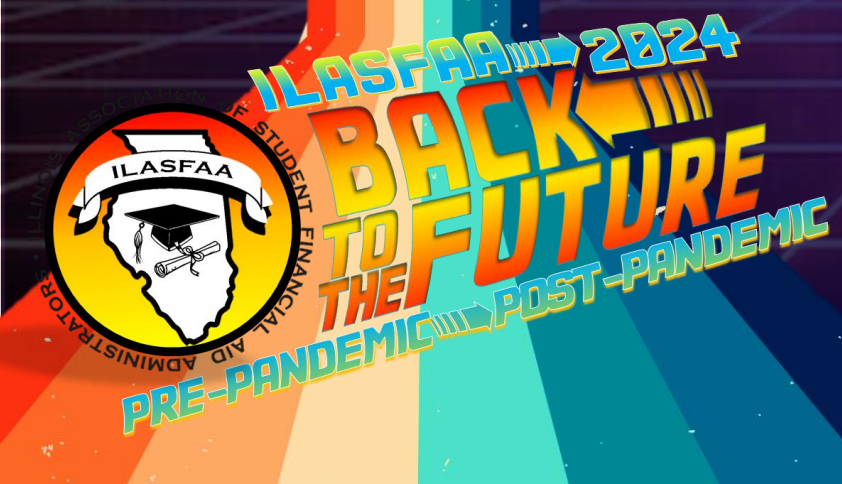
Taking the Alternative Application into the Future: A Review of the 2024-25 Application Process

Daniela Rios, Manuel Talavera



Agenda

- Alternative Application Overview
- Alternative Application Policies & Procedures
- Professional Judgment and Making Corrections
- Alternative Application Processing & Resources

Alternative Application Overview

Alternative Application

- To accommodate RISE Act-eligible students, ISAC created an Illinois-specific online application for the need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant
- It is patterned after the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and is known as the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- An Alternative Application is made available for each award year at the same time that the FAFSA® becomes available
- The Alternative Application calculates an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for 2023-24 and a Student Aid Index (SAI) for 2024-25 to determine financial need for MAP

The 2024-25 Alternative Application

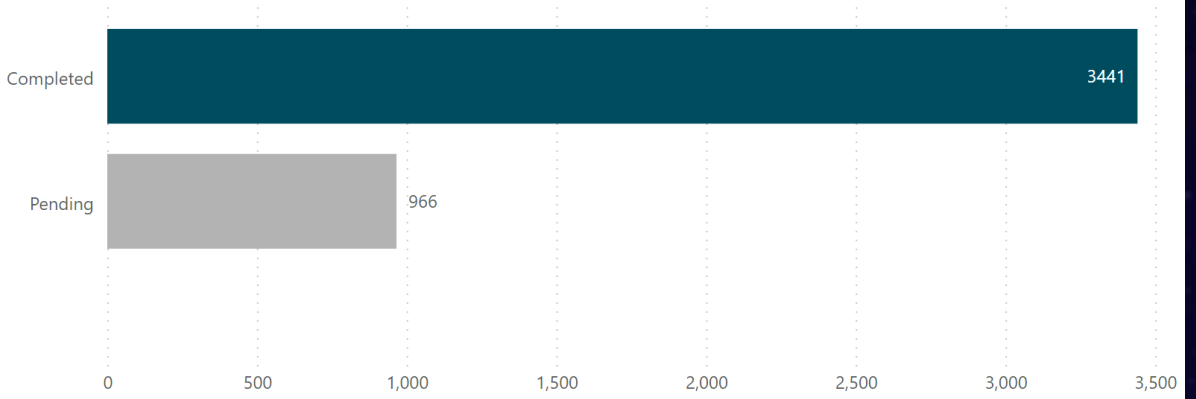
- The format and layout of the application will remain the same as the 2023-24 Alternative Application
- Questions have been added to be consistent with the 2024-25 FAFSA®
- Some questions have been removed to simplify the application whenever possible, and the questions do not always follow the same order as they appear on the FAFSA®
- The application will continue to collect all data elements required to calculate an SAI in the same manner that the FAFSA® form does
- The application will continue to have seven sections

