an applicant's answers to the pre-screening questions show the Alternative Application should **not** be completed, a message will advise them to consult their high school counselor, a financial aid professional, or an ISACorps member for assistance in completing the FAFSA.
- Similar to the FAFSA, students will only complete the application questions that are relevant to them.
- An "Expected Family Contribution" (EFC) will be calculated from the information submitted on the Alternative Application, which will be used in determining a student's eligibility for MAP.
- MAP award amounts will be calculated for eligible students and provided to colleges by ISAC.
- As with all MAP awards, eligibility notification will be provided to the student by the college,

[Access the application here](#)

**ALTERNATIVE
APPLICATION
FOR ILLINOIS
FINANCIAL AID**

Intended for qualifying undocumented and transgender students

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented and transgender students

Alternative Application to apply for Illinois MAP Grants

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid allows qualifying undocumented students and transgender students who are not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid to apply for Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants to attend eligible Illinois colleges, universities, and career education programs.

The pre-screening questions in this application will help you determine if you are a qualifying undocumented or transgender student who is not eligible for federal financial aid.

[See our User Guide & Resources for this program >>](#)

Select Academic Year

Are you a First-time or Returning Applicant?

Select **First-time Applicants** if you have never created an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and did not receive an ISAC ID Number for purposes of applying for the Monetary Award Program (MAP).

Select **Returning Applicants** if, at some time in the past, you created an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and received an ISAC ID Number for purposes of applying for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). You must use the same e-mail address that was used for your previous application to file a new application, unless you changed your e-mail address on your Student Profile.

First-Time Applicants	Returning Applicants	Submit Parent Signature
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Click on the "Start" button to start a new Alternative Application for Illinois Financial AidDo not submit multiple applications for the same academic year	<p>Complete or correct a Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid</p> <p>Forgot Username?</p> <p>Forgot Password?</p>	<p>Click on the "Parent Signature" button to provide your parent's signature (required for dependent students)</p>
<input type="button" value="START"/>	<input type="button" value="LOGIN"/>	<input type="button" value="PARENT SIGNATURE"/>



Alternative Application Pre-Screening Process

- Pre-screening questions at the beginning of the application help students determine which application (Alternative Application vs. FAFSA) should be completed
 - An applicant will only need to respond to the Pre-screening questions if it is their initial application
 - Renewal applicants will not see the pre-screening questions
 - Data provided by applicants in the pre-screening questions is not provided to colleges
 - Applicants who indicate in the pre-screening process that they are a transgender student will be asked to provide their Social Security Number
 - The SSN is not provided to the college; it is only used to track previous MAP Paid Credit Hours history
- If an applicant's answers to the pre-screening questions indicate the Alternative Application should not be completed, a message will advise them to consult their high school counselor, a financial aid professional, or an ISACorps member for assistance in completing the FAFSA

Alternative Application Process: Pre-Screening Questions



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

STUDENT

Welcome!

Completion of the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is required to determine Monetary Award eligibility for RISE Act (Public Act 101-0021) eligible students. For more information on the RISE Act see the [website](#). Your application will be processed by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

Before you complete the application, the following questions will determine whether this is the MAP application. You should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Your responses to these questions are not be shared with your school or third parties (even after you complete the application). ISAC has strict security policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity of student records.

To ensure your data is secure be sure to log out and close your browser when completed. In some instances, despite just logging out, and your browser could potentially still be storing personally identifiable information.

CONTINUE



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

STUDENT

This application is for individuals who are not eligible for federal student financial aid, including qualifying undocumented applicants, as well as transgender applicants who did not register for Selective Service.

The following questions will help determine if you may be eligible to apply for federal student aid or whether you are eligible to use this application to apply only for state student financial aid. You are encouraged to speak with a financial aid counselor at your school or an ISAC counselor to assist you with determining which application to file.

You may be eligible for federal student aid if you are a U.S. citizen (U.S. national) or what the federal government calls an "eligible noncitizen."

If you are a U.S. citizen (U.S. national), skip to the bottom of this page and select "Yes."

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may still be eligible for federal financial aid if you are what the federal government calls an "eligible noncitizen." Select "Yes" at the bottom of this page if any of the descriptions of an "eligible noncitizen" below apply to you:

- U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as an Alien Registration Receipt Card or "Green Card")
- Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
- Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Indefinite Parole," "Humanitarian Parole," or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant"
- A citizen of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM).
- Hold a T nonimmigrant status ("T-visa") (for victims of human trafficking) or your parent holds a T-1 nonimmigrant status
- A "battered immigrant-qualified alien" who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Are you a U.S. citizen (U.S. national) or someone who meets the description of an "eligible noncitizen" in one of the dot points above?

- Yes
- No



Alternative Application Process: Pre-Screening Questions



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

STUDENT

In order to be eligible to apply for a MAP grant through this application, you must meet *all* of the following criteria:

1. you resided with your parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in Illinois;
2. you graduated from a public or private high school, or received the equivalent of a high school diploma, in Illinois;
3. as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma, you had attended for at least three (3) years;
4. by signing the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid you will be providing an affidavit stating that you will become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity you are eligible to do so; and
5. you have not established a residence outside of Illinois.

Do you meet *all* of the above criteria?

- Yes
 No

BACK

CONTINUE

A "No" answer to the U.S citizen/eligible noncitizen question will lead to this screen

A "Yes" answer to the U.S. Citizen/eligible noncitizen question will lead to this screen



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

STUDENT

Your eligibility to file an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is based on either your noncitizen or transgender status. Based on the response you provided, you are a U.S. citizen (U.S. National) or federal eligible noncitizen.

NOTIFICATION:

By completing this Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid you are applying for the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) only.

If you would like to determine whether you are eligible for federal student aid you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

According to the RISE Act (Public Act 101-0021), if you are eligible to file the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid as a **transgender** person, you do not have to register for Selective Service in order to qualify for Illinois State aid; however you will **NOT** be eligible for federal student aid if you are required to register for Selective Service but do not do so.

Are you a transgender person?

- Yes
 No

Do you have a Social Security number?

