

Operational Update and Program News

September 27, 2023



2022-23 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2023



2022-23 Close Out

- Debit letters for the 2022-23 MAP, MTI and ECACE programs have been sent to Financial Aid Directors.
 - These are sent to institutions that have an outstanding amount due to ISAC for one or more of these programs.
 - The letter provides a summary of the total amount due to ISAC for each program.
 - All refund checks should be made payable to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
 - Refund checks should be accompanied by a <u>Gift Assistance Programs Check Return Form</u>, and the specific term(s) and program(s) for each refund must be identified.
 - Please do not send refund checks to ISAC without providing the appropriate adjustment data.
- Funds are due to ISAC by September 29, 2023.
- The address to send checks and the Check Return Form to is:
 - Finance & Accounting Division J10, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Rd Deerfield, IL 60015-5209
- Questions may be directed ISAC's School Services Department at 866-247-2172 or <u>isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov</u>



isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/



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

GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS REFUND CHECK FORM

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

Mail Refund Checks to: Finance & Accounting Division - J10

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

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

DATE SENT TO ISAC	
SCHOOL NAME	
MAP CODE /ED CODE/IVG CODE	
PROGRAM(S)	
ACADEMIC YEAR(S)	
VOUCHER NUMBER	
(specific to the above academic year) TERM(S)	
CHECK NUMBER	
CHECK DOLLAR AMOUNT	\$
REASON FOR REFUND	
[] Returning Amount Due at End of Year: Per ISAC's letter indicating total amount owed. [] Current and/or Prior Year Refund: • Provide the students' names and Social Security numbers (last 4-digits); • Indicate actual credit hours enrolled; • List dollar amount refunded for each term; and • State the institution's reason for the refund.	
[] External Compliance: ISAC's Finance & Accounting Division will forward a copy of the Final Program Review Report to the appropriate internal department.	
[] Other Refund: Provide Explanation	
ISAC #3247 06/19 (ON3247 Web 6/19)	Printed by authority of the State of Illinois



ISAC Gift Assistance Programs Other Programs Processes ISAC Administrative Rules E-Library Partner Training Home) Financial Aid Administrators) Processes) Refunds And Unpaid Claims)

Refunds and Unpaid Claims

Upon receipt of disbursements, schools must verify each recipient's enrollment status for the term for which payment was made. When it is becomes necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, it must be done in a timely manner. A Giff Assistance Refund Check. Form must also be completed and submitted along with the payment,

In regard to unpaid claims, schools or students can seek recourse at the end of the year through the Court of Claims, Appropriate documentation must accompany all claim forms, All correspondence must be written, and filing a claim does not guarantee payment. As of July 1, 2000, there is a twoyear time limit to file Court of Claims.

MAP Electronic Processing

MAP Advising Data Collection

MPCH Adjustments (COVID: Spring 2020)

NON-MAP Programs Adjustments (COVID: Spring 2020)

ING Grant Electronic Processing

IVG Electronic Processing

ECACE Electronic Processing

GA Electronic Processing

MTI Electronic Processing

Gift Assistance Budget Instructions

External Compliance Program Review

State Comptroller's Website

Court Of Claims

Refunds And Unpaid Claims Returning Program Funds To ISAC

Payment Offset And Reconciliation

Home | Financial Aid Administrators | Processes | Refunds And Unpaid Claims | Returning Program Funds To ISAC |

Returning Program Funds to ISAC

When it is necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, a Gift Assistance Refund Check Form must be completed and submitted along with the payment. It provides the following:

- non about program funds being returne
- ensures that refunds are credited to the proper account (both school and/or student). program, and academic year; and
- In situations where the school checks the box "current and/or prior year refund," the form asks. that a list of student names and SSNs for whom payment is being returned be attached.

ISAC will continue to offset Monetary Award Program (MAP) funds from future payments to the school for awards that are cancelled or reduced during the academic year.

The Gift Assistance Refund Check Form, along with the check(s) made payable to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, should be sent to:

Finance & Accounting division - J10 Illinois Student Assistance Commission 1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5208

2023-24 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2024



MAP Suspense

- Suspense occurs when projections indicate appropriation will be exhausted.
- ISAC's Research, Planning and Policy Analysis (RPPA) Department continuously monitors the number of eligible applicants to determine if a suspense date is needed.
- A suspense date for 2023-24 school year has been set for September 23, 2023
- Applications received on or after Saturday, September 23, 2023, will be held in suspense status.



MAP Suspense

- MAP records in suspense status will be indicated by a MAP Suspend Code of "S" in the MAP system and in the MAP Eligibility File Extraction.
- Colleges must suspend announcements of MAP awards to applicants whose initial 2023-24 application (FAFSA or Alternative Application) receipt date is on or after Saturday, September 23, 2023.
 - ISAC is not notifying affected applicants that their awards have been placed in suspense status.
 - Colleges are advised to communicate announcement information to students with suspended awards as prescribed in school policy and procedure.



2023-24 MAP Payment Processing

- To be considered as timely, 2023-24 payment requests for the fall term must be submitted on or before December 8, 2023.
- Any initial claims submitted after the term's priority claim deadline date will be considered late and will only be paid if funds remain after all timely claims have been paid.
- Claims may be submitted through the MAP system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol process.
- Payment requests are processed on a nightly basis and results are provided the next business day.



MAP – Certificate Programs

- To request MAP payment for a student in an eligible certificate program, report the number of credit-based hours in which the student is enrolled for the term.
 - If the student is enrolled in additional coursework, the number of enrollment hours reported should be the combination of the certificate program hours and other coursework the student may be enrolled in.
- When submitting a MAP payment request for a student in a certificate program, the Short-Term Certificate Program indicator should be checked in the MAP system.
 - The certificate box should be checked even if the hours are mixed (a combination of traditional and certificate program courses).
 - Help text is provided to clarify when the indicator should be checked.
- For payment requests submitted via File Transfer Protocol, a "Y" indicator should be provided in Field #24 in the FTP file, per the file specifications.

Check this box if some or all of the term MAP award will be used for a credit-based Occupational or Career and Technical Certificate program at a public institution, and it is a program that is not currently eligible for federal Title IV financial aid.