Alternative Applications for 2023-2024

As of 02/26/2024

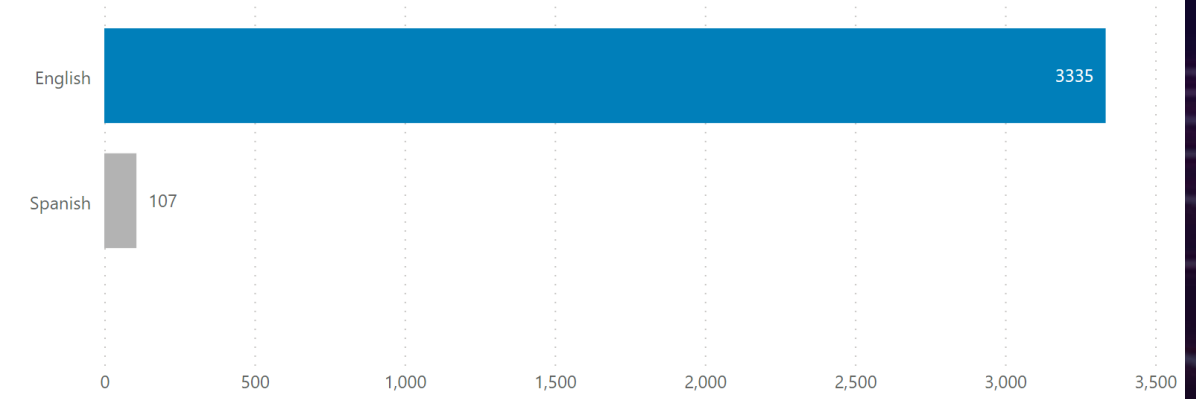
Total Number of Applications Started

4407



Total Number of Applications Completed

3441

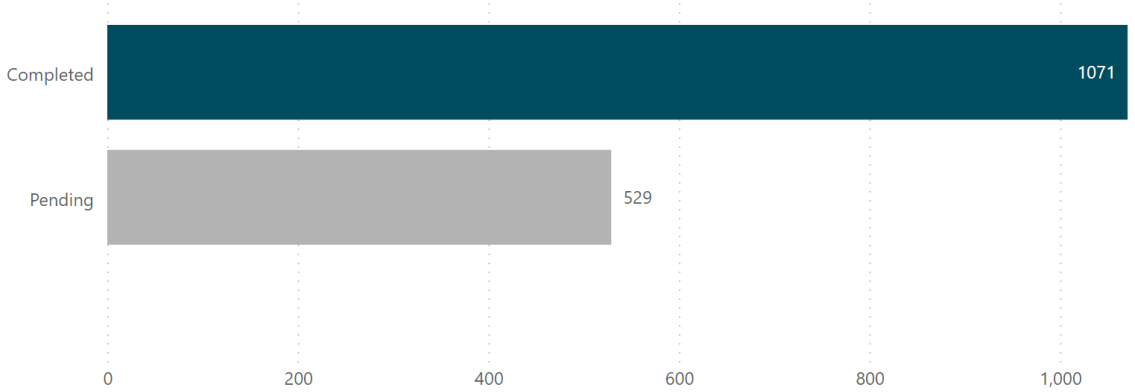


Alternative Applications for 2024-2025

As of 02/26/2024

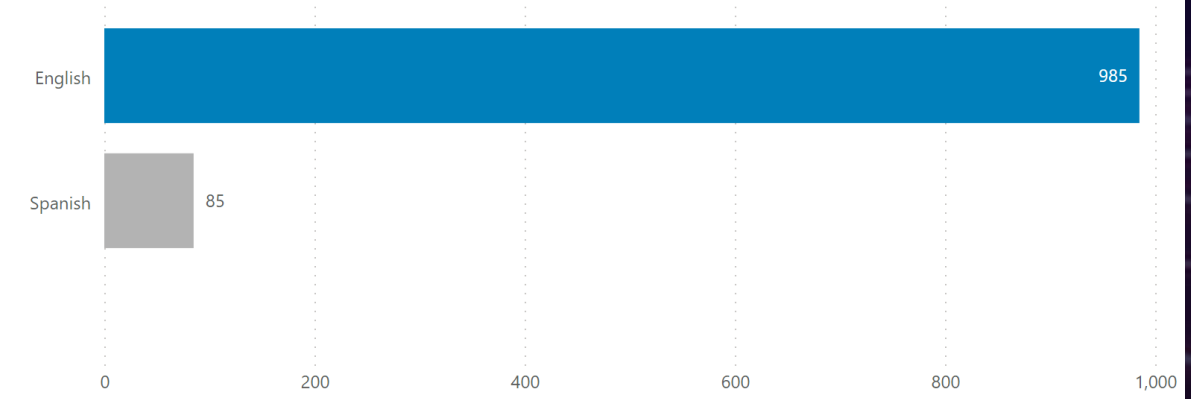
Total Number of Applications Started

1600

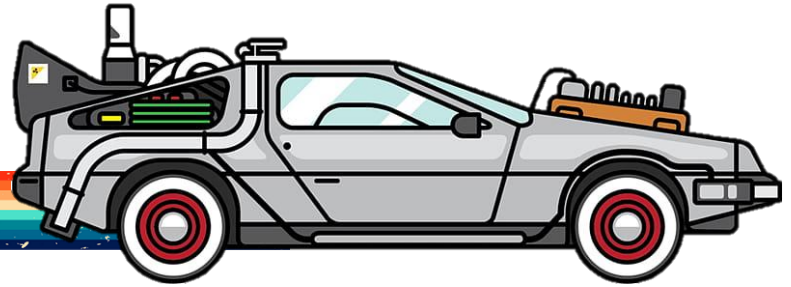


Total Number of Applications Completed

1071



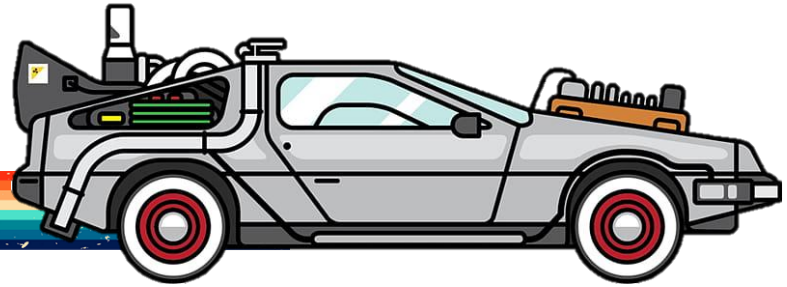
The 2024-25 Alternative Application



- Nothing is changing with the:
  - Pre-screening or log-in process
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Signature process

- Financial aid administrators at the colleges will continue to have the ability to make corrections and/or professional judgment adjustments in the MAP system in GAP Access

Eligibility Criteria



- The individual must have:
  1. Resided with parent or guardian while attending an Illinois public or private high school;
  2. Graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois;
  3. Attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date they graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma;
  4. Provide the institution with an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S. at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so; and
  5. Has not established a residence outside of Illinois

MAP Residency Requirements

- Dependent Student
  - A dependent student is a resident of Illinois if the parent physically resides within the State of Illinois, and Illinois is the parent's true, fixed, and permanent home
- Independent Student
  - 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 their true, fixed and permanent home

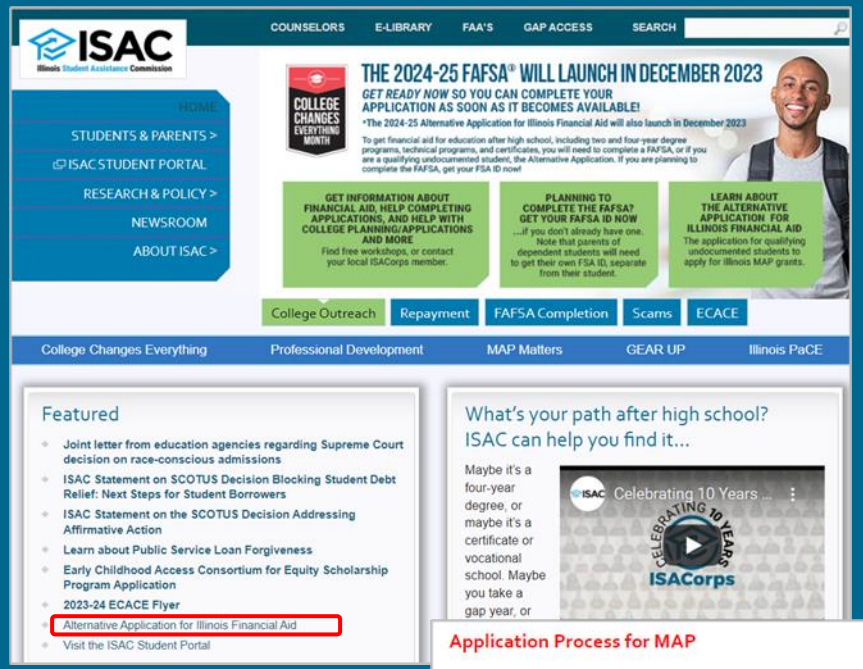
Who is a Parent for purposes of the Alternative Application?

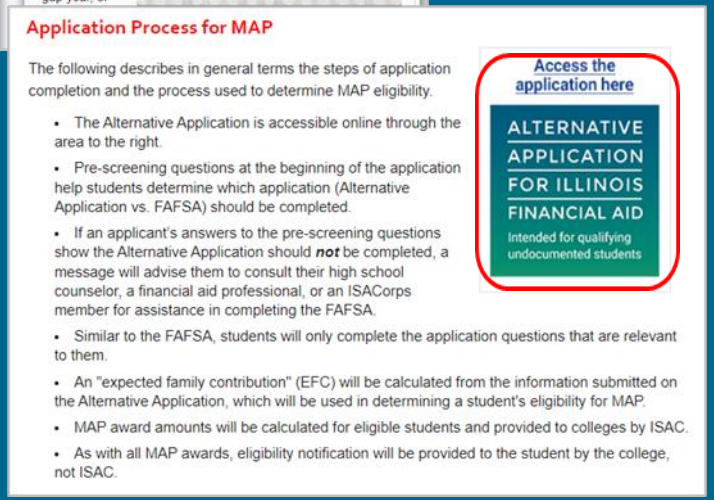
1. Biological
2. Adoptive
3. Stepparent – while married to biological parent

- Parents living together must both provide information on the Alternative Application – regardless of marital status
- For divorced parents:
  - Report the parent ***who provided the most financial support within the last 12 months***
  - If the financial support is equal, then report the parent with greater income and assets