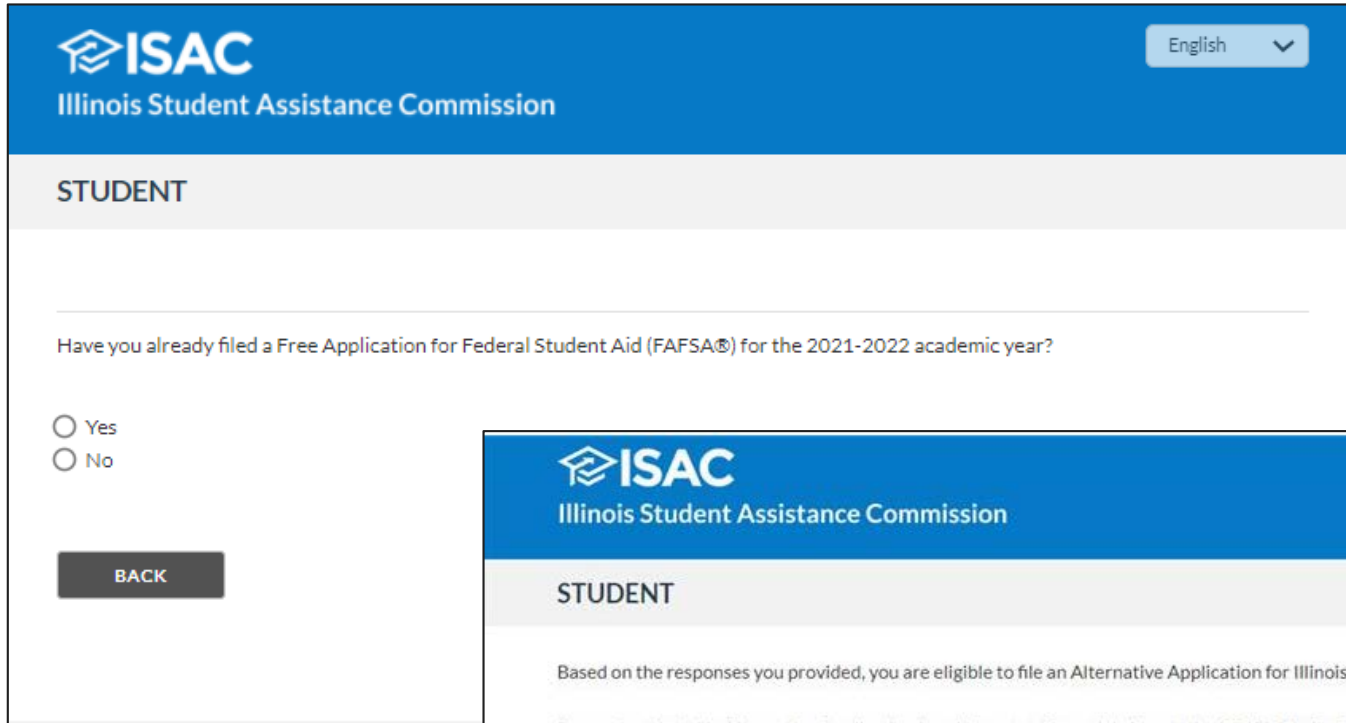
- Yes
 No

Please provide your Social Security number*

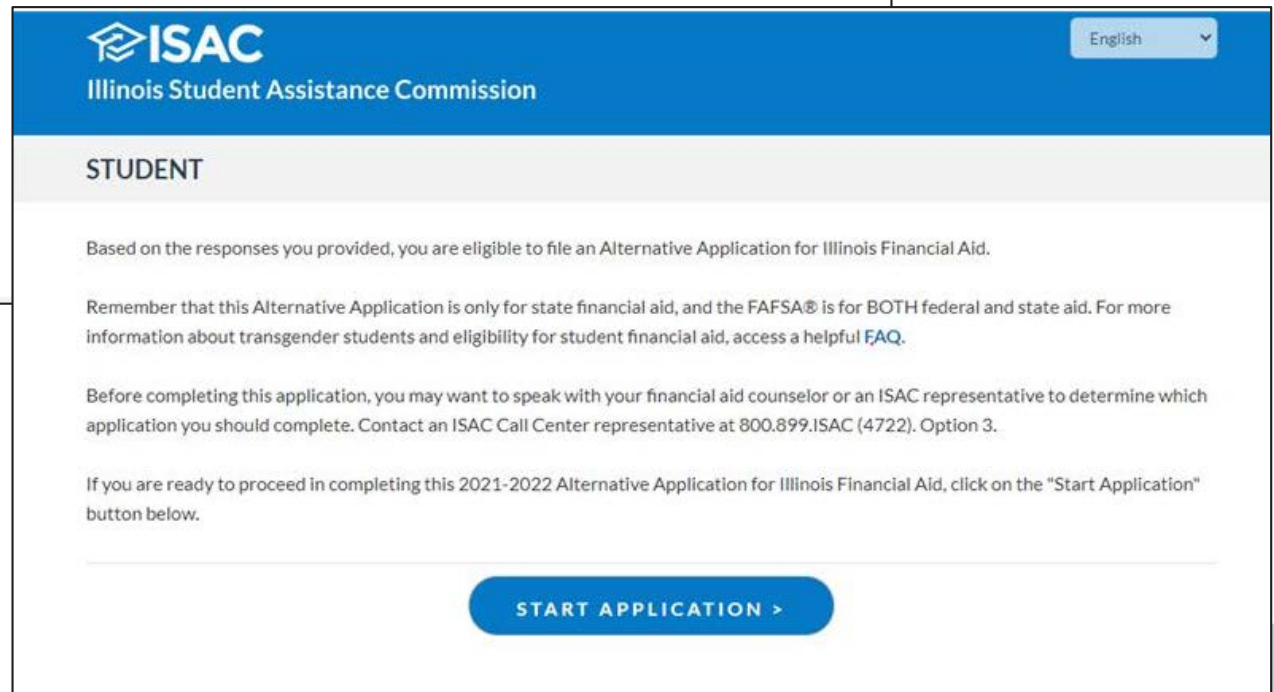
*Why is ISAC asking for my Social Security number? Your Social Security number (SSN) will be used by ISAC for *internal purposes only*, such as to determine if a student has previously received MAP grant funding and if so, to calculate remaining MAP paid credit hours. This information will **NOT** be provided to colleges and universities as part of a student record. No Social Security number will be required for the application itself.



