

# 2020

# ILLINOIS

# REGISTER

Rules of  
Governmental Agencies



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## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 1) Heading of the Part: General Provisions
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2700.20	Amendment
2700.30	Amendment
2700.40	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947]; Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USC 1070 et seq., as amended by P.L. 105-244); and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to update the name of the financial aid application used by RISE Act-eligible students and to implement statutory amendments as necessary.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Does this rulemaking contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objective: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking: Persons who wish to comment on this proposed rulemaking may submit written comments no later than 45 days after the publication of this Notice to:

Jackie Eckley

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
500 West Monroe, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Springfield IL 62704

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jackie.eckley@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Types of small businesses, small municipalities and not-for-profit corporations affected: None
  - B) Reporting, bookkeeping or other procedures required for compliance: None
  - C) Types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: July 2020

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

## TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

## SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION

## CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## PART 2700

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section	
2700.10	Summary and Purpose
2700.15	Incorporations by Reference
2700.20	Definitions
2700.30	General Institutional Eligibility Requirements
2700.40	General Applicant Eligibility Requirements
2700.50	Determining Applicant Eligibility
2700.55	Use, Security and Confidentiality of Information
2700.60	Audits and Investigations
2700.70	Appeal Procedures
2700.80	Contractual Agreement Requirements

**AUTHORITY:** Implementing the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947]; Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USC 1070 et seq., as amended by P.L. 105-244); and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act.

**SOURCE:** Adopted at 9 Ill. Reg. 20783, effective January 1, 1986; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 3167, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 14099, effective August 10, 1987; amended at 12 Ill. Reg. 11510, effective July 1, 1988; amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 8626, effective July 1, 1989; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1700 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17854; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 10538, effective July 1, 1990; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11206, effective July 1, 1992; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10541, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10282, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8343, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9170, effective July 1, 1996; amended at 21 Ill. Reg. 11066, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11072, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 23 Ill. Reg. 7550, effective July 1, 1999; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9121, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 8383, effective July 1, 2001; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 9980, effective July 1, 2002; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10320, effective July 1, 2003; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9884, effective July 1, 2005; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11600, effective July 1, 2006; amended at 31 Ill. Reg. 9478, effective July 1, 2007; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10269, effective July 1, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 9742, effective July 1, 2009; amended at

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

34 Ill. Reg. 8543, effective July 1, 2010; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 9497, effective July 1, 2013; amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 13356, effective July 1, 2014; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8390, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 40 Ill. Reg. 1963, effective January 7, 2016; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 7269, effective July 1, 2019; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 15003, effective January 1, 2020; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2700.20 Definitions**

"Academic Level" – The classification of a student as a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student.

"Academic Year" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, a 12 month period of time, normally from August or September of any year through August or September of the ensuing year. In relation to the Federal Family Education Loan Program, academic year is defined at section 481(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and at 34 CFR 668.3.

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid" or "Alternative Application" – The FAFSA substitute application for State student aid and benefits under the Retention of Illinois Students and Equity (RISE) Act that may be used only as an alternative to the FAFSA, when appropriate, and shall be substituted accordingly for the FAFSA when FAFSA is referenced in ISAC rules.

"Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Receipt Date" – The date upon which ISAC receives an applicant's initial Alternative Application for an academic year. For a paper Alternative Application sent through the U.S. Postal Service, the receipt date will be the postmark date.

"Alternative Loan" – Any educational loan made or purchased by ISAC other than a loan made pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USC 1071 et seq.), or any other federal statute providing for federal insurance of education loans to borrowers.

"Applicant" – Any individual who requests ISAC consideration for a scholarship, grant, tuition waiver, or guaranteed or alternative loan.

"Approved High School" – *Any public high school located in this State; and any high school, located in this State or elsewhere (whether designated as a high school, secondary school, academy, preparatory school, or otherwise) which in*



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*the judgment of the State Superintendent of Education provides a course of instruction at the secondary level and maintains standards of instruction substantially the equivalent of those public high schools located in this State.*  
(Section 10 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/10])

"Armed Forces" – The United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

"Blanket Certificate of Loan Guaranty" – A process that permits an eligible lender to make loans without receiving prior approval from ISAC for individual loans to eligible borrowers enrolled in eligible programs at eligible institutions, as authorized by section 428(n) of the HEA.

"Chargeback" – Payment of tuition by the community college district of a student's residence to the community college district of a student's attendance.  
(See 110 ILCS 805/6-2.)

"Citizen" – One who, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, is a native-born or naturalized citizen of the United States of America.

"College Savings Bond" – A State of Illinois general obligation, zero coupon bond, issued pursuant to the Baccalaureate Savings Act as a long-term education savings instrument.

"Co-maker" – One of the 2 individuals who are joint borrowers either on a Federal PLUS Loan (parent borrowers) that was certified prior to January 1, 1995 or on any Federal Consolidation loan (married borrowers) and who are equally liable for repayment of the loan. (See 34 CFR 682.200.)

"Commission" – The 10 member Illinois Student Assistance Commission created by Section 15 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].