Accessing the Application

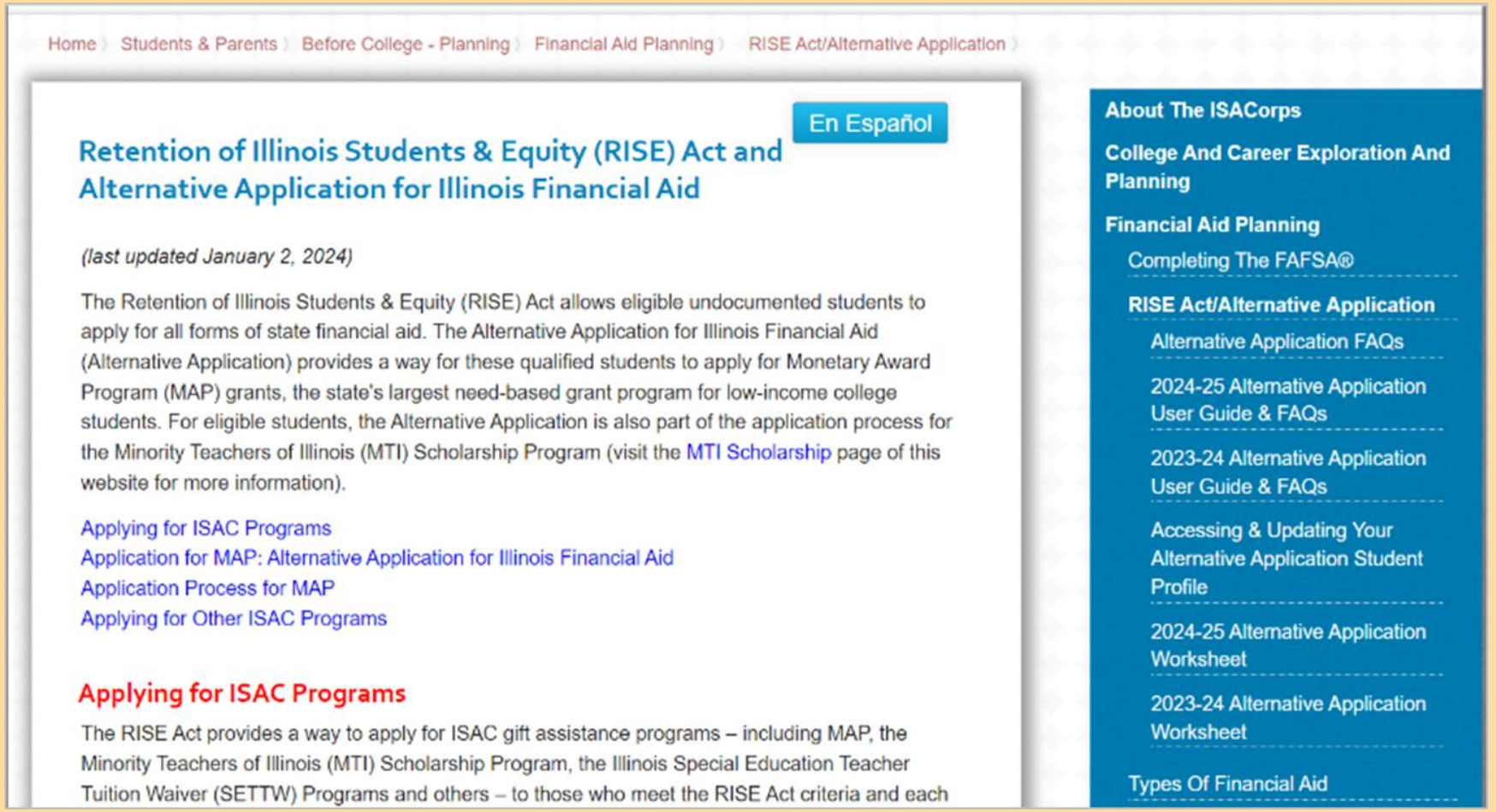
- The Alternative Application is accessed at isac.org
- Must navigate to the RISE Act information page from the home page
  - Provides information about eligibility requirements
  - The application and resources are available in Spanish
- The Application is not accessible in ISAC's Student Portal or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





Accessing the Application

- Resources are available to assist with the application process
- They have been updated for 2024-25



Alternative Application Policies & Procedures

Alternative Application or FAFSA?

- A student should complete either the FAFSA or the Alternative Application, depending on their eligibility and other considerations in determining which application to file

- In general, a student should not complete both applications, however, please note the following exceptions:
  - If the student filed an Alternative Application, but then becomes eligible for federal aid, it would be acceptable to file a FAFSA for the same award year.
  - If the student filed a FAFSA and it was rejected due to their citizenship status, they are encouraged to file an Alternative Application for the same award year if they meet all RISE Act eligibility requirements

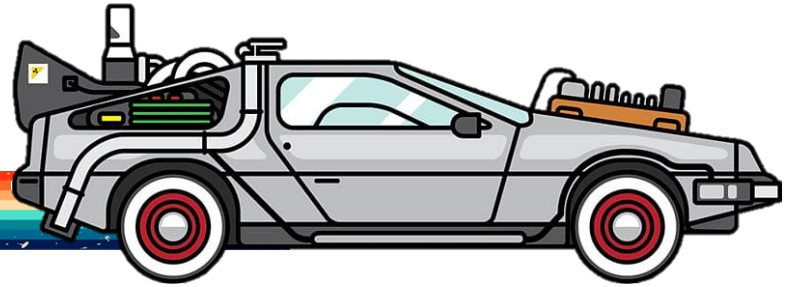
Determining Citizenship Status

- The student's immigration status is used to determine which financial aid application they should complete
- File a FAFSA if you are a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen:
  - U.S. Permanent Resident Card
  - Conditional Green Card
  - Holder of Arrival Departure Record (I-94 Form) from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) showing:
    - Refugee
    - Asylum Granted
    - Parolee – paroled for a minimum of one year and has not expired
    - Cuban-Haitian Entrant
  - T-Visa Holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.)
  - Has documentation from DHS meeting the definition of Battered Immigrant-Qualified Alien

Other Statuses

- Other common statuses that some of your students may have
  - I-94 forms stamped with another endorsement not found in the eligible noncitizen section such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS),
  - J-1, J-2 Visas,
  - F-1, F-2 Visas,
  - DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), or
  - U-Visa holders
- While these students are not eligible for federal student aid, they may be eligible to complete the Alternative Application if they meet the criteria of the RISE Act

Newcomers/Recent Arrivals



- Since August 2022, over 35,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Chicago
- While the majority are seeking asylum from Venezuela, individuals are also coming from other countries in Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe
- Eligibility for state financial aid programs will depend on the student's immigration status
  - Only individuals granted asylum are eligible for federal student aid
  - Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria of the RISE Act are considered Non-eligible noncitizens and therefore not eligible to apply for ISAC programs
  - Immigration status of the student's parent(s) **does not impact** eligibility for state financial aid

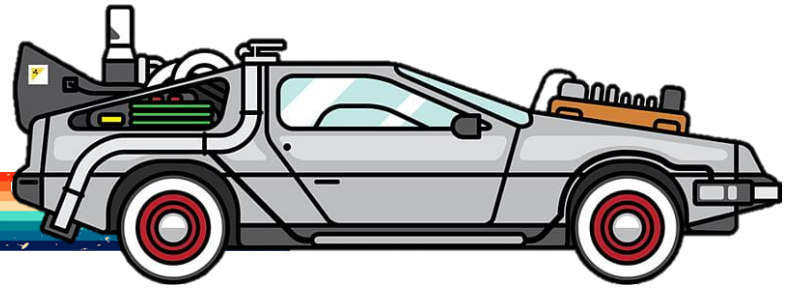
Alternative Application Eligibility Policies

- If a school is aware that a student completed a FAFSA and the Alternative Application, the school should review the ISIR to determine if there are eligibility issues that would need to be resolved before awarding MAP.