Alternative Application Process: Pre-Screening Questions



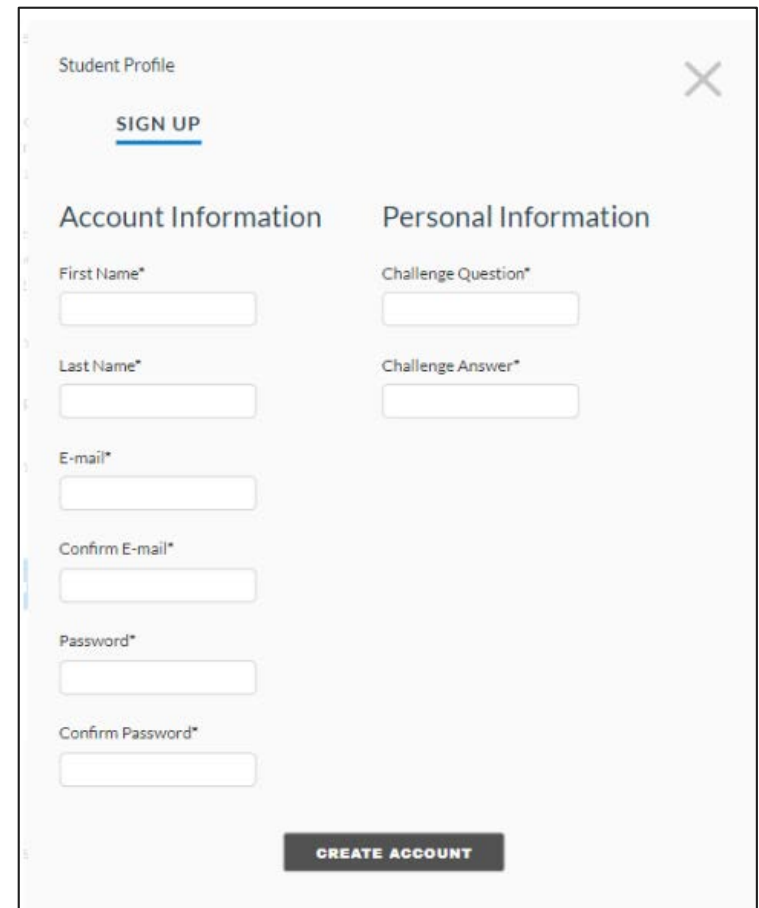
The screenshot shows the top portion of the ISAC application process. At the top left is the ISAC logo and the text "Illinois Student Assistance Commission". At the top right is a language dropdown menu set to "English". Below the header is a grey bar with the word "STUDENT". A horizontal line separates the header from the main content area. The main content area contains the question: "Have you already filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) for the 2021-2022 academic year?". Below the question are two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". At the bottom left of the form is a dark grey button labeled "BACK".



The screenshot shows the bottom portion of the ISAC application process. At the top left is the ISAC logo and the text "Illinois Student Assistance Commission". At the top right is a language dropdown menu set to "English". Below the header is a grey bar with the word "STUDENT". The main content area contains the following text: "Based on the responses you provided, you are eligible to file an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid." followed by "Remember that this Alternative Application is only for state financial aid, and the FAFSA® is for BOTH federal and state aid. For more information about transgender students and eligibility for student financial aid, access a helpful [FAQ](#)." Below this is another paragraph: "Before completing this application, you may want to speak with your financial aid counselor or an ISAC representative to determine which application you should complete. Contact an ISAC Call Center representative at 800.899.ISAC (4722). Option 3." The final paragraph reads: "If you are ready to proceed in completing this 2021-2022 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, click on the 'Start Application' button below." At the bottom center of the page is a large blue button with the text "START APPLICATION >".

Alternative Application Process

- Creating a Student Profile
 - Once a student has navigated through the pre-screening questions and is determined eligible to complete the Alternative Application, the student will be prompted to complete a Student Profile
 - All fields are required, and the applicant should make note of the email, password and challenge question used to create their profile
 - The e-mail address provided should be a permanent one that the student will have regular access to (not one used just for high school or college purposes)
 - If the applicant also has an ISAC Student Portal Account, they will need to use a different e-mail than the one used for the Portal
 - Once the Student Profile is complete, ISAC will assign an ISAC ID number that is unique to the student
 - This is a permanent identifier that will remain the same for a student every year



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Student Profile" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title is a "SIGN UP" link. The form is divided into two columns: "Account Information" and "Personal Information".

Account Information	Personal Information
First Name*	Challenge Question*
Last Name*	Challenge Answer*
E-mail*	
Confirm E-mail*	
Password*	
Confirm Password*	

At the bottom right of the form is a "CREATE ACCOUNT" button.

Alternative Application Process

- Completing the Application
 - There are seven sections in the application
 - Sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are about the student
 - Section 4 is about the parent
 - Section 7 is for signatures and certification
 - The questions in each section are essentially the same as the questions on the FAFSA, and help text is provided
 - Students should answer all questions as accurately as possible
 - Some fields are optional, but most are required
 - A gender question will be asked on the Alternative Application, but it is optional for the applicant to complete
 - Responses to the gender question will be not shared with the colleges
 - Messaging will be presented for required fields that are left blank and the student will need to provide answers before they can navigate to the next page
 - A “Save” button allows students to save their data and return at a later time to finish completing the application

Alternative Application Process

- The same financial data elements collected on the FAFSA (income and assets) will also be collected on the Alternative Application so that an EFC can be calculated
- Once the application has been signed and submitted, an EFC will be used in the MAP Formula in the same way that it is used for FAFSA applicants
- The EFC, the eligible MAP award amount, and other relevant data elements will be provided to colleges as the Alternative Application Student Record in GAP Access
- Students should not complete both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application
 - If they do, there will be two records for the student in GAP Access

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022

Introduction

This application should take approximately one hour to complete depending on your answers and whether or not you have the necessary information available.

[Expand All](#)

Red messaging will indicate if you have not provided information for a required field, and you won't be able to proceed to the next page until information has been entered in the required field.

- Documents needed to complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- How can I get help completing my Alternative Application?
- Can I save my Alternative Application if I can't finish it?
- Signing the Alternative Application
- What if I need to make a correction to my Alternative Application?

[CONTINUE TO APPLICATION](#)

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022

Introduction

This application should take approximately one hour to complete depending on your answers and whether or not you have the necessary information available.

[Expand All](#)

Red messaging will indicate if you have not provided information for a required field, and you won't be able to proceed to the next page until information has been entered in the required field.

- Documents needed to complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

Following is a list of items that applicants will need to complete the 2021-2022 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid:

- 2019 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- List of colleges the student would like to attend
- Parents of dependent students will also need most of the same information listed above.

- How can I get help completing my Alternative Application?
- Can I save my Alternative Application if I can't finish it?
- Signing the Alternative Application
- What if I need to make a correction to my Alternative Application?

[CONTINUE TO APPLICATION](#)

SAVE

- Section 1 Student
- Section 2 Student
- Section 3 Student
- Section 4 Parent
- Section 5 Student
- Section 6 Student
- Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > Demographics

Your ISAC ID Number ?

778006291

Last name ?

APPLICATION

First name ?

ALTERNATIVE

Middle initial ?

Permanent mailing address

Number and street (include apt. number) ?