"Compound Accreted Value" – An amount equal to the original amount plus an investment return accrued to the date of determination at a semiannual compounding rate that is necessary to produce the yield at maturity indicated on the Official Statement that was issued when the college savings bonds were sold. The "Compound Accreted Value at Maturity" will be equal to \$5000 or an integral multiple thereof.

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"Concurrent Registration" – The simultaneous enrollment at 2 or more institutions.

"Consolidation" – A federal program under which a borrower may receive a single new loan that refinances one or more outstanding qualified education loans under new terms and conditions, as authorized by section 428C of the HEA.

"Contractual Agreement" – The written agreement between an eligible institution and a school or organization that is not eligible for participation in ISAC-administered programs whereby the non-eligible institution provides part of the education program of students enrolled at the eligible institution, as codified in Section 2700.80. A contractual agreement differs from a consortium agreement, which is an agreement among 2 or more eligible institutions only.

"Correctional Officer" – An employee of the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) who is assigned to a security position with the Department, and who has responsibility for inmates of any correctional institution under the jurisdiction of the Department.

"Correspondence Course" – A home study course provided by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, including examinations on the materials, to students who are not physically attending classes at the institution, as defined at 34 CFR 600.2.

"Co-signer" – A person who is secondarily liable for the repayment of an Alternative Loan.

"Cost of Attendance" – For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term is defined at section 472 of the HEA (20 USC 1087II).

"Cumulative Grade Point Average" – The average grade earned throughout a student's applicable secondary or postsecondary educational program. The calculation shall be consistent with the institution's established policy or practice and shall be the same as that completed for admission, placement or other similar purposes.

"Default Status" – The failure of a borrower or endorser (if any) to make an installment payment when due or to meet other terms of the promissory note as defined at 34 CFR 682.200.

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"Delinquency" – For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term is defined at 34 CFR 682.411(b).

"Dependent Student" – A scholarship, loan, tuition waiver or grant applicant or recipient who is not classified as an independent student.

"Disbursement" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, a disbursement occurs on the payment voucher date. In relation to the Federal Family Education Loan Program, disbursement is the process of transferring loan proceeds as defined at 34 CFR 682.200.

"Distance Education" – A learning and teaching mode characterized by the separation of place or time between instructor and student, which includes programs and courses offered by correspondence and telecommunications.

"ED" – The acronym for the United States Department of Education.

"Educational Institution" – Unless otherwise qualified, any secondary or postsecondary educational organization that enrolls students who participate in ISAC programs.

"Educational Lender" – An institution that meets the lender eligibility criteria outlined in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2720.25 for FFELP Loans and 2721.40 for alternative loans.

"EFT" – The acronym for electronic funds transfer.

"Eligible Noncitizen" – A noncitizen who is eligible for federal student assistance pursuant to section 484 of the HEA (20 USC 1091); or a noncitizen or person who is not a permanent resident of the United States, who does not meet the eligibility criteria for federal student assistance pursuant to section 484 of the HEA but who meets all of the following criteria:

the individual resided with ~~his or her~~ parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in this State;

the individual graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in this State;

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the individual attended school in this State for at least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in this State;

the individual provides an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so; and

the individual has not established a residence outside of this State.

"Endorser" – A person fitting the definitions found at 34 CFR 682.200 or 34 CFR 685.102(b) who is secondarily liable for the repayment of a federal student loan.

"Enrolled" – The status of a student who has completed the institution's registration requirements and is attending classes.

"Executive Director" – The chief executive officer of ISAC.

"Expected Family Contribution" – The amount the student and the student's family may be reasonably expected to contribute toward the student's postsecondary education. Expected Family Contribution as defined at section 474 of the HEA (20 USC 1087nn) is used to determine a student's eligibility for need based programs administered by ISAC.

"FAFSA" – The acronym for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

"FAFSA Receipt Date" – The date reported by ED's processor as the date upon which it receives an applicant's initial FAFSA for an academic year. For paper FAFSA's sent through the U.S. Postal Service, this is the date of physical receipt at the processor, not the postmark date.

"Federal Regulations" – Refers to regulations promulgated by ED and codified at 34 CFR 600 et seq.

"FFELP" – The acronym for the Federal Family Education Loan Program, as authorized by section 421 of the HEA, including subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, Federal SLS Loans and Federal Consolidation Loans.

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"Fire Officer" – For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term means a firefighter who is employed by, or in the voluntary service of, this State or any public entity in this State.

"Foreign Missionary" – An individual who is assigned duty outside of the United States by an organization that engages in educational, philanthropic, humanitarian or altruistic works. The missionary organization must be exempt from the payment of federal taxes and must have been engaged in placing foreign missionaries for at least 5 years. Examples of such missionary organizations include, but are not limited to, the following: Peace Corps, Evangelical Alliance Mission, etc.

"Full-time Student" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, an individual enrolled for 12 or more credit hours, for either a semester or quarter term. In relation to the Federal Family Educational Loan Program, full-time student is defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).

"Gift Assistance" – Student assistance funds in the form of a scholarship, grant or tuition waiver, including, but not limited to, federal, State, institutional and private aid.

"Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois" – A private, not-for-profit program under the auspices of the Golden Apple Foundation that recruits, prepares and provides financial assistance to high school graduates to pursue postsecondary education for careers as teachers for particular Illinois schools.

"Good Moral Character" – An applicant is of good moral character if the applicant will benefit from postsecondary instruction and is allowed to enroll at an approved postsecondary institution.

"Graduating Class" – The students who will complete the high school's program of instruction and graduate within an academic year.

"Guaranteed Loan" – Loan assistance through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) that includes the subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan, the Federal PLUS Loan, the Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), and the Federal Consolidation Loan programs.

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"Half-time Student" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, an individual enrolled for 6 or more credit hours (but fewer than 12 credit hours) for either a semester or quarter term. In relation to the Federal Family Education Loan Program, half-time student is defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).

"HEA" – The acronym for the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USC 1070 et seq.).

"High School Equivalency Certificate" – A certificate received after successfully completing a high school equivalency examination as defined in Section 3-15.12 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5].

"Holder" – An organization authorized by ED and ISAC to purchase or retain possession of guaranteed loans. These organizations operate as commercial and educational lenders or secondary markets and may purchase ISAC-guaranteed loans from approved lenders.

"IBHE" – The acronym for the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the administrative agency created by the Board of Higher Education Act [110 ILCS 947/205].

"IDAPP" – The acronym for ISAC's Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program as authorized by the Education Loan Purchase Program Law [110 ILCS 947/125 through 170].

"Independent Student" – For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term is defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).

"Institution" – Unless otherwise qualified, any secondary or postsecondary educational organization that enrolls students who participate in ISAC programs.

"Institution of Higher Learning" – An educational organization whose main campus is physically located in Illinois that:

provides at least a 2-year program of collegiate study in liberal arts or sciences, or associate degree or both, directly applicable toward the attainment of a baccalaureate degree, or, a program in health education directly applicable toward the attainment of a certificate, diploma, or an associate degree; and

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is operated:

by the State;

publicly or privately, not for profit; or

for profit, provided it:

offers degree programs that have been approved by the IBHE for a minimum of 3 years under the Academic Degree Act;

enrolls a majority of its students in these degree programs; and

maintains accredited status with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

For otherwise eligible educational organizations that provide academic programs for incarcerated students, the term "institution of higher learning" shall specifically exclude academic programs for incarcerated students (Section 10 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act). For eligible institutions with campuses in multiple states, the term "institution of higher learning" shall include only those campuses located in Illinois.

"Institution of Record" – The postsecondary institution at which a student is enrolled and seeking a degree or certificate. This institution assumes primary responsibility for certification of eligibility for ISAC-administered programs and for requesting payment from ISAC.

"ISAC" – The acronym for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the administrative agency created by Section 15 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947] to administer student assistance programs.

"ISBE" – The acronym for the Illinois State Board of Education, the administrative agency created by the School Code [105 ILCS 5].

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"Lender" – An organization authorized by ISAC to make educational loans to students.

"Mandatory Fees" – The charges assessed by an institution to each and every full-time student for each term. Application, graduation, laboratory, breakage, add/drop fees, and program administrative fees for out-of-state or foreign study are specifically excluded. For the purposes of ISAC's rules, tuition is not a mandatory fee.

"MAP" – The acronym for the Monetary Award Program administered by ISAC, as authorized by Section 35 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act and codified at 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735.

"Master Check" – A single check representing the loan proceeds for more than one borrower.

"Minority Student" – *A student who is either Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups in Africa); Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race); Asian American (a person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, including Pakistan, and the Pacific Islands, including, among others, Hawaii, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia); or Native American (a person who is a member of a federally or state recognized Indian tribe, or whose parents or grandparents have such membership) and to include the native people of Alaska (Section 50(a) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act).*

"Parent" – For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term is defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).

"Pell Grant" – A federal gift assistance program administered by ED in accordance with section 401 of the HEA (20 USC 1070a et seq).

"PLUS" – The federal program that provides loans to graduate students or parents of certain undergraduate students, as authorized by section 428B of the HEA (20 USC 1078-2) and Sections 80 through 175 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].

"Police Officer" – For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term means a law



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enforcement officer who is employed by, or in the voluntary service of, this State or any public entity in this State.

"Qualified Applicant" – An individual who meets the eligibility requirements of the gift assistance program for which ~~the applicant~~she/he is applying.

"Regular School Year" – An 8 to 9 month period of time that includes 2 semester terms or 3 quarter terms. The regular school year excludes summer terms. Terms that begin after April 15 and end before September 16 are considered summer terms.

"Remedial Courses" – The course work that prepares a student for study at the postsecondary level and is necessary for the student to pursue the eligible postsecondary program.

"Resident of Illinois" –

A dependent student is a resident of Illinois if the parent of the dependent-applicant, who is required by the instructions to complete the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial AidRISE Act application, physically resides within the State of Illinois, and Illinois is the parent'shis or her true, fixed and permanent home.