- It is in a student's best interest to complete the FAFSA if eligible to do so and to resolve eligibility issues that may be flagged on an ISIR to maximize the amount of financial aid the student is eligible to receive.

- If an institution has any information that indicates an applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements for MAP or is aware of conflicting information, regardless of which application was used, the school is expected to resolve it.

Alternative Application Eligibility Policies



- Schools are not expected to check all Alternative Applications to see if those students have also submitted a FAFSA. However, as part of the payment claim and reconciliation process for MAP recipients, schools are expected to review results to ensure that a student does not receive a MAP award as both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application applicant in the same term.

- The Alternative Application is not intended to be an alternate option for students who do not pass the database match checks on the FAFSA.
  - It is intended for students who meet the specific eligibility criteria in the RISE Act legislation.

- If a student completed a FAFSA in error and meets all the criteria specified by the RISE Act, the student may complete the Alternative Application.

Professional Judgment and Making Corrections

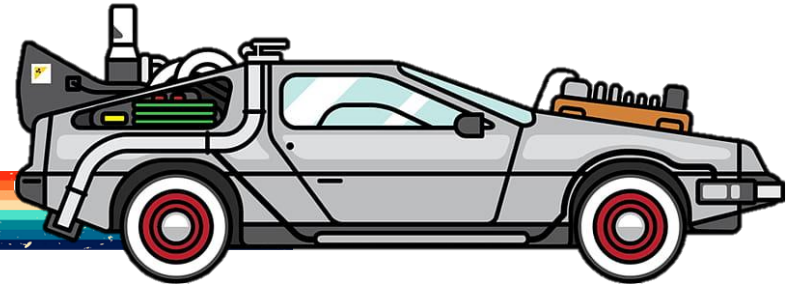
Unusual Circumstances

- Dependent students may still be eligible to complete the Alternative Application without parental information if they have an unusual circumstance
- **Acceptable** reasons for not providing parental information:
  - Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment
  - Are abandoned by or estranged from their parents
  - Have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country
  - Are a victim of human trafficking
  - Are incarcerated or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student
  - Unable to contact or locate their parents
- **Unacceptable** reasons for not providing parental information:
  - Parents unwilling to provide information
  - Parents refuse to pay for college
  - Parents do not claim student on taxes
  - Student does not live with parents

Professional Judgements for Alternative Application Students

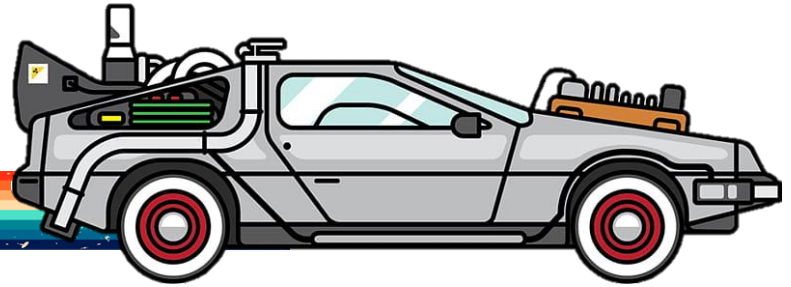
- A process is also available in the MAP system that provides colleges with the ability to submit professional judgment adjustments for students who have submitted an Alternative Application
- Colleges may rely on the same policies and procedures they have in place for FAFSA applicants who have special or unusual circumstances
- A Professional Judgment tab is available on the Student Detail: Eligibility screen in the MAP system
- During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed to the next page until required information has been entered.
- Once all changes/updates have been entered, you must select a "Submit" button to complete the process.

Professional Judgement



- **Processing Professional Judgments in the MAP System:**
  - Log in to the MAP system in the GAP Access portal.
  - Select the appropriate academic year on the MAP system home screen.
  - Navigate to the Student Detail screen by entering the student's ISAC ID number in the SSN field on the MAP home screen.
    - Or, from the Student List screen, select the Student Detail icon to navigate to the Student Detail screen.
  - If there is more than one transaction for the student, be sure to identify which transaction you want to be the basis for the professional judgment.
  - On the Student Detail: Eligibility screen, select the Professional Judgment tab and begin the process of updating the application.
    - When making a Professional Judgment adjustment, the option to perform a dependency override is associated with Section 3 of the application where you will have the option to provide/update parental data or continue with a dependency override
  - Review all changes and click on the Submit button to complete the process.
  - Review the new transaction on the next business day to ensure corrections/updates processed as expected.

Corrections to the Application



- Any of the data elements, except the ISAC-assigned ID number, can be corrected or updated by the student
- In general, a student should not update information that was correct as of the date it was initially signed and submitted
  - Like the FAFSA, it's considered to be a "snapshot" of the family's financial situation as of that date
- All corrections will require the student to re-sign the application
- If changes are made to parent data, the parent will need to re-sign the app as well
  - Parent will need the student's ISAC ID number and the parent PIN to log in
- Each time a correction or update is made, a new transaction will be generated

Making Corrections as an FAA

- There is a process in the MAP system that provides colleges with the ability to make corrections for students who have submitted an Alternative Application

- An Application Correction tab is available on the Student Detail: Eligibility screen that allows colleges to access a student's Alternative Application record and update most of the information on the application
  - FAAs cannot update an ISAC ID Number, student e-mail address, parent e-mail address, and school choices/codes.

- During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed until required information has been entered.

- Once all changes have been entered, you must select a "Submit" button to complete the update process.
  - If updated data is not submitted at the time of entry, all changes will be lost; changes cannot be saved to be submitted at a later time.

- Updates will be processed nightly and results will be available on the following business day.

Corrections in the MAP System

- Log in to the MAP system in the GAP Access portal.
- Select the appropriate academic year on the MAP system home screen.
- Navigate to the Student Detail screen by entering the student's ISAC ID number in the SSN field on the MAP home screen
  - Or, from the Student List screen, select the Student Detail icon to navigate to the Student Detail screen.
    - If unsure of a student's ISAC ID number, use the Filter function to filter by the student's name.
- If there is more than one transaction for the student, be sure to identify which transaction you want to be the basis for the correction process.
- On the Student Detail: Eligibility screen, select the Application Correction tab and begin the process of updating the application.
- Review all changes and click on the Submit button to complete the correction/update process.
- Review the new transaction on the next business day to ensure corrections/updates processed as expected.

MAP Student Detail: Eligibility

Home | **Student** | Budget | Reports | File Extractions

List | Eligibility

Professional Judgment | Application Correction

Transaction / Name ID

01 M. Go

School ID

Current SSN

Go

Original SSN

School | Administration | Programs

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid 2021-2022

< Back To Detail

Introduction

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

Please note that if you exit this application record before submitting your changes, all edits will be lost and you will need to re-enter all of your changes to complete the correction/update process.