City (and country if not U.S.) ?

State ?

-- Select --

ZIP Code ?

Your date of birth ?

Your telephone number ?

Driver's license number ?

Driver's license state ?

-- Select --

ISAC requires your e-mail address so we can send the PIN needed to sign your application. Your e-mail address will also be shared with the school that you selected on your application. ?

AlternativeApplication@isac.gov

NEXT >

SECTION 1



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Update Profile

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION

(Logout)

English



To ensure your data is secure be sure to logout and close your browser when completed.

SAVE

- Section 1 Student
- Section 2 Student
- Section 3 Student
- Section 4 Parent
- Section 5 Student
- Section 6 Student
- Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > Education Background

Application was successfully saved.

Highest school completed by Parent 1 ?

- Middle School/Jr. High
- High School
- College or beyond
- Other/Unknown

Highest school completed by Parent 2 ?

- Middle School/Jr. High
- High School
- College or beyond
- Other/Unknown

If you are eligible to complete this application because you indicated in the prescreening section that you meet the **RISE Act eligibility criteria** as an undocumented student, you must meet the following criteria:

- you graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois, and
- you attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma.

What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2021-2022 school year? ?

- Diploma from an Illinois high school
- GED from an Illinois Community College Board-approved provider
- Home Schooled in Illinois
- None of the above

- ✓
Section 1
Student
- ✎
Section 2
Student
- Section 3
Student
- Section 4
Parent
- Section 5
Student
- Section 6
Student
- Section 7
Review & Signature

Student Information > Tax Information

✓ Application was successfully saved.

Answer questions for this section about yourself (the student). If you were never married, or are separated, divorced or widowed and are not remarried, answer only about yourself. If you are married or remarried as of today, include information about your spouse.

For 2019, have you (the student) completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return?

- I have already completed my return
- I will file but have not yet completed my return
- I'm not going to file

What income tax return did you file or will you file for 2019?

- IRS 1040
- A foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ
- A tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory, or Freely Associated State
- Not Applicable

For 2019, what is or will be your tax filing status according to your tax return?

- Single
- Married-Filed Joint Return
- Married-Filed Separate Return
- Head of Household
- Qualifying Widow(er)
- Don't Know
- Not Applicable

SECTION 2

- ✓
Section 1
Student
- ✓
Section 2
Student
- Section 3
Student
- Section 4
Parent
- Section 5
Student
- Section 6
Student
- Section 7
Review & Signature

Student Information > Additional Financials

✓ Application was successfully saved.

Student's 2019 Additional Financial Information (Enter the combined amounts for you and your spouse.)

Education credits (American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit) from IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3—line 3.

Child support paid because of divorce or separation or as a result of a legal requirement. Don't include support for children you will include in your household that you will provide for more than half their support between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 even if they do not live with you.

Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs, such as Federal Work-Study and need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships.

Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS as income. Includes AmeriCorps benefits (awards, living allowances and interest accrual payments), as well as grant and scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.

Combat pay or special combat pay. Only enter the amount that was taxable and included in your adjusted gross income. Don't include untaxed combat pay.

Earnings from work under a cooperative education program offered by a college.

< PREVIOUS

NEXT >

SECTION 3

SECTION 4

ISAC Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Update Profile ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION (Logout) English

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022 SAVE

Section 1 Student ✓ Section 2 Student ✓ Section 3 Student ✎ Section 4 Parent Section 5 Student Section 6 Student Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > Dependency Status

Application was successfully saved.

Answer the questions in this section to determine if you will need to provide parental information.

Were you born before January 1, 1990? ?

Yes

No

As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.) ?

Yes

No

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)? ?

Yes

No

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? ?

Yes

No

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? ?

Yes

No

Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022? ?

Yes

No

ISAC Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Update Profile ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION (Logout) English

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022 SAVE

Section 1 Student ✓ Section 2 Student ✓ Section 3 Student ✓ Section 4 Parent ✎ Section 5 Student Section 6 Student Section 7 Review & Signature

Parent Information > Demographics

Your ISAC ID Number ?
851003852

Answer all the questions in Section Four even if you do not live with your legal parents (biological, adoptive, or as determined by the state [for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate]). Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, widowed stepparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings are not considered parents for this application unless they have legally adopted you. If your legal parents are married to each other, or are not married to each other and live together, answer the questions about both of them.

As of today, what is the marital status of your parents? ?

Married or Remarried

Never married

Divorced or Separated

Widowed

Unmarried and both legal parents living together

Month and year they were married, remarried, separated, divorced or widowed. ?

Parent 1

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER If your parent does not have a Social Security Number, you must enter 000000000 (Don't enter an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). ?

Last name ?

First initial ?

Date of Birth ?

SECTION 5

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Update Profile ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION (Logout) English

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022 **SAVE**

Section 1 Student Section 2 Student Section 3 Student Section 4 Parent **Section 5 Student** Section 6 Student Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > Household Information

How many people are in your household? Include: yourself (and your spouse), your children, if you will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 even if they do not live with you, and other people if they now live with you, you will provide more than half of their support and you will continue to provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

How many people in your (and your spouse's) household will be college students between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022? Always count yourself as a college student. Do not include family members who are in the U.S. military service academies. Include others only if they will attend, at least half time in 2021-2022, a program that leads to a college degree or certificate.

At any time during 2019 or 2020, did you (or your spouse) or anyone in your household included above receive benefits from any of the following federal programs listed? Mark all that apply. Answering this question will NOT reduce eligibility for student aid or these programs. If you (or your spouse) or anyone in your household receives any of these benefits after submitting this application you should submit an application correction. Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Yes
 No

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Yes
 No

Free or Reduced Price School Lunch

Yes
 No

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Yes
 No

SECTION 6

Section 1 Student Section 2 Student Section 3 Student Section 4 Parent Section 5 Student **Section 6 Student** Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > School Information

Indicate which colleges you want to receive your application data.