An independent student is a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resides within the State of Illinois (at the time of application), and has so resided for a period of 12 continuous, full months immediately prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested and Illinois is theirhis or her true, fixed and permanent home.

When an applicant does not qualify as a resident of Illinois under the preceding 2 paragraphs and the applicant is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a foreign missionary, or is the dependent or the spouse of an individual who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a foreign missionary, then the applicant's residency shall be determined in accordance with the following:

An applicant who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces will be a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resided in Illinois immediately prior to entering the U.S. Armed Forces, returned (or

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plans to return) to Illinois within 6 months after and including the date of separation and can demonstrate (pursuant to Section 2700.50(f) and (g)) that ~~the applicant's~~his/her domicile was the State of Illinois throughout such enlistment.

An applicant who is a foreign missionary will be a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resided in Illinois for 6 continuous months immediately prior to entering missionary service, returned (or plans to return) to Illinois within 6 months after the conclusion of missionary service, and can demonstrate (pursuant to Section 2700.50(f) and (g)) that ~~the applicant's~~his/her domicile was the State of Illinois throughout the missionary service.

The dependent-applicant shall be a resident of Illinois notwithstanding the parents' temporary physical absence from Illinois provided the parents would be a resident of Illinois under the preceding 2 paragraphs.

The spouse-applicant shall be a resident of Illinois immediately upon physically occupying a dwelling within the State of Illinois provided ~~it can be demonstrated that the applicant's~~applicant can demonstrate that his/her absence from the State was the result of residing with the spouse during enlistment or missionary service outside of Illinois and that the spouse-applicant's domicile continues to be the State of Illinois.

~~"RISE Act Application" — The FAFSA substitute application for State student aid and benefits under the Retention of Illinois Students and Equity (RISE) Act that may be used only as an alternative to the FAFSA, when appropriate, and shall be substituted accordingly for the FAFSA when FAFSA is referenced in ISAC rules.~~

~~"RISE Act Application Receipt Date" — The date upon which ISAC receives an applicant's initial RISE Act Application for an academic year. For a paper RISE Act Application sent through the U.S. Postal Service, the postmark date.~~

"Rules" – The rules of ISAC codified at 23 Ill. Adm. Code: Subtitle A, Chapter XIX.

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"Satisfactory Academic Progress" – An institutional policy that establishes minimum standards of academic performance. For purposes of ISAC-administered programs, the standards must be at least as stringent as those required by ED pursuant to section 484 of the HEA (20 USC 1091).

"Service Academy" – *The U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Military Academy or the U.S. Naval Academy* (Section 30(a) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act).

"SLS" – The acronym for the federal Supplemental Loans for Students Program, as authorized by section 428A of the HEA (20 USC 1078-1). No SLS loans have been made for periods of enrollment beginning on or after July 1, 1994.

"Special Education" – A postsecondary educational program designed to teach persons how to meet the needs of all children designated as physically disabled, with specific learning disabilities, or requiring extraordinary special education services and facilities. (See 105 ILCS 5/14-1.02 and 7.20a.) These programs prepare persons for meeting the needs of children who exhibit disabilities or exceptional characteristics ranging from very mild to very severe. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 226, Special Education.) Such a program prepares a student to teach physically disabled children or children with learning disabilities. (See 105 ILCS 5/14-1.02 and 1.03a.)

"Stafford" – The federal subsidized and unsubsidized loan programs as authorized by sections 427, 428 and 428H of the HEA (20 USC 1078).

"Student Beneficiary" – An individual designated as the recipient of a College Savings Bond Bonus Incentive Grant.

"Teacher Education Program" – An undergraduate postsecondary course of study that, upon completion, qualifies a student to be certified as a pre-school, elementary or secondary teacher by a state board of education or its equivalent (including the Illinois State Board of Education). For a student who has completed less than 4 semesters/6 quarters of postsecondary study, this includes a postsecondary course of study that leads to a teacher education program.

"Teacher Shortage Discipline" – An academic discipline in which a shortage of teachers exists in Illinois, as designated by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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"Telecommunications Course" – A course offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission, including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable microwave, satellite, audio conferencing, computer conferencing, and video cassettes or disks, as defined at 34 CFR 600.2.

"Term" – A unit of time for student attendance, including, but not limited to, a quarter or semester.

"Tuition" – The charge for instruction assessed by an institution.

"Verification" – Procedures implemented by postsecondary institutions to verify the eligibility of applicants. The procedures are established by subpart E of 34 CFR 668 and by ISAC's rules.

(Source: Amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.30 General Institutional Eligibility Requirements**

- a) ISAC Program Participation Agreement
  - 1) All institutions shall execute an ISAC Program Participation Agreement in order to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs.
  - 2) The ISAC Program Participation Agreement shall identify the ISAC programs under which the institution's students may receive benefits.
  - 3) The ISAC Program Participation Agreement shall include provisions requiring institutions to comply with statutes, federal regulations and State rules.
  - 4) The ISAC Program Participation Agreement may be modified or terminated in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790, Limitation, Suspension or Termination Proceedings.
- b) With respect to ISAC student assistance programs, institutions shall develop and maintain procedures to verify the consistency and accuracy of information received from their enrolled recipients.
- c) Institutions shall be subject to possible limitation, suspension or termination of

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eligibility for failure to comply with statutes, regulations, rules or procedures and for failure to maintain the standards required by this Section for initial participation. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790.)