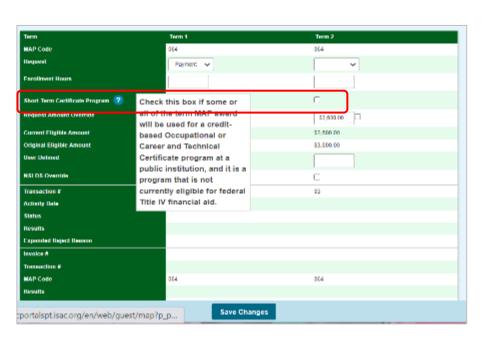


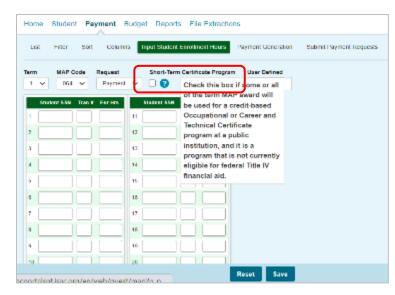
MAP – Certificate Programs

- If requesting payment in the MAP system in GAP Access, the indicator can be provided on the:
 - Student Payment Detail screen for individual reporting
 - o Input Enrollment screen for batch reporting, will apply to all students entered on the screen

Payment Generation screen – for batch processing; will apply to all students selected (and

saved) on the Student Payment List









MAP – Processing Reminder

- If a payment request has been submitted for a term and the MAP code needs to be corrected or updated:
 - First, cancel the original request (just as you would do a cancellation for other reasons, such as a withdrawal).
 - Once the cancellation has processed, submit a new request using the alternate budget code.
- This can be done in GAP Access in the MAP system for individual adjustments to a student's record or it may be done using FTP.
 - In either case, this would be a two-step process of cancelling the request and letting it process, and then submitting a new request after the cancellation has processed.
- Keep in mind claim deadline dates when making this kind of adjustment to ensure plenty of time to cancel and then submit a new claim.



2023-24 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- Award notifications are mailed to all eligible applicants by ISAC.
- Awarding currently is taking place twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays.
- · Schools are encouraged to check the MTI system after each day of awarding.
- Colleges may view award results on the "Student List Eligibility: View screen" in the MTI system within GAP Access.
- Online application remains available.
 - Priority consideration date was March 31, 2023, to be considered Timely.
- Colleges certify eligibility in the MTI system.
 - Continue certifying eligibility on a regular basis to ensure your students will be included in the awarding process.
- All certification records must be completed, regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled.

2023-24 MTI Payment Processing

- Schools may begin to submit 2023-24 payment requests for the Fall term.
- First-term payment requests must be submitted on or before
 Friday, December 29.
- Claims may be submitted through the MTI system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol process.
- Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, *generating* the request and then *submitting* the request.
- Colleges are encouraged to submit payment requests as soon as possible.



2023-24 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Tuition waivers have been awarded and students have been notified
- Awarding currently is taking place twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays
- Schools are encouraged to check the SETTW system after each day of awarding
- Schools may now complete the tuition waiver process in GAP Access.
 - This is done by certifying eligibility in GAP Access for both newly-awarded students and transfer students is available in the SETTW system within GAP Access.
- Each of the public universities with students who were awarded 2023-24 tuition waivers has been sent an e-mail from ISAC.
 - Certify each student's eligibility within 60 days of the date on which the e-mail is received.
- If subsequent 2023-24 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send similar email messages to impacted institutions.

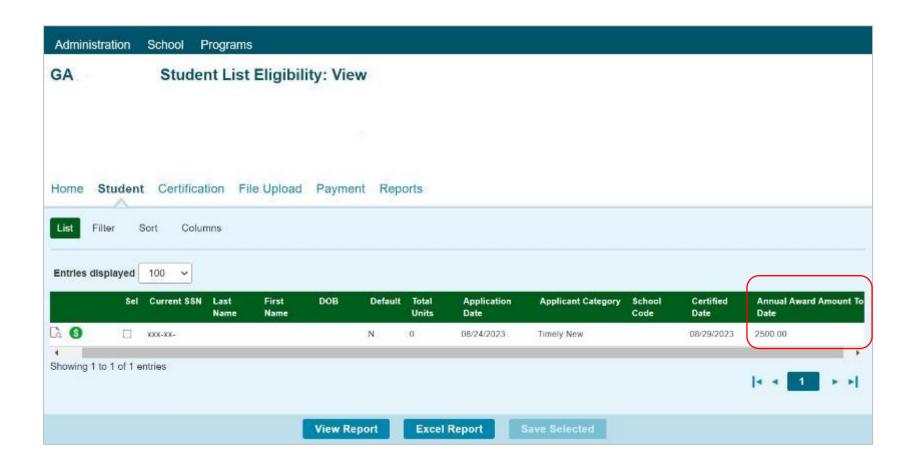


2023-24 Golden Apple (GA)

- First-term payment requests are now being accepted online via the Golden Apple system.
- To be considered timely, first-term payment requests must be submitted on or before Friday, December 29, 2023.
- The Annual Award field has been adjusted to show as Annual Award Amount To Date.
 - The Golden Apple Foundation only certifies/awards a student for one term at a time.
 - o For example: If it is the beginning of the Fall term, the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' is reflecting the Fall term amount only, not the entire year award.
 - o If the same student is certified/awarded for Spring, you will see an increase in the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' to include the Spring award.