1ST Federal School Code

-- Select --

- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ART (001628)
- AUGUSTANA COLLEGE (001633)
- AURORA UNIVERSITY (001634)
- BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY (001767)
- BLACK HAWK COLLEGE (001638)
- BLACKSBURG COLLEGE (001639)

Housing Plans

On-Campus
 With Parent
 Off Campus
 Not Applicable

2ND Federal School Code

-- Select --

Housing Plans

On-Campus
 With Parent
 Off Campus
 Not Applicable

3RD Federal School Code

-- Select --

Housing Plans

On-Campus
 With Parent
 Off Campus
 Not Applicable

The applicant can enter up to 10 school choices

Alternative Application Process

- Signing and Certifying
 - Step 7 of the application provides the opportunity to review all the data entered
 - Students/parents can navigate back to an appropriate section if a correction or update is needed at this point
 - Student signature process
 - Applicants will be provided with a review of the RISE Act eligibility requirements, followed by the Certification/Affidavit, which is part of the RISE Act eligibility requirements
 - If the student is in agreement with the statements on the certification page, they then click on the Provide Signature button and will be presented with a field to enter their PIN
 - The student's PIN is provided by ISAC in an e-mail to the applicant after the Student Demographics page has been completed in Section 1 of the application
 - The student's PIN is associated with the ISAC ID Number that is created and assigned to the student as part of the application process.

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022

SAVE

- Section 1 Student
- Section 2 Student
- Section 3 Student
- Section 4 Parent
- Section 5 Student
- Section 6 Student
- Section 7 Review & Signature

- REVIEW
- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT
- PARENT SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION

Your ISAC ID Number ?
851003852

- Section 1 - Student
- Section 2 - Student
- Section 3 - Student
- Section 4 - Parent
- Section 5 - Student
- Section 6 - Student



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ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022

Your ISAC ID Number
851003852

Section 1 - Student

Demographics

Last name	APPLICATION
First name	ALTERNATIVE
Middle initial	
Number and street (include apt. number)	1755 LAKECOOK
City (and country if not U.S.)	DEERFIELD
State	Illinois
ZIP Code	60015
Your date of birth	01/01/2001
Your telephone number	8479488500
Driver's license number	
Driver's license state	
ISAC requires your e-mail address so we can send the PIN needed to sign your application. Your e-mail address will also be shared with the schools that you selected on your application.	

@ILLINOIS.GOV

Personal Information

What is your marital status as of today?	I am Single
Month and year you were married, remarried, separated, divorced or widowed.	
What is your state of residence?	Illinois
Did you become a resident of this state before January 1, 2016?	Yes
If you were not a resident before January 1, 2016 give the month and	35

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022 SAVE

Progress bar with sections: Section 1 Student, Section 2 Student, Section 3 Student, Section 4 Parent, Section 5 Student, Section 6 Student, Section 7 Review & Signature

REVIEW **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT PARENT SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION

YOU MUST READ THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BELOW:

You must certify your eligibility to file this Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. By completing this application, you will be certifying that you meet the criteria listed in Eligibility Status 1 OR Eligibility Status 2.

Eligibility Status 1:

You are NOT a U.S. citizen (U.S. National) AND you are NOT an "eligible noncitizen". ("Eligible noncitizen" is described in the text box below.)

AND

You meet all of the following requirements:

1. you resided with your parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in Illinois;
2. you graduated from a public or private high school, or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois;
3. as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma, you had attended school in Illinois for at least three (3) years;
4. you have not established a residence outside of Illinois; and
5. by signing the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid you will provide an affidavit that you will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity you are eligible to do so.

Eligibility Status 2:

You are a U.S. Citizen (U.S. National) OR you are an "eligible noncitizen". ("Eligible noncitizen" is described in the text box below.)

AND

You are a **transgender** person.

***Generally, an eligible noncitizen is defined by federal law as any of the following:**

- U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as an Alien Registration Receipt Card or "Green Card")
- Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
- Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Indefinite Parole," "Humanitarian Parole," or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant"
- A citizen of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM).
- Hold a T nonimmigrant status ("T-visa") (for victims of human trafficking) or your parent holds a T-1 nonimmigrant status
- A "battered immigrant-qualified alien" who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022

SAVE

✓
Section 1
Student

✓
Section 2
Student

✓
Section 3
Student

✓
Section 4
Parent

Section 5
Student

✓
Section 6
Student


Section 7
Review & Signature

REVIEW

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT

PARENT SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION

By signing this application electronically using my username and password and/or any other credential, I certify that I have read the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid requirements and that I either meet the requirements of Eligibility Status 1 or Eligibility Status 2, as stated, making me eligible to complete this Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

I also understand that I am applying to be considered for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant and that my eligibility will be determined based on additional factors, including, but not limited to, my financial condition, my Illinois residency and the availability of funds appropriated by the State.

If I am not a U.S. Citizen (U.S. National) or eligible noncitizen as defined in federal law, I hereby swear on oath that I will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity I am eligible to do so.

I further certify that I am the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password and/or any other credential to anyone else.

I understand that any person who, by means of any false statement, willful misrepresentation, or through other fraudulent device obtains or attempts to obtain or aids or abets any person in obtaining student aid from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to which the person is not entitled, will be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and the award obtained by such means will be recoverable in a civil action. (110 ILCS 947/120)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all of the information and attestations provided in this application are true, accurate and complete.

Signature Status

Both you and a parent need to sign your Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

You may only sign for yourself. Your parent must sign using your ISAC ID Number and the parent PIN that was provided to your parent in an earlier e-mail. If your parent cannot locate the e-mail containing the PIN, click the button labeled, "Resend Link & PIN".



Required Student Signature: UNSIGNED RESEND LINK & PIN

PROVIDE SIGNATURE

Please provide 4-digit PIN sent to student e-mail

SAVE CANCEL

SUBMIT < PREVIOUS NEXT >

Alternative Application Process

- Signing and Certifying
 - Parent signature process
 - The parent may sign the application after the student has completed his/her signature process either at the same time, or the parent may log in to the student's application at a separate time
 - To log in, a parent will need the Student's ISAC ID number and the parent PIN, which will be provided to the parent in an e-mail after their e-mail address has been provided on the application
 - The field for the parent address is in Section 4, page 1 and is a required field
 - Once the next button is selected to navigate to page 2 of Section 4, an e-mail will be sent to the parent from ISAC and it will include the parent PIN
 - The student and the parent must have separate e-mails

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022

SAVE

- ✓ Section 1 Student
- ✓ Section 2 Student
- ✓ Section 3 Student
- ✓ Section 4 Parent
- Section 5 Student
- ✓ Section 6 Student
-  Section 7 Review & Signature

REVIEW

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT

PARENT SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION

By signing and submitting this signature page, I agree, if asked, to provide documentation that verifies the accuracy of the completed Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. This documentation may include, but is not limited to, a copy of my U.S. or State income tax form or pay stubs.

I understand that any person who, by means of any false statement, willful misrepresentation or through other fraudulent device obtains or attempts to obtain or aids or abets any person in obtaining student aid (from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission) to which the person is not entitled will be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and the award obtained by such means will be recoverable in a civil action. (110 ILCS 947/120).

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all information and attestations provided in this application are true, accurate and complete.