- d) Postsecondary institutions that participate in gift assistance programs shall annually submit to ISAC a copy of their tuition refund policy. The submissions shall not be considered ISAC approval of the policies.
- e) Postsecondary institutions that participate in MAP are required to have in place or establish a program, determined by the institution, that is intended to improve MAP recipients' success, retention and completion in higher education at that institution. Institutions shall annually submit to ISAC retention, completion and graduation rate data as well as advising and support program information. This information is intended to enhance ISAC's ability to evaluate and improve MAP effectiveness.
- f) Postsecondary institutions that participate in gift assistance programs shall annually report their tuition and fee charges, as well as initial MAP advance payment requests, to ISAC on or before June 1 preceding each academic year.
  - 1) Failure to report any cost changes by the deadline will cause the prior year's charges to be used as part of the calculation process for gift assistance benefits. Failure to report the assessment of a fee charge by the deadline will result in that fee charge being ineligible for payment under ISAC gift assistance programs.
  - 2) The report shall match specific fee charges with the gift assistance programs that may finance the fee. These categorizations by the institution shall not be considered ISAC approval.
  - 3) The Illinois National Guard Grant and the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Programs may finance only a portion of certain fee charges. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730.30(a) and 2733.30(e).)
    - A) Example: One fee finances both tuition and text book expenses. Only the portion of the fee that is attributable to tuition expenses may be financed with program benefits.
    - B) Institutions with such a fee shall certify what percentage of the fee

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is eligible to be financed with program benefits. Certification shall be performed by the institution's chief fiscal officer.

- g) Institutions shall submit additional reports, data and information to ISAC as may be requested. These inquiries include, but are not limited to, surveys, enrollment confirmations and evaluation instruments.
- h) Annually Provided Information
  - 1) *Public universities or community colleges that enroll students who are eligible to receive financial aid, and that receive education loan information for a student enrolled in that institution, are required to annually (on a date determined by the institution) provide to the student or parent or guardian (whichever may be appropriate based on adherence to applicable privacy laws) the following information:*
    - A) *an estimate of the total amount of education loans taken out by the student or parent or guardian;*
    - B) *an estimate of the potential payoff amount of the incurred education loans or a range of the total payoff amount, and monthly repayment amounts that a similarly situated borrower may incur for the amount of loans the student or the parent or the guardian has taken out at the time the information is provided, including principal and interest amounts;*
    - C) *the percentage of the borrowing limit the student or parent or guardian has reached at the time the information is provided; and*
    - D) *any financial resources available to the student or the parent or guardian.*
  - 2) *The information provided under this subsection (h) may include a statement that the estimates and ranges are general in nature and are not meant as a guarantee or promise of the actual projected amount.*
  - 3) *In this subsection (h) education loan means any State or federal education loan or other loan that is used primarily to finance a postsecondary education and cost of attendance at a public university or community*

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*college.* [110 ILCS 947/83]

- i) Additional institutional eligibility requirements are contained in subsequent Parts of ISAC's rules.
- j) Postsecondary institutions may apply to participate in ISAC-guaranteed loan programs in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2720.
- k) Postsecondary institutions may apply to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs in accordance with this subsection (k).
  - 1) The Commission approves participation in ISAC gift assistance programs for an institution rather than for specific academic programs within an institution.
  - 2) Prior to applying for participation in ISAC gift assistance programs, the institutional applicant must have authority to operate a postsecondary institution in Illinois. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.)
  - 3) Institutional applicants that are fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and have degree-granting authority may be approved to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs provided the institution meets and maintains the requirements of subsections (k)(4)(C) and (D).
  - 4) Public or private not for profit institutional applicants that do not meet the requirements of subsection (k)(3) may be approved to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs if the institution has:
    - A) obtained candidate status for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation.
    - B) applied for and is seeking degree-granting authority.
    - C) obtained at least 3 letters indicating the transferability of academic credit from the applicant institution to other institutions. The letters must be from institutions that are approved to participate in the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and are accredited by the

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Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

- D) an adequate number of qualified persons to administer their responsibilities under ISAC's rules for gift assistance programs. In determining whether an institution employs an adequate number of qualified persons, the Commission considers the number of students aided, the number of programs in which the institution participates, the number of applications evaluated, the amount of funds administered, and the financial aid delivery system used by the institution.
- 5) Institutional applicants must also supply ISAC with audited financial statements, prepared by an independent third party in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, to establish financial responsibility. (See, e.g., 34 CFR 668.15.)
- 6) Once approved to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs by the Commission, an institution shall receive provisional eligibility for a minimum of 5 academic years. An institution with provisional eligibility must petition the Commission for full eligibility. Full eligibility will be granted if the institution meets the requirements of subsection (k)(3) and if there are no outstanding audit exceptions.
- l) As a condition of eligibility for participation in ISAC student assistance programs, postsecondary institutions shall have a valid Program Participation Agreement with ED (see section 487 of the HEA (20 USC 1094)) and shall report their Office of Postsecondary Education Identification (OPE-ID) number to ISAC.
- m) In order to begin and to continue participation in ISAC-administered student assistance programs, institutions must also demonstrate administrative capability and financial responsibility, as defined by federal regulations. (See, e.g., 34 CFR 668.15 and 668.16.) An institution's failure to meet and maintain those standards can lead to limitation, suspension or termination proceedings. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790.)
- n) Institutions that have been assigned multiple main OPE-ID numbers will be considered separate entities by ISAC. Different campus codes associated with the same main OPE-ID number will not be considered separate entities.