GA Student List Eligibility



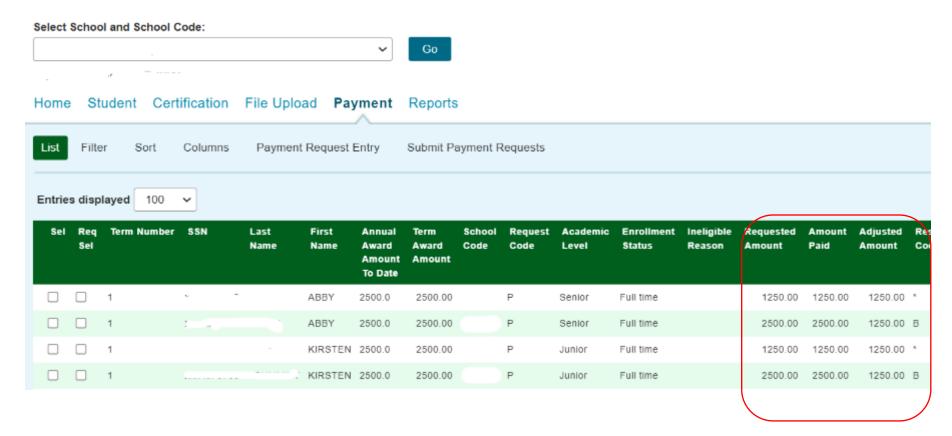


2023-24 GA – Adjusting a Payment Request

- If an adjustment is needed to increase or decrease an award
 - A school can submit a request asking to increase/decrease up to the Annual Award Amount for the term
 - GAP Access will process the new payment request and will send an additional payment minus any previous funds paid if it is an increase. If it is a decrease, it will process that request and adjust the award accordingly.
 - For Example: The annual award amount shown is \$2500 for term 1 and the school only requested \$1250 for term 1. A request can be submitted to increase the award up to the full annual award amount for term 1.
 - GAP Access will process the additional request and remit payment for \$1250 and increase the amount paid for the term to \$2500



GA 2023-2024: Student Payment List: View



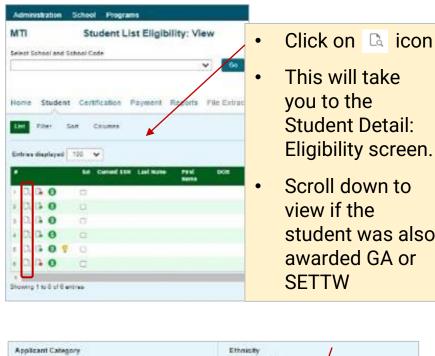


Dual-Awarding Students Eligible for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple

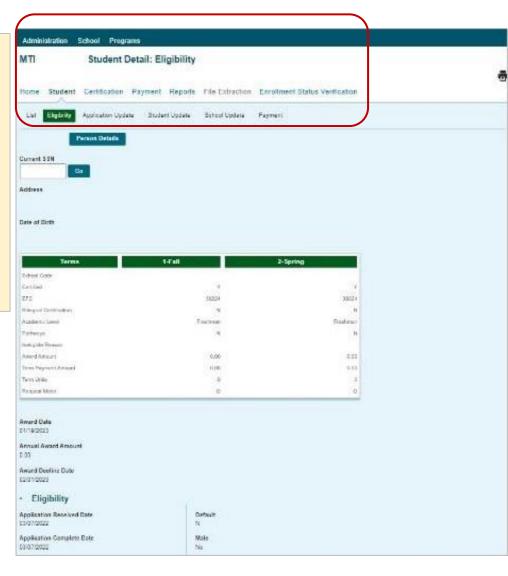
- If a student qualifies for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple the student must choose which program they would like to use.
 - o A student cannot receive the benefits of two programs in the same award year.
 - o ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept.
 - These letters include a deadline date to return the form.
- If a student decides to change which program benefit, he/she wants to receive:
 - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made.
 - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for MTI before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple.
- Program teaching obligations:
 - o SETTW requires two-year teaching commitment.
 - o Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment.
 - o MTI has a one-year teaching commitment for each year that the scholarship is received.
 - These programs will convert to a loan that the student must repay if the teaching commitment is not met.
- Schools can find more information on these programs on ISAC's website in the FAA area, the Administrative Rules, and the User Guides:
 - o <u>isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/2023-24-isac-rules.html</u>



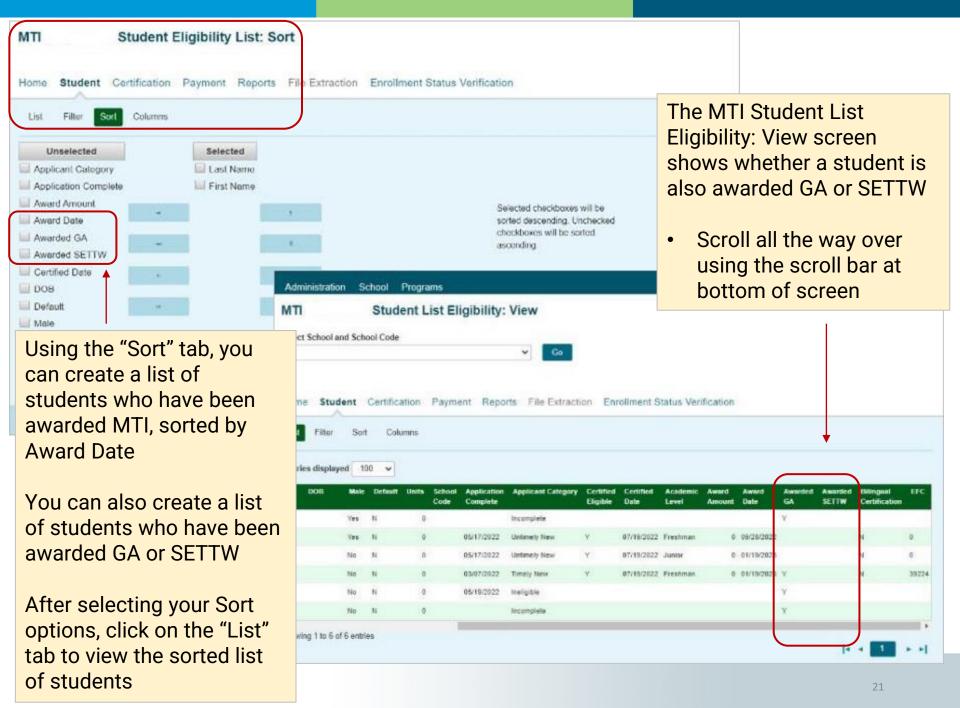
Ways to View Students Awarded GA, SETTW & MTI



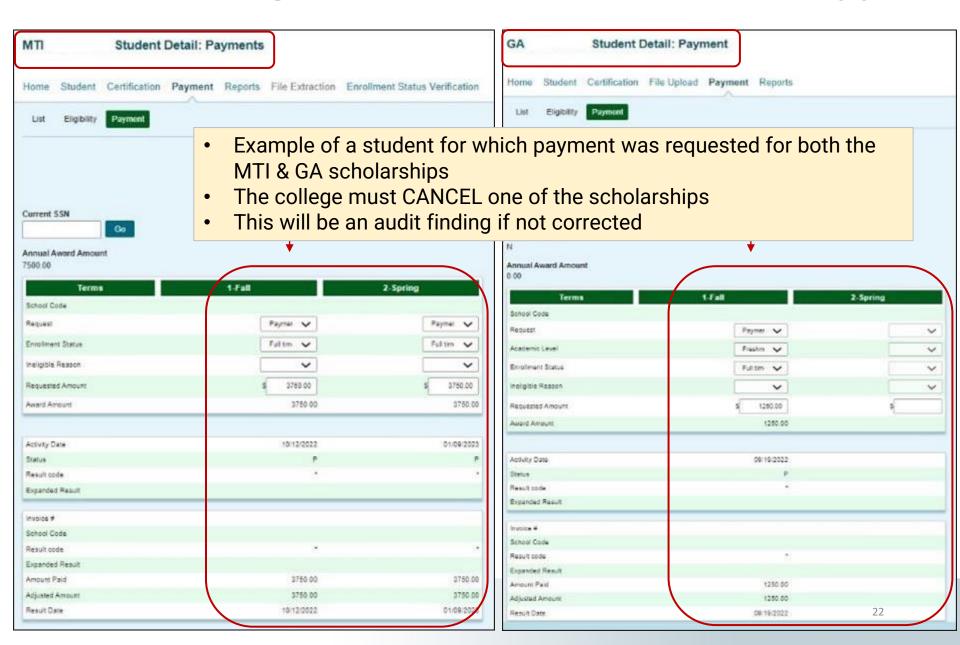








Dual-Awarding Students with MTI & Golden Apple



2023-24 Military Programs

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant
 - Benefit usage reporting for the Fall Term 2023, which starts the 2023-24 award year, is now available and must be submitted on or before Friday, December 29.
 - Starting with the 2023-24 academic year:
 - there are no longer term deadline dates by which applications must be submitted each term
 - applications must be received by ISAC in time for eligibility to be determined
 - the applicant will need to notify the college about their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the first term for which benefits have been requested
- A reminder of additional eligibility for some Illinois National Guard Students
 - Members of the Illinois National Guard who have served at least 10 years in the Guard may be eligible to receive up to 180 Units (6 years) of eligibility for the ING Grant
- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
 - o Online application process is available
 - The application is not specific to an award year
 - Benefit usage reporting for the Summer Term 2023, which starts the 2023-24 award year, is now available and must be submitted on or before Friday, September 29.
 - Benefit usage reporting for the Fall Term 2023 must be submitted on or before Friday, December 29.



2023-24 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) Program

- Certification Data is now being accepted; schools may certify 2023-24 NES eligibility using the NESP system.
 - Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, certification takes place prior to the awarding process (similar to the certification process of the MTI Scholarship Program).
 - Colleges must provide the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- NES certification is done for the academic year (rather than by term).
 - o Colleges verify recipients' enrollment status as part of the payment request process, which will be implemented later this year after awarding has taken place.
 - All certification records available in the system must be completed, regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled.
- A recently-updated NES User Guide includes details regarding functionality to certify student eligibility for this program, as well as an explanation of cyclical program processes.



2023-24 NES Upcoming Changes

- Later this year when NES payment processing becomes available (after awarding has taken place) the following changes will be in effect:
 - Awarded funds that had been disbursed directly to students as a "stipend" in the 2022-23 and earlier academic years will now be included in the scholarship amount requested by and paid to the college (i.e., NES awards will no longer have a stipend component).
 - Funds resulting from each payment request submitted via the NESP system will be delivered to the college in a lump sum (either electronically or as a check, depending on how the college has set up their payments), rather than as individual checks for each student.
 - Payment Offset and Reconciliation procedures now apply to Nursing Education Scholarships.
 - Refund checks should not be sent for cancellations/adjustments made throughout the award year.
 - Funds should only be returned to ISAC after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular school year.
- Watch for future updates in e-Messaging regarding NES.



2023-24 Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE)

- The following clarifications have been made to the Eligibility Requirements page: <u>Eligibility Requirements (isac.org)</u>.
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time (at least 3 credit ours) basis at the undergraduate or graduate level at a <u>public or non-profit</u> <u>private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access</u> <u>Consortium for Equity (ECACE) member institution</u>, and be pursuing at least one of the following:
 - an Associate of Applied Science degree (or related certificate) in early childhood education or an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood at an approved college.
 - a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with or without a Professional Educator License; or
 - for those who already hold a bachelor's degree:
 - courses to make you eligible for a lead teacher position in a licensed program;
 - Director, Early Childhood or Infant Toddler Credentials;
 - a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement;
 - for those who already have a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement, additional endorsements or letters of approval in Bilingual, English as a Second Language, or Special Education, or,
 - for those seeking licensure, and/or an additional endorsement, a Master's degree in early childhood.



2023-24 ECACE Scholarship Program Processing

- Applications are categorized as Timely New, Timely Renewal, Untimely New and Untimely Renewal as they are received by ISAC.
 - All complete applications, regarding of how they are categorized are considered when prequalifying applicants for program eligibility.
- Prequalification results are available in the ECACE system in GAP Access twice each week—on Wednesday and Friday mornings.
 - Only records for students who have completed the online application process and who meet all initial eligibility requirements are considered for prequalification.
- Prequalified applicants who have been awarded are eligible for payment.
 - A maximum award amount populates in the "Max Annual Award Amount" field in GAP Access.
 - 2023-24 maximum award amounts are:
 - \$33,558 at four-year institutions
 - \$18,262 at community colleges



2023-24 ECACE Award Amounts

- As part of the payment request process, eligibility requirements must be verified by the college.
- Colleges must determine the award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving.
 - ECACE is the last payer, after all other aid has been provided.
 - May be used to replace student loan that might otherwise have been part of the student's aid package.
- For students who plan to attend different types of institution during the award year, the ECACE system will automatically calculate an eligible award amount based on the student's type of school listed on their application each term.

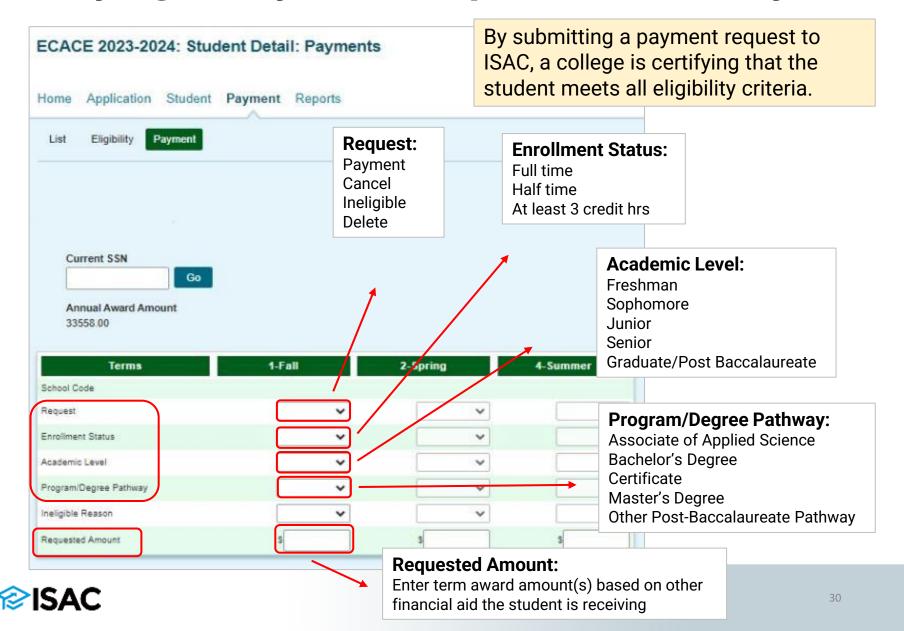


2023-24 ECACE Award Amounts

- For example, an award amount of \$25,910 would show as the maximum eligible award amount for a student at a four-year institution who is attending at a community college in the Fall (first) term.
 - Calculated by dividing \$18,262, which is the max award at a community college by 2 (=\$9,131) since the student is only attending there for the first term.
 - The rest of the award is calculated using the max award of \$33,558 at a four-year institution divided by 2 (=\$16,779).
 - o \$9,131 + \$16,779 = \$25,910
- A first-term priority payment request deadline date will be announced once it is determined.
 - However, colleges are encouraged to submit payment requests and to indicate if prequalified students will not be accepting their award as soon as possible.



Certifying & Payment Request - ECACE System



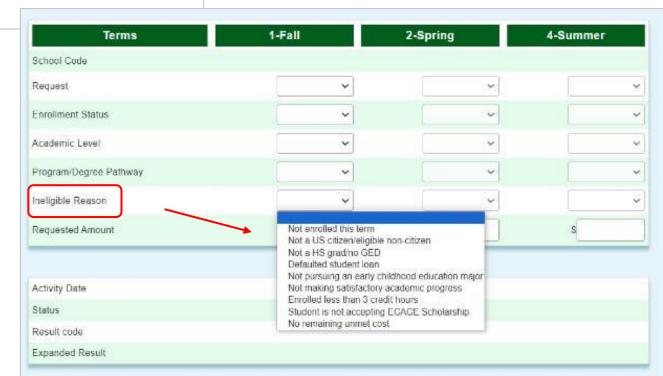
Ineligibility Reasons - ECACE System

Ineligible Reason:

- Not enrolled this term
- Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen
- Not a HS grad/no GED
- Defaulted student loan
- Not pursuing an early childhood education major
- Not make satisfactory academic progress
- Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
- Student is not accepting ECACE Scholarship

No remaining unmet cost

If a college determines that a prequalified applicant does not meet all eligibility requirements, they report the reason for ineligibility.

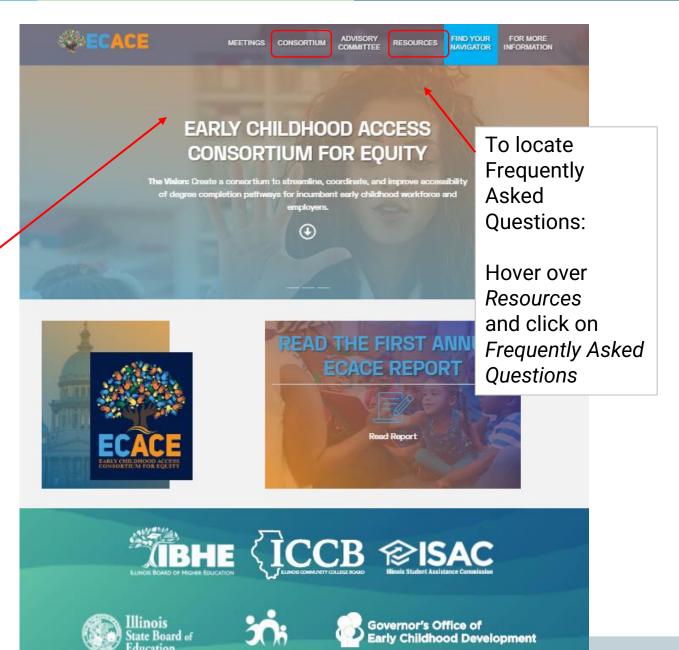




ECACE Resources ecace.org

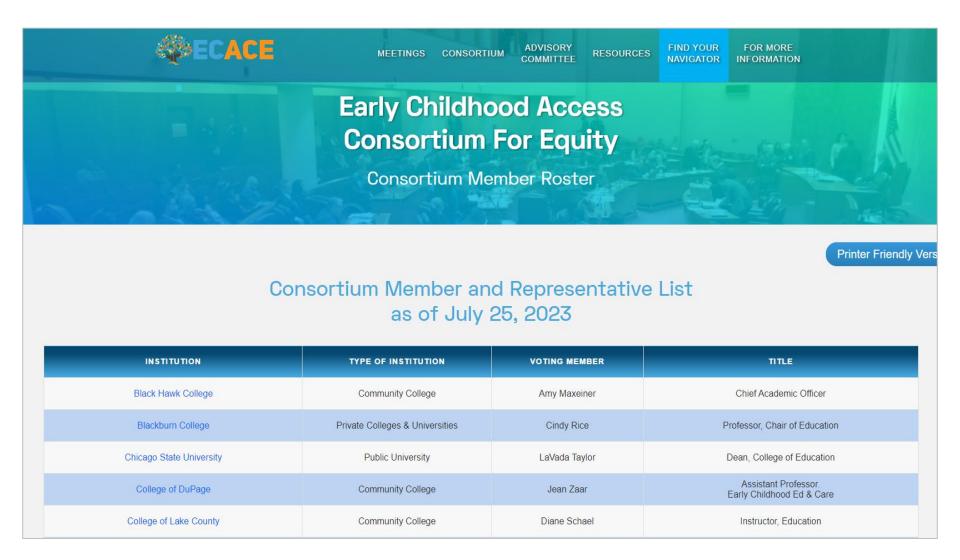
To locate Consortium Member List:

Hover over
Consortium
and click on
Consortium
Members List

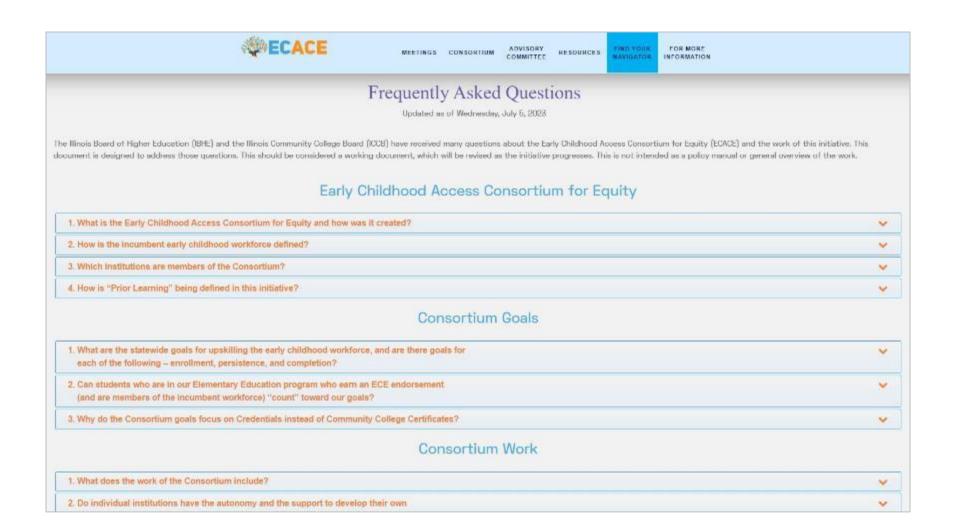




ecace.org/Consortium_Member_Roster.html







ecace.org/ECACE_FAQ.html



2023-24 Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers (PFC)

- Application remains available for students to download and complete
- The application priority consideration date for full-year and fall-only awards is October 1, 2023.
- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024 terms.
- Term deadline dates are:
 - October 1, 2023 Full Year Consideration
 - o March 1, 2024 Only 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Consideration
 - o June 15, 2024 Only Summer Term Consideration
- Applicants must reapply each year.
- Qualified applicants will be sent a Notice of Eligibility from ISAC.
 - o If application is incomplete, a Notice of Incomplete Application will be sent to the applicant.



Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program (SWSP)

- The 2023-24 online application remains available in the ISAC Student Portal.
- The priority application consideration date for the 2023-24 academic year was August 28, 2023.
- Complete applications submitted after that date will be considered only if available funding remains after all timely complete applicants have been awarded.



2023-24 Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal.
- The priority application consideration date for full-year and fall-only awards is October 1, 2023.
- The date by which application must be submitted is based on the first term for which the applicant wishes to receive funds for the 2023-24 academic year:
 - October 1, 2023 1st Term only or Full Year Consideration
 - March 1, 2024 2nd Semester (2nd/3rdQuarter) only or 2nd semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Term Consideration
 - June 15, 2024 Summer Term only Consideration.



2023-24 Grant Program for Exonerees

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal.
- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 terms (the grant is not available for Summer terms).
- Applications are processed in date-received order ("first come, first served").
- Qualified applicants are sent a Notice of Eligibility letter from ISAC.



2023-24 Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal.
- The priority application consideration date for the 2023-24 academic year is **November 15, 2023**.
- Program administration for 2023-24 will take place in GAP Access.
 - Certification of applicants' employment status at community mental health facilities must be verified as part of program eligibility.



Verifying Illinois Residency

- On September 12, 2023, ISAC presented a webinar on Verifying Illinois Residency. If you missed the presentation, you could find the Power Point presentation in the e-library at
 - https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html
- Also, you can find an updated Illinois Residency and Verification Requirements - Frequently Asked Questions at:
 - https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/FAQ-ISAC-Verif-Rules.pdf
- If you do not see the most recent document dated September 2023, please refresh your screen or browser



2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025



2024-25 MAP Start-Up Formula

- On September 21, 2023, ISAC approved the 2024-25 (FY25) MAP Start-Up formula.
- It is the same as the 2023- 24 Recompute Formula
 - 2021-22 reported tuition and fees
 - The 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule
 - A \$5,200 living allowance and
 - o An \$8,400 maximum award
 - Replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI)

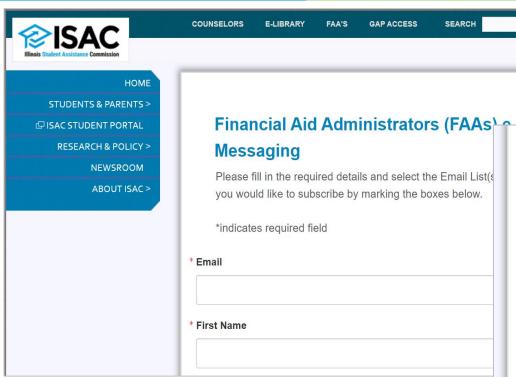


Policies & Procedures Webinars for FAAs

- ISAC's Partner Services Department will present a monthly webinar on the second Tuesday of the month that will focus on important policies and procedures for ISAC programs
- Monetary Award Program (MAP) Processing will be the next Tuesday Training topic
- It will be offered on Tuesday, October 10 at 10 a.m.
- A link to the webinar will be provided on the Partner Training page on the day of event:
 - https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html
- Registration is not required.

Tuesday Training
Monetary Award Program (MAP) Processing
October 10, 10 a.m.





Sign-Up for E-messaging

* Email Lists

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

 Subscription groups for specific programs are available.





800.899.ISAC (4722)
e-Messaging
Get the latest news & updates from ISAC

Order ISAC Materials

Applications



Federal Updates



Updated Draft 2024-25 FAFSA

- On September 18, 2023, an electronic announcement was issued APP-23-13 for the updated draft of 2024-25 FAFSA
 - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronicannouncements/2023-09-18/notice-updated-draft-2024-25-federalstudent-aid-application-materials
- The new draft is in response to the previous 60-day comment period
 - Additional comments to the new draft must be submitted by October 16, 2023
 - https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?r ef_nbr=202303-1845-006
- A Summary of Enhancements can be found:
 - https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewDocument?ref_nbr=2023 03-1845-006



2024-25 FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation

- On September 19, 2023, a DCL ID: GEN-23-12 was issued:
 - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-09-19/2024-2025-award-year-fafsa-information-be-verified-and-acceptabledocumentation
- Student's spouses and parents, as appropriate, will be required to consent and approve to the new data transfer of Federal tax Information through FA_DDX (FUTURE Act-Direct Data Exchange), even if the applicant is aware they did not file a tax return.
- There could be instances where a manual entry of tax information is needed such as:
 - Foreign earned income exclusion amounts.
 - Individuals who were married and filed a tax return jointly, but are no longer married.
 - Foreign tax returns.



2024-25 FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation

- Confined or incarcerated students will only be required to verify their identity and statement of educational purpose.
- Schools are not required to verify a confined or incarcerated student selected under Verification Tracking flag V1.
- If a confined or incarcerated student can not submit a signed and notarized State of Educational Purpose, a school may accept a signed statement from an authorized office that works for the correctional facility.
- For all other students, the verification flags V1, V4, V5 remain the same.
- Suggested verification text for 2024-25 can be found at:
 - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/23-0333APPENDIX_A.pdf



Release of Revised Federal Student Aid Estimator

- On September 21, 2024, an Electronic Announcement ID: General-23-78 was released
 - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronicannouncements/2023-09-21/release-revised-federal-student-aid-estimator
- The new estimator for the new Student Aid Index (SAI) will allow students, families, financial administrators and other college professionals to calculate a SAI
 - After providing answers to some questions the tool will calculate and estimated award for
 - Pell Grants
 - Direct Loans
 - Work-study
- A studentaid.gov account is not necessary to use the tool
- <u>studentaid.gov/aid-estimator</u>.



Updated SAIG Enrollment Agreement- Electronic Announcement ID: General-23-79

- The updated SAIG Enrollment Agreement will be available to schools on October 23, 2023
 - Requires schools to complete and submit before they can receive Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) for 2024-25
 - The week of October 22, 2023, an e-mail will be sent to Destination Point Administrators (DPAs) with instructions of how to complete the enrollment process
 - Schools are strongly encouraged to complete the enrollment agreement as soon as possible on or after October 23, 2023
 - Schools who fail to complete and sign the enrollment agreement will not be able to access 2024-25 ISIRs
 - A list of questions and answers can be found:
 - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronicannouncements/2023-09-22/updated-saig-enrollment-agreementavailable-oct-23-2023-required-steps-receive-2024-25-isirs



Draft 2024-25 FAFSA Specification Guide- Update #2 September 2023

- The draft guide is designed to give financial aid administrators, software vendors and other vested stakeholders time to understand and prepare for the upcoming changes for 2024-25
- Beginning with the 2024-25 processing cycle, all FAFSA-related processing information and guidance will be consolidated to the new multi-volume resource. It will replace the previous standalone documents listed below:
 - Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System
 - EDE Technical Reference
 - Application Processing System Specifications for Software Developers
 - The ISIR Guide
 - SAR Comment Codes and Text
 - CPS Test System User Guide



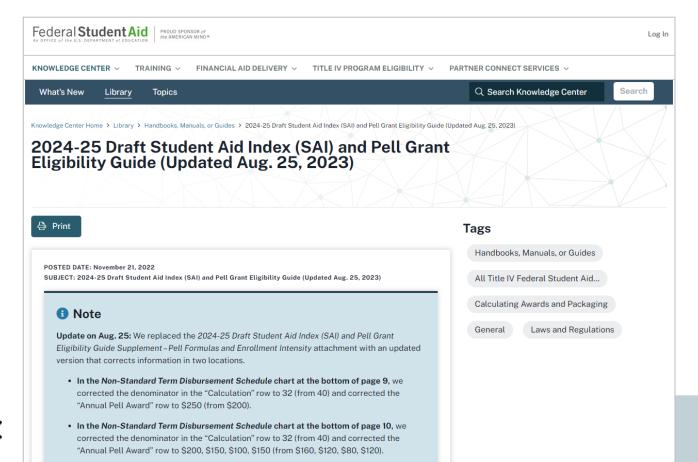
Draft 2024-25 FAFSA Specification Guide- Update #2 September 2023

- With this second September 2023 draft update, they have added Volume 1 (Summary of Changes). The Introduction and Volumes 2 through 9 are unchanged.
 - Draft Introduction
 - Draft Volume 1 Summary of Changes
 - Draft Volume 2 FPS Schedule and Getting Help
 - Draft Volume 3 Electronic Data Exchange and FAFSA Processing
 - Draft Volume 4 Record Layouts and Processing Codes
 - Draft Volume 5 Edits and Rejects
 - Draft Volume 6 ISIR Guide
 - Draft Volume 7 Comment Codes
 - Draft Volume 8 Agency Matches
 - Draft Volume 9 Testing and Web Demo System
- https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/handbooks-manuals-or-guides/2023-05-31/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-september-2023-update-2



2024-25 Draft Student Aid Index and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide Updated August 25, 2023

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/handbooks-manuals-orguides/2022-11-21/2024-25-draft-student-aid-index-sai-and-pell-grant-eligibility-guide-updated-aug-25-2023





Student Loan Repayment Pause Ends August 30, 2023

- Interest will begin accruing on September 1, 2023.
- Payments will begin in October 2023.
- U.S. Department of Education recommends that every federal student loan borrower take the following steps to be prepared for repayment:
 - Update contact information
 - Review auto-debit enrollment or sign up for the first time
 - Check out FSA's Loan Simulator to find a repayment plan that meets the borrower's needs and goals or to decide whether to consolidate.
 - Whether entering repayment for the first-time or re-entering repayment, there are loan repayment plans available that may be helpful
 - Including updated income-driven repayment (IDR) plans that can make payments more affordable, depending on income and family size.
 - Borrowers may also be eligible for deferment or forbearance to temporarily stop or lower payments.
 - · Loan servicer can help find the best option
- studentaid.gov/announcements-events/covid-19#repayment-prep



Remind Students to Beware of Financial Aid Scams

- Remind students and families who are seeking ways to pay for college to beware of financial aid scams.
- Information is available at the Scholarship and Financial Aid Scams page of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Consumer Information website.
 - consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scholarship-financial-aid-scams
- U.S. Department of Education "Don't Get Scammed on Your Way to College!" document.
 - https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/dont-get-scammed.pdf



Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan

- The SAVE Plan replaced the Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) Plan.
- Provides the lowest monthly payments of any IDR plan available.
 - Like other income-driven repayment (IDR) plans, calculates monthly payment amount based on income and family size.
 - Borrowers will be able to consent to the use of their federal tax information to calculate income and family size.
- Includes multiple new benefits for borrowers.
 - Significantly decreases monthly payments by increasing the income exemption from 150% to 225% of the poverty line.
 - Eliminates 100% of remaining interest for both subsidized and unsubsidized loans after a scheduled payment is made.
 - For example: If \$50 in interest accumulates each month and you have a \$30 payment, the remaining \$20 would not be charged.
 - o Excludes spousal income for borrowers who are married and file separately.
- If currently enrolled in the REPAYE Plan, will be automatically be enrolled in the SAVE Plan.
- FSA Electronic Announcement August 22, 2023:
 https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-08-22/loan-servicing-information-availability-saving-valuable-education-save-plan-and-updates-income-driven-repayment-plans

FSA Webinars

- If you missed any of the 11 webinars this summer focused on FAFSA Simplification, they can be found under the recorded training at: <u>fsatraining.ed.gov/course/view.php?id=107</u>
- Wednesday Webinar Series, Fall 2023 (2-hour webinars, 12-2 p.m.)
 - o Topics Related to the Title IV programs
 - October 4 Cash Management and Reconciliation Essentials
 - November 8 Topic to Be Announced
 - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-08-02/live-internet-webinars-wednesday-webinar-series-fall-2023



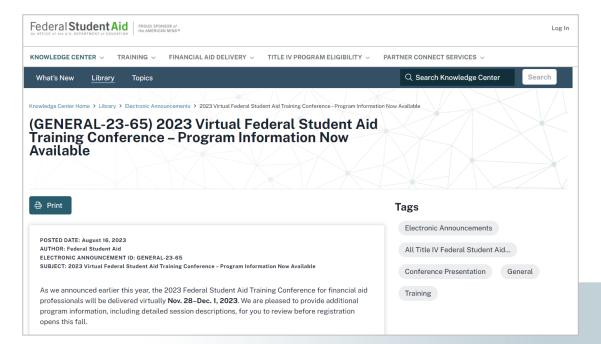
NASFAA -Policy Update: FAFSA Simplification

- NASFAA presented a webinar on FAFSA Simplification on September 20, 2023
- The webinar was open to public, if you missed it a recorded version of the webinar is available at:
 - https://www.nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand
- Additional webinars upcoming for the remainder of the 2023 for NASFAA members:
 - NASFAA Business Services: Customer Service in Financial Aid -October 11, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
 - o Verification: 2024-25 (Extended Edition) October 25, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
 - Top Ask Regs Questions: Student Eligibility -November 15, 2023, at 1.00 p.m.
 - Professional Development Panel December 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
 - o Policy Update: Winter 2023 December 13, 2023, at 1:00 pm.



2023 Virtual FSA Training Conference

- November 28 December 1, 2023
- Information will be provided in October regarding:
 - Registration
 - Daily Agenda
 - Presenter Biographies
- For more information: https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-08-16/2023-virtual-federal-student-aid-training-conference-program-information-now-available





ISAC Dates to Remember ...

- October 10 Tuesday Training- Monetary Award Program (MAP) 10:00 a.m.
- October 25 FAFSA Symposium, 8 a.m. 2:30 p.m.
 - Illinois Central College (register now at https://www.isac.org/pd/FAFSA-Symposium/)
- November 7 FAFSA Symposium, 8 a.m. 2:30 p.m.
 - Moraine Valley Community College(register now at https://www.isac.org/pd/FAFSA-Symposium/)
- November 14 Tuesday Training- ISAC Military Programs, 10:00 a.m.
- November 22- ISAC Operational Update & Program News, 10:00 a.m.
 - The time and date was changed due to upcoming Holiday and FSA Conference
- December 12- Tuesday Training Topic to be determined, 10:00 a.m.
- December 20 ISAC Operational Update & Program News, 2:00 p.m.
 - The date was changed due to the upcoming holiday



Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!



ISAC Contact Information

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isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

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isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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