Required Parent Signature: : UNSIGNED RESEND LINK & PIN

PROVIDE SIGNATURE

Alternative Application Process

- Submitting the application
 - Once all applicable signatures have been provided, the Submit button will be enabled
 - The Signature Status field must indicate “Signed” for each required signature in order for the student to be able to submit the application
 - The application receipt date for MAP will be the date that the application is submitted
 - An unsigned application is not considered complete and will not be assigned an initial receipt date until all applicable signatures have been provided
 - A confirmation screen will be presented upon submission
 - The student applicant will receive a confirmation e-mail from ISAC once all required signatures have been provided

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2021-2022

Application Submission Confirmation



Congratulations, ALTERNATIVE

ISAC ID Number : 851003852

Important

- Be sure to retain and secure your ISAC ID Number. You will need to use your ISAC ID Number - which does not change - to make corrections and to apply for MAP in future years.
- Keep your e-mail address current in your Student Profile. You will need your current Profile e-mail address to access your Alternative Application account.

What Happens Next

- Your Alternative Application information will be made available to the school(s) you listed on your application. The information will be used to determine the financial aid, including MAP, you will be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if more information is needed and/or to inform you about your financial aid award package.
- If you have questions about your financial aid award package, contact your school(s).
- If you need to make corrections to the information you submitted, log in to your application through the "Returning Applicants Login" button, using your user name and password. Correct the necessary item(s) and then sign and submit the application by entering the provided PIN.

An abbreviated version of your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address:

ML

I@ILLINOIS.GOV

[PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

Spanish Alternative Application



Español ▼

**SOLICITUD
ALTERNATIVA
DE AYUDA
FINANCIERA
DE ILLINOIS**

Para estudiantes
calificados
indocumentados
y transgénero

Solicitud Alternativa para aplicar para la Subvención MAP de Illinois 2021-2022

La Solicitud Alternativa para Ayuda Financiera de Illinois permite a estudiantes indocumentados calificados y estudiantes transgénero que no son elegibles para ayuda financiera federal apliquen para recibir fondos de la Subvención MAP de Illinois para asistir a colegios, universidades, y programas de educación profesional elegibles.

Las preguntas de preselección en esta solicitud le ayudarán a determinar si usted es un estudiante indocumentado calificado o transgénero que no es elegible para ayuda financiera federal.

[Vea nuestra Guía de Usuario & Recursos para este programa >>](#)

Seleccione el Año Académico 2021-2022 ▼

¿Es usted un solicitante nuevo o recurrente?

Seleccione **Solicitantes por Primera Vez** si nunca ha creado un perfil para estudiante para la Solicitud Alternativa de Ayuda Financiera de Illinois y no recibió un Número de identificación de ISAC para solicitar el Programa de Subvención (MAP).

Seleccione **Solicitantes que Regresan** si, en algún momento en el pasado, creó un perfil para estudiante para la Solicitud Alternativa de Ayuda Financiera de Illinois y recibió un Número de identificación de ISAC con el fin de solicitar el Programa de Subvención MAP. Debe utilizar el mismo correo electrónico que utilizó para su solicitud anterior para presentar una nueva solicitud, a menos que haya cambiado su dirección de correo electrónico en su perfil de estudiante.



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Alternative Application Resources

- User Guide for students/parents
- FAQs for students/parents
- Worksheet for students/parents (will be available for 2021-22)
- Operational Guide for FAAs
 - Guidance is provided for confirming MAP eligibility requirements according to current ISAC rules
 - **ISAC will not be selecting records for verification in 2021-22**

[Before College - Planning](#)
[During College - Paying](#)
[After College](#)
[Parents](#)
[Español](#)

[Home](#)
[Students & Parents](#)
[Before College - Planning](#)
[Financial Aid Planning](#)
[RISE Act/Alternative Application](#)

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid FAQs

(last updated January 27, 2020)

New Q. Should I start the Alternative Application even if I know I will not be able to provide my parents' information?

A: If you are unable to obtain your parents' information, complete the application as much as you can and contact your college's financial aid office as soon as possible. The financial aid office will evaluate your situation and let you know, if, based on their school policies, they can override the need for parent information. You will likely need to provide additional information to the college to help the financial aid office better understand your special circumstance and make a determination regarding your dependency status. ISAC does not have the authority to override dependency or financial information; that must be done by the college and they must have sufficient information to document the situation and make their decision.

About The ISACorps

College And Career Exploration And Planning

Financial Aid Planning

Completing The FAFSA®

RISE Act/Alternative Application

Alternative Application FAQs

Alternative Application User Guide & Resources

Types Of Financial Aid

Making An Informed College Choice

Outreach Activities/Event Calendar

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid User Guide

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act, which went into effect on January 1, 2020, provides that “a student who is an Illinois resident and who is not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid, including, but not limited to, a transgender student who is disqualified for failure to register for selective service or a noncitizen student who has not obtained lawful permanent residence, shall be eligible for state financial aid and benefits ...”.

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

English

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented and transgender students

Alternative Application to apply for 2020-2021 Illinois MAP Grants

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid allows qualifying undocumented students and transgender students who are not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid to apply for Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants to attend eligible Illinois colleges, universities, and career education programs.

The pre-screening questions in this application will help you determine if you are a qualifying undocumented or transgender student who is not eligible for federal financial aid.

[See our User Guide & Resources for this program >>](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has developed the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid to provide a pathway for students who meet the provisions of the RISE Act to apply for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) for the 2020-21 award year. The Alternative Application collects much of the same data as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), but is administered by ISAC.

Application Procedures for MAP

{ISAC Rules, Section 2735.30}

[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#)
[Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid](#)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) serves as the application for the MAP Grant. Each student who reports Illinois as his/her state of legal residence automatically applies for MAP when completing the FAFSA annually. The FAFSA should be completed as soon as possible after October 1 prior to the academic year that starts on or after July 1. Beginning with the 2020-21 academic year – returning MAP recipients (i.e., students who received MAP funds during the prior academic year and continue to meet all [eligibility requirements](#)) who submit their FAFSAs by that academic year's priority deadline date (set by ISAC annually) will receive priority access to appropriated MAP funds. The 2020-21 priority deadline date for returning applicants is on or before December 1, 2019.

The Central Processing System (CPS), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), uses the FAFSA data to determine the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by using the Federal Methodology formula. The student's family financial information (the FAFSA data) is made available to ISAC to calculate MAP eligibility. MAP award calculations will be done only for those Illinois students who list a [MAP eligible school](#) as one of their ten school choices on FAFSA on the Web or the four school choices on the paper FAFSA.