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- o) An institution shall notify ISAC of its Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) in order to receive payment pursuant to any ISAC-administered program.
- p) When an approved institution has a change of ownership resulting in a change of control, a change of location, or a change of name as defined by federal regulations, the institution's Program Participation Agreement with ED may be terminated. After an institution has undergone a change of status affecting its participation in any Title IV federal student financial aid programs, the institution may have its eligibility with ISAC reinstated by the execution of a new Program Participation Agreement with ED (see, e.g., 34 CFR 600.31 et seq.) and by the submission and Commission approval of a new application for participation with ISAC.
- q) In any program in which ISAC is required by law to participate with approved high schools and/or institutions of higher learning or educational agencies to create awareness of programs offered by any of the foregoing institutions or the State (such as the Public University Uniform Admission Pilot Program Act [110 ILCS 118]), the institution shall coordinate with ISAC. Measures that may be taken by the institution may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 1) providing ISAC an institutional contact to serve as the liaison with ISAC to coordinate outreach efforts;
  - 2) timely providing ISAC with the necessary program information or materials for timely communications to the applicable Illinois residents;
  - 3) developing an outreach plan prior to deployment and then reviewing the efficacy of the plan periodically thereafter to ensure that:
    - A) ISAC's coordinated outreach efforts are best used in conjunction with the institution's and are appropriately distributed regionally and demographically; and
    - B) outreach materials and programs are up-to-date and appropriate.

(Source: Amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.40 General Applicant Eligibility Requirements**

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- a) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, an applicant with a defaulted loan made pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act is not eligible for benefits under ISAC-administered programs.
- 1) Eligibility for federally-guaranteed loans may be reinstated in accordance with federal regulations and the following provisions:
- A) Eligibility for federally-guaranteed loans will be reinstated when:
- i) the debt has been paid in full;
  - ii) the borrower has made a "satisfactory repayment arrangement," in accordance with 34 CFR 682.200;
  - iii) the borrower's prior defaulted loan has been rehabilitated, in accordance with 34 CFR 682.405; or
  - iv) the borrower has made payments on a defaulted loan to consolidate that loan in accordance with 34 CFR 682.201.
- B) Borrowers are eligible to use subsections (a)(1)(A)(ii) and (iii) only one time.
- C) Eligibility for ISAC-administered gift assistance will be reinstated for current and future terms when the applicant has maintained a satisfactory repayment record for at least 6 consecutive months or has met the requirements of subsection (a)(1)(A). Factors to be considered by ISAC in evaluating the repayment record include: the amount of the debt, the amount of the payments received by ISAC, the employment status of the applicant, and the frequency of the applicant's contact with ISAC.
- 2) A qualified applicant for Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) assistance (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733) shall be permitted one term of assistance during which a satisfactory repayment record, as defined by subsection (a)(1)(C), must be established. If such a repayment record is not established, additional assistance shall be denied until a satisfactory repayment record is established.

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- b) No applicant shall receive ISAC-administered assistance if the applicant owes a refund for any ISAC-administered gift assistance, a Federal Pell Grant, or a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) (20 USC 1070(b)).
- c) An applicant shall, upon request, provide documentation to establish and verify eligibility. (See Section 2700.50.) Failure to supply adequate documentation will result in the denial of student assistance benefits.
- d) An applicant who has received financial assistance based on fraudulent data shall be denied ISAC-administered assistance until full restitution has been made to ISAC for any fraudulently-obtained funds, and may also be subject to prosecution by the Illinois Attorney General, United States Department of Justice and/or an Illinois State's Attorney.
- e) Applicants with a ~~Each applicant must submit his/her~~ Social Security Number (SSN) must submit it at the time of applying.
- f) Recipients who cease to be residents of Illinois after notification of eligibility may complete the academic year with the assistance awarded.
- g) Unless otherwise provided, benefits under gift assistance programs are subject to the limits of dollars appropriated to ISAC by the Illinois General Assembly and approved by the Governor.
- h) When gift assistance eligibility is limited to a specified number of term payments, the eligibility cap is calculated in accordance with this subsection.
  - 1) For each semester term of full-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed 6 eligibility units. For each quarter term of full-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed 4 eligibility units.
  - 2) For each semester term of half-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed 3 eligibility units. For each quarter term of half-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed 2 eligibility units.
  - 3) For each semester or quarter term of less than half-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed one eligibility unit.