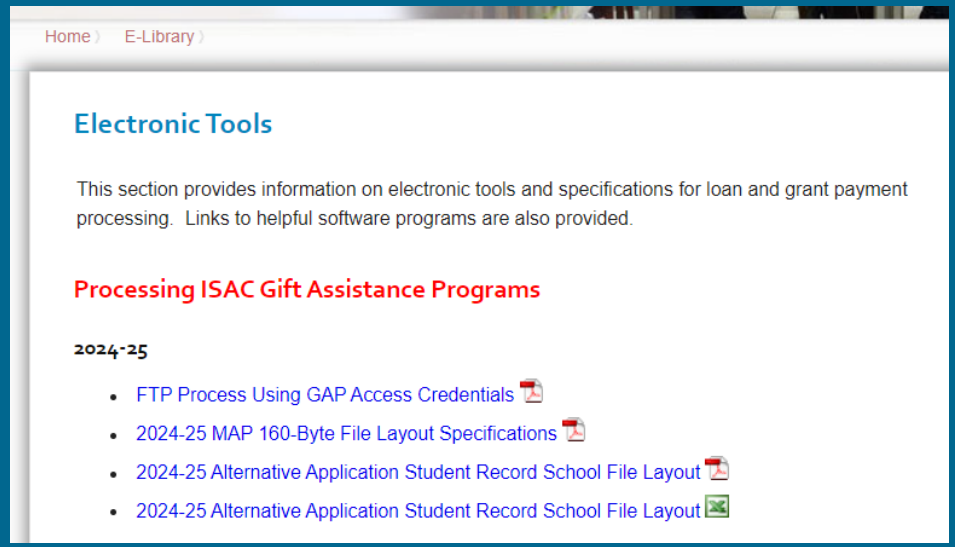
Continue To Application

Alternative Application Processing

Alternative Application Student Records

Similar to an ISIR, the Alternative Application Student Record includes all application data elements

- The order of the data in the file layout follows the order of the ISIR and the values are the same, unless otherwise noted
- Available as a text file in Notepad
  - Using free Notepad++ app provides more user-friendly viewing
- Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications document provides details about field names, length of data fields, and start and end positions
  - Located in the Electronic Tools section of the E-Library at isac.org



MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications

- The 160-byte file layout for 2024-25 MAP processing has been posted to the Electronic Tools section of the E-Library
  - For Eligibility Status File (ESF) records and payment requests via the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) process

- For 2024-25, these data elements are no longer included on the file:
  - Student Social Security number (SSN)
  - Student Last Name (previously an optional field)
  - Original SSN
  - Name ID

- These Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data elements were removed to protect student identity when transmitting files between ISAC and colleges.

- The student's Person Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) that is assigned to the student by the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) will replace the SSN on the file
  - The Person UUID field is 36 characters in length, and the total number of characters being removed is also 36, so the length of the 160-byte file will not change
  - The Person UUID will stay the same for the student across FAFSA cycles
  - **ISAC will generate a Person UUID for Alternative Application applicants**

2024-25 MAP File Layouts

- 160-byte file layout specifications

2024-25 MAP 160 Byte File Layout Specifications

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

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

Sample ISAC UUIDs

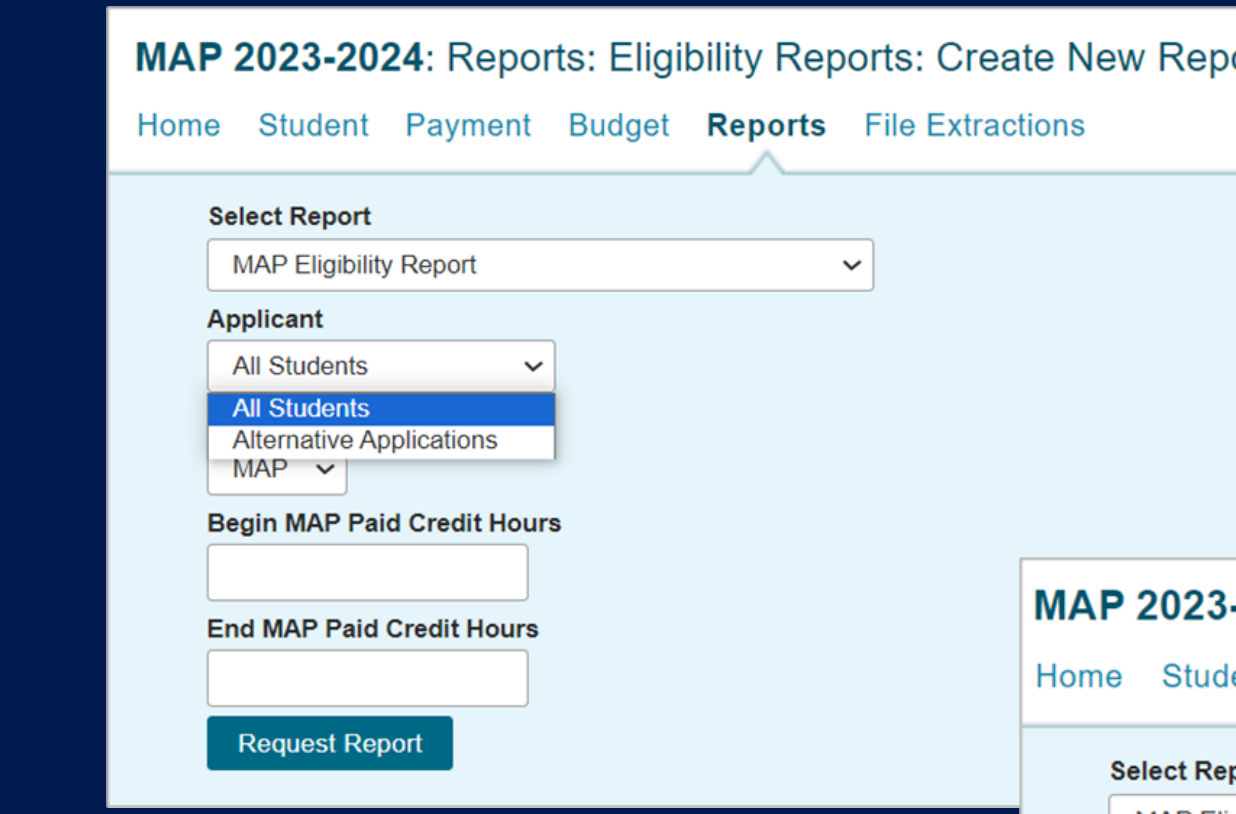
```
ISACPLL3YyRh5E8EohuN58wgGndxcXdQPGKM
ISACPwHoPtRKMQxELuxwUCON0grXZKdeJjT6
ISACPXPGkpacsIF8iOROjPDzjjvzYN6N2wTN
```