After completing a FAFSA (electronic or paper), students will receive an official output document called a Student Aid Report (SAR). An e-mail Notification of Processing is sent to the applicant within 1-3 days of processing with a link to access and print an electronic SAR (e-SAR), if the student provides an e-mail address. A SAR Acknowledgement is mailed to the applicant if the FAFSA is filed via FAFSA on the Web but an e-mail address is not provided. The schools that are listed by the student on the FAFSA receive the same data electronically via an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). Corrections to data must be made by the student on the SAR and mailed back to the CPS or electronically via the ISIR. Corrected applicant information is forwarded from the CPS to ISAC. The most recent data in its system.

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

In some instances, Illinois students who are not eligible for federal financial aid [i.e., those who are not eligible for FAFSA] may apply for a MAP grant using the online Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. More information is available at the [RISE Act](#) page of this website.

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Program Overview

Applying

[2020-21 Critical Data](#)

[2019-20 Critical Data](#)

[SSN Changes](#)

[Operational Guide For Alternative Application](#)

[School Request For Dependency Override](#)

[Sample Student Dependency Override Request](#)

MAP For Dislocated Workers

Suspense

Eligibility

Award Announcements

Formula

MAP Paid Credit Hours

Special Enrollment Circumstances

Budget Reporting

Payment

Reconciliation

Partner Training

Find training calendars within this section, as well as the PowerPoint presentations from recent training sessions.

Partners' Training Calendar

Guidance for Adjustments for Students Impacted by COVID-19

2020-21 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing

Frequently Asked Questions – Education Loan Information Pilot Program

Frequently Asked Questions – Illinois Residency and Verification

[Partners' Training Calendar](#)
[Manuals And Handbooks](#)

Illinois FAFSA Mandate & FAFSA Completion initiative

Illinois FAFSA® Mandate

- Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, public high school students in Illinois must complete the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma
 - Required by Public Act 101-180, effective June 1, 2020
- Additionally, high schools are expected to provide students and their families with support and guidance in meeting this requirement
- A waiver provision allows a parent, guardian, or the student -- if 18 or emancipated – to opt out for any reason
 - Non-participation form is available on the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) website, College and Career section
 - www.isbe.net/Pages/College-and-Career
 - <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FAFSA-Non-Participation-Form.pdf>
- The intent of making FAFSA completion part of an expectation for high school graduation is to increase the number of students who are aware of the resources available to help them afford education or training after high school

Illinois FAFSA Mandate: Training and Support

Public Act 101-180 (effective 6/01/20) requires that, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, public high school students must complete the FAFSA or, as eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. A waiver provision basically allows a parent, guardian, or the student – if 18 or emancipated – to opt out for any reason.

Pursuant to the law, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will lead these efforts. However, because of ISAC's deep experience in assisting students across the state with college planning, the financial aid process and FAFSA completion, ISAC will be supporting these efforts.

Making FAFSA completion part of an expectation for high school graduation can increase the number of students who are aware of the resources available to help them afford education or training after high school. This information can also help some students decide to attempt college when they might not otherwise have done so, and it may help some students limit student loan debt and take a fuller course load to more quickly complete a degree or credential.

Below are some free resources and training available to high schools, counselors and other professionals to help them help students and families meet the new FAFSA Mandate.

Financial Aid Forms:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid: <https://www.fafsa.gov/>

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid: <http://www.isac.org/AlternativeApp>

FAFSA Mandate –ISBE Information and Documents:

FAFSA Non-Participation form: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FAFSA-Non-Participation-Form.pdf>

ISBE & ISAC Introductory Presentation: Financial Aid Form Filing – The New Public HS Graduation Requirement in Illinois

Professional Development Opportunities

Training Workshops (In-Person)

Training Requests

Webinars

On-Demand Webinars

Go Alliance Academy

Illinois FAFSA Mandate

ISAC 2020 FAFSA Symposium

isac.org



ISBE & ISAC Introductory Presentation: Financial Aid Form Filing – The New Public HS Graduation Requirement in Illinois

Financial Aid Form Filing - The New Public HS Graduation Requirement in Illinois -20200805

1902-1

from ISAC **CHANGES EVERYTHING** CONFERENCE

Financial Aid Form Filing: The New Public HS Graduation Requirement in Illinois

August 5, 2020
2-3 pm

Before we begin...

- This session will be recorded
- If you are having trouble connecting audio through your computer, use the "Call Me" option for audio instead
- Please use the Q&A feature to post any questions you have during the presentation
 - Select the Q&A icon
 - Questions and answers posted in the Q&A are visible to everyone on the session
- Participant video will not be used during this session

After session ends, please complete the online survey that will be presented.

• Other recorded sessions available at www.collegechangeproject.org

1:01:33

GOAL 2025

ISAC Financial Aid Form Filing New Requirement

ISBE Financial Aid Form Filing New Requirement

Training/Professional Development:

Webinars: See <https://www.isac.org/pd/webinars.html> for upcoming FAFSA training and training on the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. Sessions will be posted as they are scheduled so check back often.

ISAC FAFSA Completion Initiative

- To assist high school counselors with identifying students who have not completed a FAFSA/Alternative Application, ISAC administers a FAFSA Completion Initiative in its GAP Access portal
- Typically, ISAC has relied on lists submitted for the State Scholar program to create each high school's initial list of students, however, a new approach is being implemented this year in response to delays caused by COVID-19
- Starting in early October, a new procedure that uses an existing file upload function in the GAP Access portal is being implemented so high schools may begin uploading their senior class list into GAP Access to track FAFSA/Alternative Application completion
- The student list file must be formatted in Microsoft Excel 2003 or above, or in CSV, and follow ISAC's prescribed file layout.
- The data elements that will need to be uploaded for the high school's current senior class are: last name, first name, middle initial and date of birth

ISAC FAFSA Completion Initiative

- Once uploaded, the list will be used to match to FAFSA and Alternative Application completion data on a weekly basis
 - With the U.S. Department of Education for FAFSA records
 - With ISAC for Alternative Applications records
- The ability for high schools to upload their lists will open up during the week of October 5, and the first week that completion data will be available is October 12
 - Completion data will not be available until high schools have uploaded their list of high school seniors into GAP Access
- **It is important to note that the FAFSA Upload function is separate from the State Scholar Program File Upload process.**

ISAC FAFSA Completion Initiative

- Instructions for the file upload process are provided in the FAFSA Completion Initiative User Guide, which can be accessed on the GAP Access User Guide page of isac.org

FAFSA Upload
Please note: Submission of updated student data via the FAFSA Upload function will replace the data that is currently presented on this page, as well as on the 2020 FAFSA Completion Initiative page. Previous information will no longer be available.

Refresh Upload File Guidelines & Samples

Upload History
Entries displayed: 10 Filter:

File Name	Status	Uploaded Date	Uploaded User ID

Showing 1-1 of 1 entries

The **Guidelines** displays a file layout for the data when creating a file to upload. **Samples** provides the Excel spreadsheet with the data fields in the appropriate order. **All files must be formatted in Microsoft Excel 2003 or above, or in CSV, and follow ISAC's prescribed file layout. DO NOT PASSWORD PROTECT YOUR FILE.**

Name	Length	Order
Last Name	35	0001
First Name	16	0002
MI	1	0003
DOB MM/DD/CCYY	10	0004

ISAC FAFSA Completion Initiative

- After your school's list has been uploaded and matching has begun, counselors will be able to see aggregate data for their entire student body
- Data will include how many students have filed a FAFSA or Alternative Application, have received an EFC, are Pell-eligible, and are MAP-eligible
- Counselors can then access more specific data for students
 - There are no indicators regarding verification flags.

The screenshot shows a table with the following columns: Last Name, First Name, MI, DOB, FAFSA Status, Initial FAFSA Received Date, and MAP Elig @1st Choice College. The table contains five rows of student data.

Last Name	First Name	MI	DOB	FAFSA Status	Initial FAFSA Received Date	MAP Elig @1st Choice College
CU	X			Filed, has EFC	11/30/2018	
EL	J			Filed, has EFC	10/02/2018	Y
AB	A		09/18/	Filed, has EFC	10/02/2018	Y
RE	I		06/09/	Filed, has EFC	10/22/2018	Y
RH	J		04/10/	No FAFSA Filed		

The college choice data is aggregate and provides the number of applicants who have listed a particular school as their 1st choice.

- Counselors do not have access to the college choice for each student.

The screenshot shows a table with the following columns: ISIR First School, School Name, State Code, and Students to Attend. The table contains two rows of aggregate data.

ISIR First School	School Name	State Code	Students to Attend
0016	COLLEGE	IL	19
0017	UNIVERSITY OF	IL	13

ISAC FAFSA Completion Initiative

EFC data is provided in ranges, and is not provided in a manner that is specific to each student.

Entries displayed 10 Filter

EFC Range	Students in range	Cumulative Students
0 -0	48	48
1 -500	6	54
501 -1000	3	57
1001 -2500	13	70
2501 -5000	17	87
5001 -7500	3	90
7501 -10000	3	93
10001 -15000	5	98
15001 -25000	9	107
25001 -999999	3	110

Showing 1-10 of 10 entries

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2020-21 FAFSA Completion Initiative

Important information for High Schools

Total value of MAP and Pell if all eligible Illinois students receive grants.

\$2.0099 BILLION

[Learn More](#)

Unfortunately, MAP will be available to less than half of the eligible students.

[FAFSA Symposium](#)[Coronavirus](#)[Alternative App](#)[College Outreach](#)[FAFSA Initiative](#)[College Changes Everything](#)[Professional Development](#)[MAP Matters](#)[GEAR UP](#)[Illinois PaCE](#)

Home Page –
isac.org

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2020-21 FAFSA Completion Initiative

We're working with school districts across the state to help identify which of their students have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in their pursuit of financial aid for college. Principals can sign up their respective high school for the initiative through the GAP Access portal.

MAP* \$ **8089** MILLION

Pell* \$ **1.2010** BILLION

Total* \$ **2.0099** BILLION

While MAP is among the largest need-based financial assistance programs in the nation, the same application that qualifies students for this state grant also brings over \$1.3 billion in federal Pell dollars into Illinois every year. Through the federal program, students from low-income families can receive up to \$6,345 per year to pay for tuition and fees, room and board, living expenses, books, supplies, transportation, child care and other costs of college attendance. A full MAP grant plus a full Pell grant could give a low income student over \$10,000 per year toward his/her cost of attendance.

(Please note disclaimer below.)

[Find a Local Financial Aid Workshop](#)

FAFSA Completion by School: 2020-2021

As of September 21, 2020, 63% of high school seniors have completed a FAFSA

[REGION](#) [COUNTY](#) [DISTRICT](#) [HIGH SCHOOL](#)[CITY](#)[YEAR](#) [#STUDENTS](#) [#FAFSAS](#) [%FAFSAS](#)

FAFSA Completion By School

will also include Alternative Applications





†Please note disclaimer below.

[Find a Local Financial Aid Workshop](#)

FAFSA Completion by School: 2020-2021

As of December 30, 2019, 48% of high school seniors have completed a FAFSA

Search

REGION	COUNTY	DISTRICT	HIGH SCHOOL	CITY	YEAR	#STUDENTS	#FAFSAS	%FAFSAS
56	Will	35	 JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY	JOLIET	2020	128	90	<div style="width: 70%;">70%</div>
56	Will	204	 JOLIET CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	JOLIET	2020	703	218	<div style="width: 31%;">31%</div>
	Will		 JOLIET TOWNSHIP ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL	JOLIET	2020	13	0	<div style="width: 0%;">0%</div>
56	Will	204	 JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL WEST	JOLIET	2020	887	333	<div style="width: 38%;">38%</div>

Assistance for Students and Families

- ISACorps members are available across the state to assist students and families with college planning and financial aid.
 - They can provide one-on-one assistance as well as presentations and workshops.
- Visit studentportal.isac.org/isacorps to find an ISACorps member in your area

ISAC Student Portal

Resources Toolbox **ISACorps** Program Applications & Status Checks Now Playing Login

Facebook Twitter Instagram

ISACORPS

The ISACorps – making college a reality for students across Illinois.

ISACORPS EVENTS

Find Your ISACorps Member

The ISACorps are here to help you through the college planning process! ISACorps members are recent college graduates from across the state that can help you with the ins and outs of selecting and applying to college, scholarship searches, FAFSA completion, and student financial aid. Meet with your local ISACorps member for free one-on-one assistance or at FREE college fairs and financial aid workshops in your community.

ZIP Code

GO

Do you have a passion for helping those in your community learn more about the college-going process? If so, the ISACorps are always looking for passionate college graduates that get excited about the idea of giving back to their community. For more details on how to become a part of the ISACorps team, check out our [recruitment page](#).

ISAC Contact Information

School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

Kim Eck, Partner & Training Services

217-785-7139

Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov

Tania Mendoza, Partner & Training Services

Tania.Mendoza@illinois.gov

Questions/Comments?

**Thank you for
participating today!**