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- 4) Sixty eligibility units are the equivalent of payments for 10 semesters/15 quarters of full-time benefits.
- 5) Forty-eight eligibility units are the equivalent of payments for 8 semesters/12 quarters of full-time benefits.
- i) An applicant shall comply with Selective Service registration requirements (~~see, pursuant to 34 CFR 668.37 et seq.~~) unless contrary to State law (see 110 ILCS 986/15(a)(RISE Act (P.A. 101-21))).
- j) Except for grants pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730 (Illinois National Guard Grant Program) (ING Grant) and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733 (Illinois Veteran Grant Program) (IVG Grant), an applicant must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the institution's policy.
- k) Except for ING and IVG Grants, ISAC gift assistance benefits for courses utilizing distance education are limited to students enrolled in eligible degree or certificate programs that are defined as eligible to receive Title IV, HEA program funds. (See 34 CFR 668.38.)
- l) Except for ING and IVG Grants, students enrolled in academic programs while incarcerated are ineligible for ISAC gift assistance benefits.
- m) For the purpose of determining the timeliness of an individual's application, the postmark date of an application submitted electronically shall be the date on which ISAC receives that individual's submission of complete application data.

(Source: Amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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- 1) Heading of the Part: AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2766
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers</u> :	<u>Proposed Actions</u> :
2766.15	Amendment
2766.30	Amendment
2766.50	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing and authorized by Section 65.100 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised due to legislation (PA 101-643) stating that the program's income requirement at the time of initial application will be the income considered for each subsequent application, for the duration of the program.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Does this rulemaking contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objective: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking: Persons who wish to comment on this proposed rulemaking may submit written comments no later than 45 days after the publication of this Notice to:

Jackie Eckley  
Agency Rules Coordinator

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Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
500 West Monroe, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Springfield IL 62704

217/782-5161  
jackie.eckley@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Types of small businesses, small municipalities and not-for-profit corporations affected: None
  - B) Reporting, bookkeeping or other procedures required for compliance: None
  - C) Types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: July 2020

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

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## TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

## SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION

## CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## PART 2766

## AIM HIGH GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

Section	
2766.10	Summary and Purpose
2766.15	Definitions
2766.20	Institutional Applicant Eligibility
2766.30	Program Procedures
2766.40	Institutional Procedures
2766.50	Student Applicant and Recipient Eligibility

**AUTHORITY:** Implementing and authorized by Section 65.100 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].

**SOURCE:** Former Part 2766 repealed at 31 Ill. Reg. 9523, effective July 1, 2007; new Part 2766 adopted by emergency rulemaking at 42 Ill. Reg. 17265, effective September 13, 2018, for a maximum of 150 days; new Part adopted at 43 Ill. Reg. 2263, effective February 1, 2019; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 15048, effective January 1, 2020; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 11059, effective July 1, 2020; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2766.15 Definitions**

"Baseline Awards" means the total amount of qualifying non-loan financial aid the public university campus awarded to its Illinois resident undergraduate students in academic year 2017-18, not including the summer term.

*"Illinois High School" – any high school located in Illinois whether or not recognized by the State Board of Education. [110 ILCS 947/65.100]*

"Maintenance of Effort" or "MOE" – a requirement that in the academic year AIM HIGH funds are received by the public university campus, the total amount of qualifying non-loan financial aid the public university campus awards to its Illinois resident undergraduate students must be at least as much as its baseline awards and shall not include AIM HIGH funded awards or matching requirement awards made in that academic year.

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"Matching Requirement" – a requirement that the public university campus use its own funds in the academic year for which the AIM HIGH funds are used; to equally match those AIM HIGH funds allocated to it; and to award non-loan financial aid to its students who meet at least the qualifications described in Section 2766.50(b).

*"Public University"* – any public 4-year university in Illinois. [110 ILCS 947/10]

*"Public University Campus"* – any campus under the governance or supervision of a public university. [110 ILCS 947/10]

"Qualifying Non-loan Financial Aid" – non-loan financial aid, the awarding of which is mostly within the control of the public university campus. The data requested to demonstrate this awarding shall be determined by ISAC and shall be applied uniformly across university campuses.

"Resident of Illinois" or "Illinois Resident" – defined by the laws governing eligibility for in-state tuition at the public university campus.

(Source: Amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2766.30 Program Procedures**

- a) Each year, in the month of August, ISAC will request from each public university campus the number of undergraduate students who are residents of Illinois and citizens or eligible noncitizens of the U.S. and who were enrolled at that public university campus in the previous academic year.
- b) ISAC will determine for each public university campus its proportionate allocation of appropriated funds for the upcoming academic year using enrollment data provided in subsection (a).
- c) After determining the allocation of the appropriation for each public university campus, ISAC will inform each public university campus of the amount of its available allocation for the upcoming academic year.
- d) Annually, each public university campus may opt to apply for all or part of its allocation of appropriated funds.



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- e) If a public institution does not request all or part of its allocation, ISAC will reallocate those unclaimed funds, using the same methodology as the initial allocation determination, among the remaining universities that have indicated a desire to receive an additional allocation.
- f) In order to receive a disbursement of AIM HIGH funds, the university campus shall complete an application that shall be in a form provided by ISAC and shall include, at a minimum, the following information and documentation:
  - 1) the amount of the allocation the university has claimed for the upcoming academic year;
  - 2) the total university campus funds used to match funds received from ISAC in the previous academic year, if any;
  - 3) the total number of undergraduate students who are residents of Illinois from the previous academic year;
  - 4) all information and certifications that demonstrate eligibility as described in Section 2766.20; and
  - 5) any other information or certifications required by law or the Grant Agreement.
- g) If the application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant, who will have an opportunity to furnish the missing information. The application will only be considered for processing as of the date the completed application is received at ISAC's Springfield office at 500 West Monroe, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Springfield IL 62704.
- h) A university that does not submit a complete and timely application may not be eligible to receive its allocation. Instead, its share may be distributed by ISAC using the allocation determination methodology in subsection (a) to make the remaining funds available for other universities that filed timely applications and indicate a desire for an additional allocation.
- i) The total amount of grant funds to be distributed among eligible applicant universities in a given academic year is contingent upon available funding from the previous fiscal year and whether all eligible institutions elect to receive their full allocation.

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- j) No funds shall be distributed to the public university campus until all AIM HIGH funds from the previous academic year have been reconciled, including any claimed and unexpended funds that were retained by the public university campus.
- k) Depending upon the number of academic years and the degree to which the public university campus fails to make its matching requirement or MOE, the university campus may be suspended from participating in AIM HIGH in an academic year, but shall be eligible to regain eligibility in the academic year following the suspension.
- l) When making the determination to reduce an award under Section 2766.20(b)(2) and (3), or suspend a university campus from AIM HIGH for not meeting its matching requirement or MOE under subsection (k), ISAC shall take into account the circumstances that may have contributed to this failure, such as, but not limited to:
  - 1) a reduction in State appropriations to fund the public university campus in that academic year;
  - 2) the number of matching requirements or MOE qualifying awards offered by the public institution, but not accepted by students in that academic year; ~~and~~
  - 3) the matching award commitments already made to students for the academic year for which the AIM HIGH funds will be used; and
  - 4) the commitment demonstrated by the public university campus to maintaining level tuition and mandatory fees for Illinois residents over multiple academic years.

(Source: Amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2766.50 Student Applicant and Recipient Eligibility**

- a) An eligible student applicant for funding from an AIM HIGH allocation shall:
  - 1) have attended an Illinois high school;

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- 2) be engaged in a program of study (i.e., course) that in due course will be completed by the end of the school year;
  - 3) complete an application for the award no later than 12 months from the last date of the school year within which the coursework was completed;
  - 4) apply to be enrolled for the first time at the public university campus where the award will be used; and
  - 5) meet all the student eligibility qualifications and requirements under subsection (b) before receiving an award.
- b) In order to meet the eligibility qualifications and requirements, an award recipient shall:
- 1) *be a resident of Illinois and a citizen or eligible noncitizen of the United States;*
  - 2) *file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that ~~demonstrate~~ and demonstrate financial need with a household income no greater than 6 times the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 USC 9902(2). The household income of the applicant at the time of initial application shall be deemed to be the household income of the applicant for the duration of the pilot program;*
  - 3) *meet the minimum cumulative grade point average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as determined by the public university campus;*
  - 4) *be enrolled in a participating public university campus as an undergraduate student on a full-time basis;*
  - 5) *have not yet received a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours;*
  - 6) *not be incarcerated;*

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- 7) *not be in default on any student loan nor owe a refund or repayment on any State or federal grant or scholarship; and*
- 8) *meet any other reasonable criteria, as determined by the public university campus. [110 ILCS 947/65.100]*
- c) An AIM HIGH funded award recipient who meets the eligibility criteria for renewals shall be eligible for an AIM HIGH renewal award in subsequent academic years, the criteria for which shall be determined by the public university campus consistent with the criteria in this Section. AIM HIGH funded award renewal amounts shall be in an amount not less than the AIM HIGH funded amount from the renewal applicant's first year of attendance at the university campus, unless there is a reduction due to changes in the student's cost of attendance, including, but not limited to:
- 1) a reduction in credit hours in which a student is enrolled, but remains a full time student; or
  - 2) switching to a course of study with a lower tuition rate.
- d) An AIM HIGH funded award recipient under subsection (a) or a renewal applicant shall be eligible for non-loan financial aid in the amount determined by the public university campus during the academic year, not including summer terms, and shall be eligible to receive other financial aid.
- e) The total amount of the AIM HIGH funds awarded to a qualified recipient in a given academic year, when added to other financial aid available to the qualified recipient for that year, shall not exceed the cost of attendance.
- f) Applicants eligible for an award using matching requirement funds must meet the criteria in subsection (b). Renewal availability and eligibility criteria shall be determined by the public university campus as required by subsection (b).

(Source: Amended at 44 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)