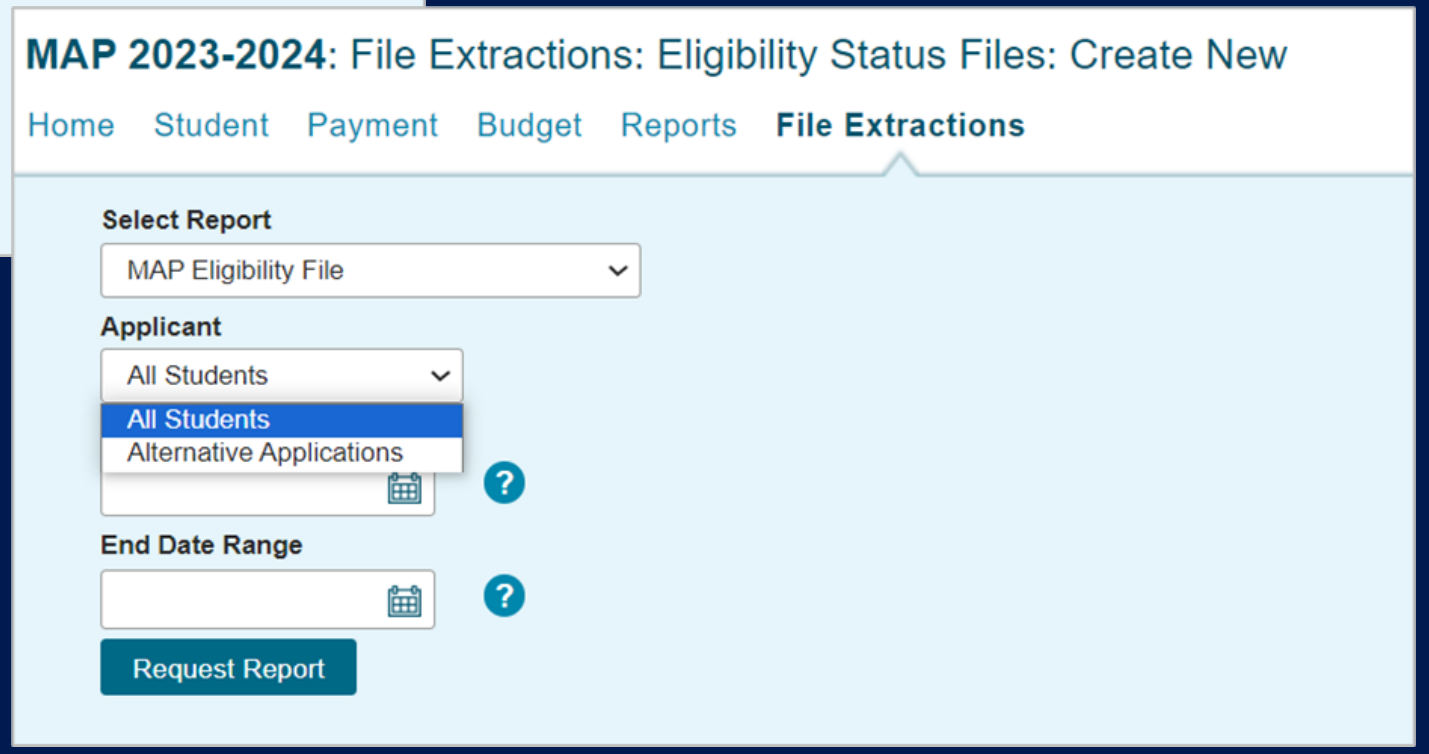
- Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications

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

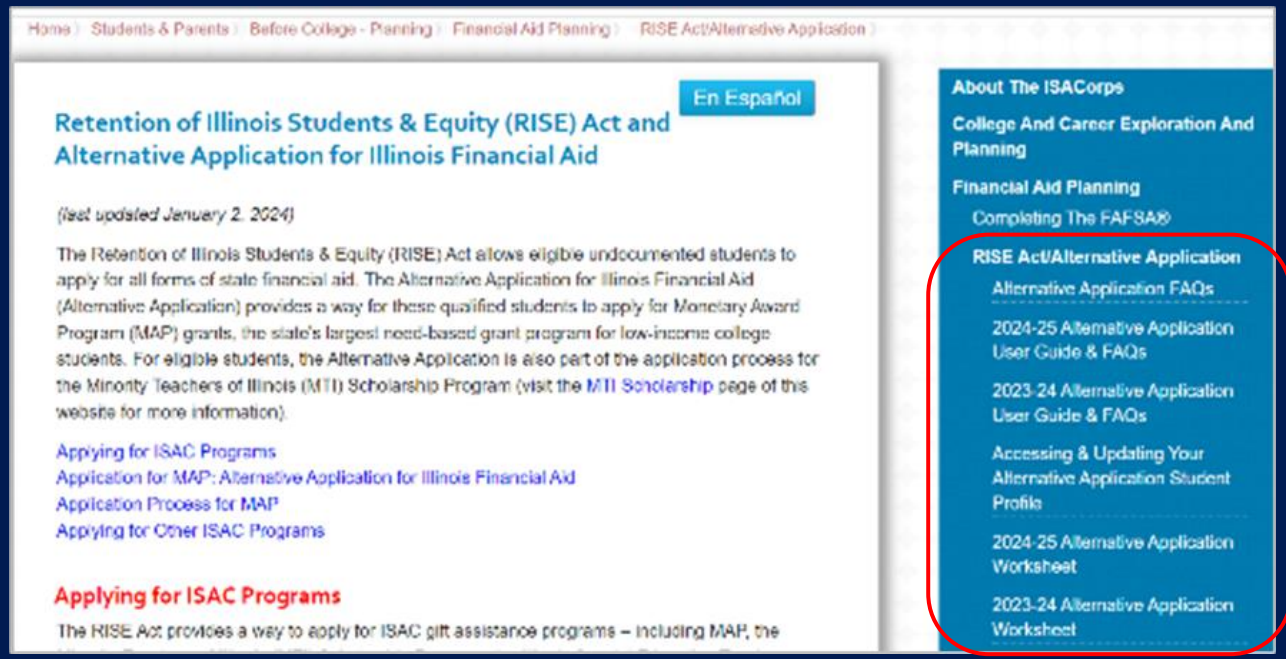
Field #	Start Position	End Position	Length	Field Name	Populated when Applicable	Data Format (same values and formatting as ISIR unless otherwise noted)
1	1	1	1	Year Indicator	Yes	
2	2	37	36	FAFSA UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
3	38	73	36	Transaction UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
4	74	109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

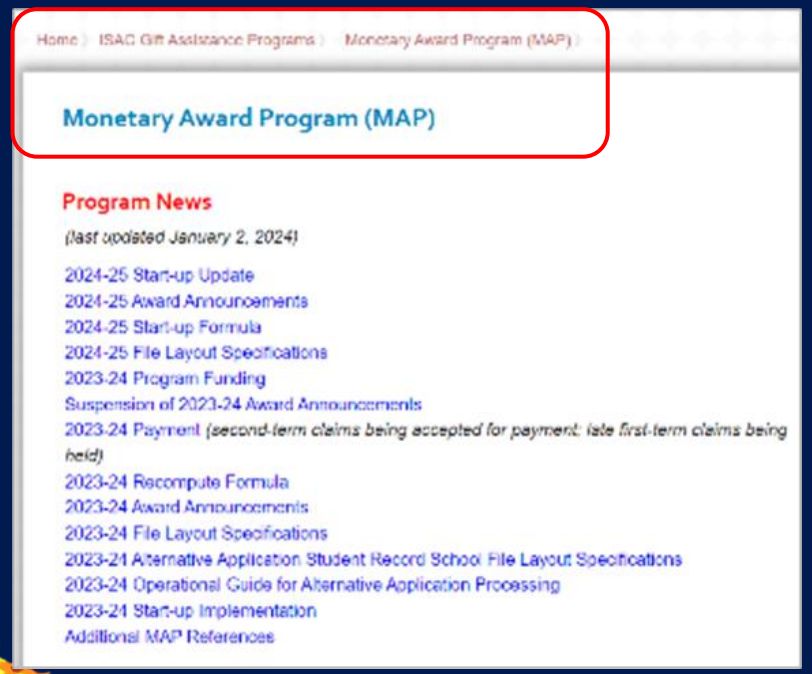
Accessing Alternative Application Student Records in the MAP System





Resources


Home › Students & Parents › Before College - Planning › Financial Aid Planning › RISE Act/Alternative Application
En Español
Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
(last updated January 2, 2024)
The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students to apply for all forms of state financial aid. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) provides a way 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. For eligible students, the Alternative Application is also part of the application process for the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program (visit the MTI Scholarship page of this website for more information).
Applying for ISAC Programs
Application for MAP: Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
Application Process for MAP
Applying for Other ISAC Programs
Applying for ISAC Programs
The RISE Act provides a way to apply for ISAC gift assistance programs – including MAP, the
About The ISACorps
College And Career Exploration And Planning
Financial Aid Planning
Completing The FAFSA®
RISE Act/Alternative Application
Alternative Application FAQs
2024-25 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs
2023-24 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs
Accessing & Updating Your Alternative Application Student Profile
2024-25 Alternative Application Worksheet
2023-24 Alternative Application Worksheet


Home › ISAC Gift Assistance Programs › Monetary Award Program (MAP)
Monetary Award Program (MAP)
Program News
(last updated January 2, 2024)
2024-25 Start-up Update
2024-25 Award Announcements
2024-25 Start-up Formula
2024-25 File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Program Funding
Suspension of 2023-24 Award Announcements
2023-24 Payment (second-term claims being accepted for payment; late first-term claims being held)
2023-24 Recompute Formula
2023-24 Award Announcements
2023-24 File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
2023-24 Start-up Implementation
Additional MAP References

E-Library for Partners
1. Partner E-Messages & Newsletters
This month's e-Messages and the monthly ISAC Update and Communique
2. Partner Training
ISAC training and event calendars and online registration
3. Applications
Scholarship, grant, and loan repayment/forgiveness applications
4. Administrative Rules
Current and previous year's ISAC Rules, Proposed Rules if applicable
5. ISAC Governing Board: The Commission
Meeting schedules, Commissioner biographies, Agenda Books
6. Manuals & Handbooks
Common Manual, Federal Student Aid Handbook, Counselors and Mentors Handbook, Handbook of Illinois Postsecondary Institutions
7. Outreach Events
Outreach events calendar of college fairs, financial aid nights and FAFSA Completion workshops
8. Electronic Tools
Specifications for loan and grant payment processing, software program links

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

COUNSELORS E-LIBRARY FAA'S GAP ACCESS

HOME
STUDENTS & PARENTS >
ISAC STUDENT PORTAL
RESEARCH & POLICY >
NEWSROOM
ABOUT ISAC >

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs | Other Programs | Processes | ISAC Administrative Rules | E-Library | Partner Training

Home 〉 Financial Aid Administrators 〉

Financial Aid Administrators

By choosing from these topics, Financial Aid Administrators, Business Officers, and other school personnel have fingertip access to a centralized source of information and financial aid guidance concerning ISAC's programs, processes, and resources.

- ISAC Gift Assistance Programs
- Other Programs
- Processes
- e-Library

FAA Quick Links

GAP ACCESS
Gift Assistance Programs Access

FAA Message Board

The FAA Message Board is updated each week.

NEW 2024-25 NES applications due April 30

NEW State Legislative Update Available

NEW MAP nightly payment processing resuming 2.28

NEW 2024-25 Alternative Application file layout specifications available in

Home 〉 ISAC Gift Assistance Programs 〉

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) provides financial aid for college education through the many gift assistance programs that it administers. Gift assistance is awarded in the form of scholarships, grants, tuition waivers and loan repayment programs. As an approved participant in any of the gift assistance programs administered by ISAC, postsecondary institutions may receive funds on behalf of eligible students.

Important Reminders

February 2024 – Calendar
March 2024– Calendar

The monthly calendars offer at-a-glance reminders of important operational dates concerning the gift assistance programs. It does not replace the need to stay current with individual "Program News" pages for each program, but serves as a supplement.

How to Use this Section

For more detailed information about each of the Gift Assistance programs, select a specific program from the right-margin menu. Each program section contains a "Program News" page with up-to-date operation information. You can also find additional information such as the annual appropriation, application procedures, eligibility requirements and payment procedures.

- Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program
- Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
- Golden Apple Scholars Of Illinois Program
- Grant Programs For Dependents Of Police-Fire-Correctional Officers
- Grant Program For Exonerees
- Higher Education License Plate (HELP) Program
- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program
- Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program
- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program
- Minority Teachers Of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
- Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

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

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Program News

(last updated February 27, 2024)

2024-25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
2024-25 Start-up Update *(priority deadline date for returning MAP recipients extended to April 1)*
2024-25 Award Announcements
2024-25 Start-up Formula
2024-25 File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Program Funding
Suspension of 2023-24 Award Announcements
2023-24 Payment *(second-term claims due March 22; late first-term claims being held)*
2023-24 Recompute Formula
2023-24 Award Announcements
2023-24 File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
2023-24 Start-up Implementation
Additional MAP References

2024-25

Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications

An Alternative Application Student Record is created for each student who completes an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application). The application data that is critical to determining eligibility for MAP is provided to schools in the GAP Access portal for each student who has listed that college as a school choice on the student's Alternative Application. The 2024-25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications document is available (in both PDF and Excel formats) via the Electronic Tools page within the e-Library.

Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing

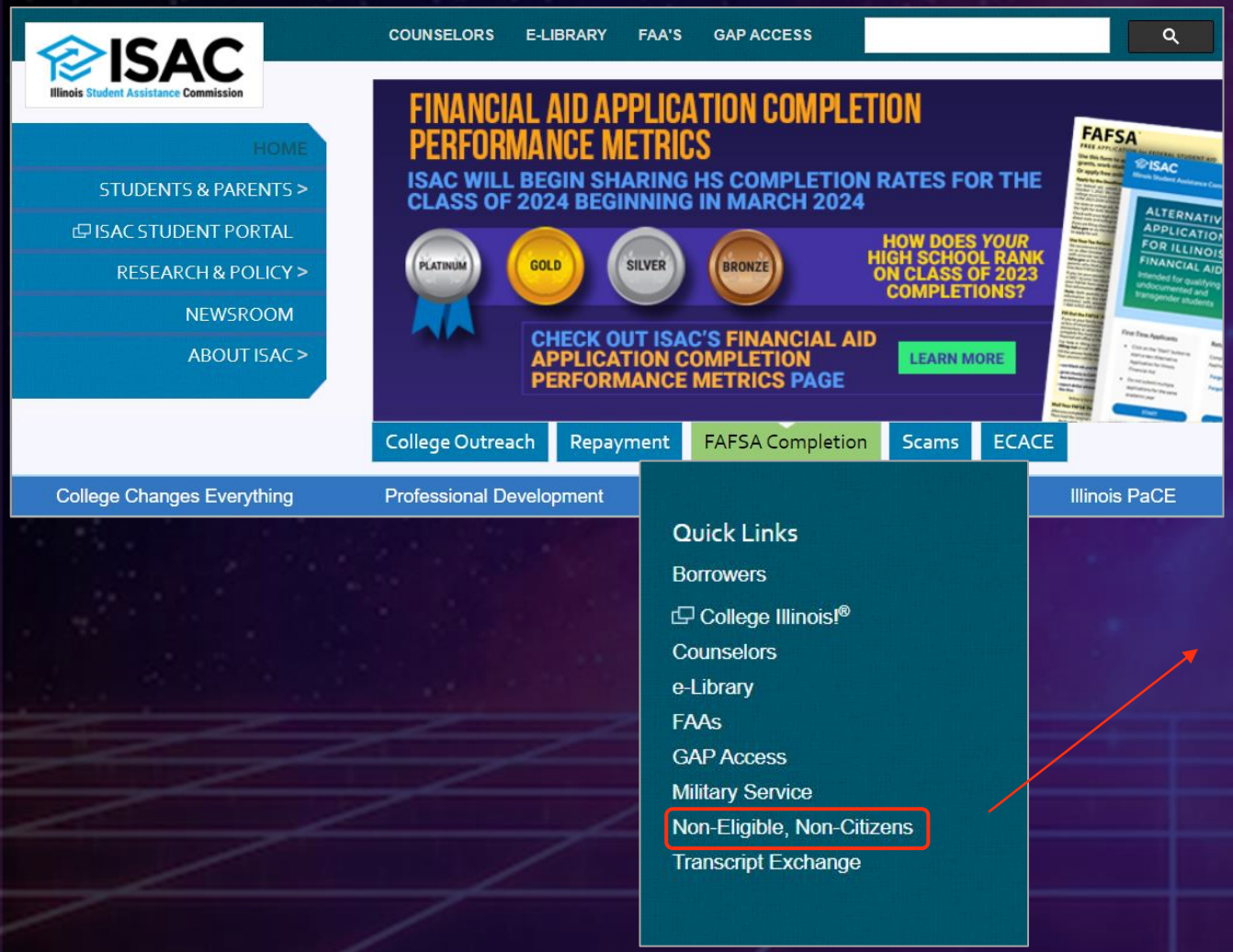
A 2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing is available to assist schools with issues such as resolving MAP eligibility questions, dealing with conflicting information, correcting data, and managing Alternative Application student records in GAP Access, once 2024-25 data becomes available. The Guide provides ISAC's guidance for each issue and the applicable regulatory and/or rules reference.

As a reminder, the 2024-25 MAP processing cycle will commence after the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) begins providing FAFSA results to colleges and state agencies (anticipated for later in January 2024).

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

2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing

Issue	Guidance	Regulatory/Rule Reference/Resources
RISE Act Eligibility		
If a student completed a FAFSA but did not pass the database match checks, can they complete an Alternative Application?	The Alternative Application is not intended to be an alternate option for students who do not pass the database match checks on the FAFSA. It is intended for students who meet the specific eligibility criteria in the RISE Act legislation. If the student completed a FAFSA in error and meets all the criteria specified by the RISE Act, the student may complete the Alternative Application.	Illinois Public Act 101-0021
For students who have filed both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application, is the school responsible to compare and resolve conflicting data?	If a school is aware that a student completed a FAFSA and the Alternative Application, the school should review the ISIR to determine if there are eligibility issues that would need to be resolved before awarding MAP. It is in a student's best interest to complete the FAFSA if eligible to do so and to resolve eligibility issues that may be flagged on an ISIR to maximize the amount of financial aid the student is eligible to receive. If an institution has any information that indicates an applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements for MAP or is aware of conflicting information, regardless of which application was used, the school is expected to resolve it. Schools are not expected to check all Alternative Applications to see if those students have also submitted a FAFSA. However, as part of the payment claim and reconciliation process for MAP recipients, schools are expected to review results to ensure that a student does not receive a MAP award as both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application applicant in the same term.	ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions, Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility
How can schools ensure that a student isn't receiving MAP as both a FAFSA applicant	While colleges are not expected to check all Alternative Applications to see if a FAFSA has been filed by the same student, colleges are expected to ensure that students are not being paid MAP under both applications. At the school level this may best be accomplished by reviewing MAP reports and identifying students with	ISAC.SchoolServices@illinois.gov



Information for Non-Eligible Noncitizens

Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for state financial aid, including programs administered by ISAC.

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid provides a pathway for these qualified students to apply for a Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant, the state's largest need-based grant program for low-income college students.

Eligible Noncitizens

Effective January 1, 2020, the definition of "eligible noncitizen" for ISAC gift assistance programs was expanded to include criteria from the RISE Act. Illinois residents who do not meet the federal definition of eligible noncitizen, but who meet the state criteria, as defined in ISAC's Administrative Rules, are eligible to apply for state financial aid.

From ISAC Administrative Rules, General Provisions, Section 2700.20, Definitions:

- "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;*
  - *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;*

Non-Eligible Noncitizens

For purposes of ISAC programs, a noneligible noncitizen is a student who does not meet either the federal or the state definition of eligible noncitizen, and therefore is not eligible to apply for ISAC programs. However, there may be other options available, and you are encouraged to visit the resources listed below.

Non-U.S. citizens planning to attend college in the U.S. can find information and assistance, including legal and other support services through the following links:

- FAQs on DACA from Homeland Security
- IACAC's College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students
- U.S. Department of Education – Federal Student Aid
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
  - Attorney Referral List for Immigration Matters
  - An Undocumented Student's Guide to College
  - Immigrant Student Scholarship Guide
  - A Counselor's Guide to Resources for Undocumented Students
- College Board

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

DACA is a program through which undocumented young people brought to this country by their parents could get a temporary reprieve from deportation and receive permission to work, study and obtain driver's licenses. DACA participants voluntarily signed up for the program through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and their status was renewable every two years.

On September 5, 2017, it was announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy would be rescinded, with a six-month wind-down, during which no new applications were to be accepted under the program. The State of Illinois recognizes the significant uncertainty this created for those in the DACA program as well as other undocumented students and their families. As part of our mission to make college accessible and affordable for all families in Illinois, ISAC will continue to support and assist these students by providing information and assistance in navigating the college planning and financial aid processes.

Joint Statement of IBHE, ICCB, ISAC and FIICU on Rescission of DACA, Issued September 8, 2017

Due to federal court orders in early 2018, the USCIS resumed accepting requests to renew a grant of deferred action under DACA. The USCIS is not accepting requests from individuals who have never before been granted deferred action under DACA. For more information, visit Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Response to January 2018 Preliminary Injunction.

As of August 1, 2019, USCIS returned to a one-year filing window across the board for requesting renewal of an expired period of DACA.

For information about financial aid eligibility as a DACA student, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Student Aid website.

For more information about the DACA program, visit https://www.uscis.gov/DACA

Questions and Answers for Undocumented Students

Q. If I have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), am I eligible for federal student aid?

A. Undocumented students, including DACA recipients, are not eligible for federal student aid, but you may still be eligible for state or college aid, in addition to private scholarships. Check with your college's financial aid office for more information.

Undocumented Student Liaisons

- Beginning in the 2022-23 academic year, each 2/4-year public institution in Illinois is required to designate an employee as an Undocumented Student Liaison
- Undocumented Student Liaisons
  - Are available to provide assistance to undocumented students and students from mixed status families
  - Primary duties are to streamline access to financial aid and provide academic support to students

ISAC Contact Information

School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

****

Daniela Rios – Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov

Manuel Talavera – Manuel.Talavera@illinois.gov

ILASFAA 2024
BACK TO THE FUTURE
PRE-PANDEMIC POST-PANDEMIC
ILASFAA
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS