ISAC
Operational Update and Program News

April 24, 2024
Agenda

- 2023-24 Operational Update
- 2024-25 Operational Update
- Federal Update
- Dates and Events to Remember
- ISAC Contact Information
- Questions
2023-24 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024
Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- ISAC continues to accept 2023-24 payment claims for the third quarter (and second semester for institutions with second semester starting after Feb. 15)

- The third quarter claim deadline date is **Friday, May 3, 2024**
  - Initial claims must be submitted no later than 7 p.m. (CT) to be considered timely
  - Any initial claims or increases to third-term claims made after the deadline date will be considered late and will only be paid if funding is available after paying timely claims

- ISAC continues to accept first- and second-term MAP claims
  - Initial claims and increases to previously-submitted claims are being held as late

- After the third-term claim deadline date, ISAC will make a determination whether or not late claims can be paid
  - Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit all claims and adjustments in the event that late claims are able to be paid

- **Reminder:** ISAC suspended the announcement of 2023-24 MAP awards for students whose initial 2023-24 FAFSA® or Alternative Application was received on or after September 23, 2023
Spring Term Payment Processing

• Priority claim date is **Friday, May 3, 2024**, for these programs:

  o **Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)**
    ▪ Submit claims for fall, winter and spring terms

  o **Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License (SWSP) Scholarship**
    ▪ Submit claims for spring term

  o **Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship**
  o **Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship**
  o **Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois**
    ▪ Submit claims for 2\(^{nd}\) term (spring semester & winter quarter) and 3\(^{rd}\) term (spring quarter)
Spring Term Payment Processing

• The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable.

• Claims submitted after a term's priority claim date will be paid only if funds remain after all timely claims have been paid.

• By submitting a payment request, schools are certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria.

• If an awarded student becomes ineligible, schools will need to provide an ineligible reason from the drop-down menu.
Spring Term Payment Processing

• Benefit usage data priority claim date is **Friday, May 31, 2024**, for:

  o **Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant**
    ▪ Schools may submit benefit usage data for the 2\(^{nd}\) term (spring)
    ▪ Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit benefit usage data and adjustments for the fall term

  o **Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)**
    ▪ Schools may submit benefit usage data for the 3\(^{rd}\) term (spring)
    ▪ Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit benefit usage data and adjustments for the summer and fall terms
Spring Term Payment Processing

Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers

• Priority claim date to return the Certification of Enrollment for Payment Rosters to ISAC is Friday, May 10, 2024
  o Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters for the winter and spring terms were emailed to financial aid directors during the week of April 1
  o Colleges that have not submitted the fall roster yet are encouraged to complete and submit the roster as soon as possible
  o Application remains available for students to submit for summer term only
    o Application deadline date for summer term consideration is June 15, 2024
  o Applicants must reapply each year
The Payment Offset and Reconciliation procedures apply to the:
  o Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
  o Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program
  o Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Program
  o Monetary Award Program (MAP)
  o Nursing Education Scholarships (NES), and

Institutions are required to reconcile payments and submit all necessary corrections to student records on a timely basis.

Any funds determined to be owed to ISAC as a result, are to be held until the end of the regular school year.
Payment Offset & Reconciliation Processing Reminder

• As part of this process, new payment requests are compared to outstanding amounts owed to ISAC, and payment is made accordingly.

• Review your payment results reports in GAP Access after submitting your program claims to ensure everything processed as expected.
  ○ Link to User Guides for Result Codes: isac.org/gap-access/index.html#guide

• Cancellations of prior payments will be deducted from any future payments until the end of the academic year, when refunds must be identified and returned to ISAC no later than 60 days after the term ends.

• For more information about Payment Offset and Reconciliation, visit: isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/payment-offset-and-reconciliation-map.html
Returning Program Funds to ISAC

- As previously noted, funds should be returned to ISAC only after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular school year.

- All schools with an outstanding amount owed to ISAC at the end of the school year will receive a notice indicating the total amount to be returned.

- When it is necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, a Gift Assistance Programs Refund Check Form should be completed and submitted along with the payment.
Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

• **MAP Award Adjustments**
  - To provide some administrative relief for colleges for the remainder of the 2023-24 award year, ISAC is:
    ▪ Temporarily suspending the expectation to submit enrollment hour adjustments for students at 15 hours or above if their award amount remains unchanged
    ▪ Temporarily suspending the expectation to edit a student’s MAP code if a student changes programs during the term if their award amount remains unchanged
      - It is also acceptable to adjust the award amount in the same budget code and not have to cancel the initial claim and submit a new one

• **MAP Advising Data Collection**
  - ISAC will delay data collection until late Fall 2024 and will plan to leave it open through the end of the calendar year
Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

• Program Reviews – NEW Reviews
  o ISAC will suspend announcing all NEW program reviews through June 2024

• Program Review Extensions – CURRENT Reviews
  o ISAC will work with the institutions currently undergoing a review to provide extensions for responses, reports or requests for additional documentation
2024-25 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2025
Timeline -- Preparing for 2024-25 MAP

- **April 2024**
  - 2024-25 MAP eligibility was made available in the MAP system in GAP Access
  - Schools may begin announcing estimated MAP awards, based on the Start-Up Formula
  - Collection of 2024-25 budget data from MAP-approved colleges began on April 1

- **May 2024**
  - Legislative session continues, with the hope that there will be a finalized state budget by end of the month
  - ILASFAA MAP Formula Committee Meeting may meet to discuss recommendations for the Recompute Formula, if needed

- **June 2024**
  - Schools’ FY25 budget data due by June 1
  - Finalized state budget, including ISAC appropriations for FY25
  - MAP Recompute Formula recommendations to be presented to ISAC Commissioners for approval at the June 20th Commission Meeting
  - Approved maximum annual award amount for the 2024-25 award year announced
    - Cannot exceed maximum in statute
  - Recompute Formula implemented and new award amounts announced, if applicable
    - Late June/early July (dependent on budget being final, if formula changes are needed, etc.)
2024-25 MAP Processing Cycle

• The 2024-25 MAP processing cycle began April 5

• Student eligibility information is available in the MAP system
  o This includes students who have submitted a 2024-25 FAFSA or a 2024-25 Alternative Application

• Visit our website for more information:
  o isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/
2024-25 MAP Start-Up Formula

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

• Changes have been made to the application to be consistent with the 2024-25 FAFSA to collect all data elements required to calculate an SAI

• Students may login to their application and make corrections, as needed

• FAAs may use the functionality in the MAP system for Alternative Application student records to make corrections or a professional judgment determination

• A 2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing is available to assist FAAs with processing question
2024-25 MAP Award Notification Language

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

• An updated version of the document has been posted in the MAP section of the FAA area at isac.org

• The document outlines a student’s use of the MAP grant, and that the student understands and agrees to maintain all eligibility requirements

• Schools may want to provide students with a copy of this document or the link isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425-MAP-RR.pdf
MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications

• The final file layout for 2024-25 MAP processing has been posted to the Electronic Tools section of the E-Library

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

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

• The student’s Person Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) that is assigned to the student by the Department of Education (ED) by the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) replaced the SSN on the file
  o The Person UUID field is 36 characters in length, and the total number of characters removed was 36, so the length of the file did not change
  o The Person UUID stays the same for the student across FAFSA cycles
  o ISAC will generate a Person UUID for Alternative Application applicants
    ▪ It will always begin with “ISAC” to be easily identified as an ISAC-assigned number
**2024-25 MAP File Layouts**

160-byte file layout specifications

Sample ISAC UUIDs

Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
2024-25 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

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

• ECACE program has been federally-funded for the last three academic years, however, federal dollars will be unavailable after the 2023-24 academic year.

• Proposed Illinois legislation – House Bill (HB) 5024 -- would amend the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to include a state-funded program.
  o Here is part of the bill’s synopsis:
    ▪ ... Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall implement and administer an early childhood educator scholarship program, to be known as the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program. Provides that under the Program, the Commission shall annually award scholarships to early childhood education students enrolled in the institutions of higher education participating in the Consortium. Provides for rulemaking and consultation. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to provide for emergency rulemaking for the Program. Effective immediately.

• ISAC will provide more information as it becomes available.
2024-25 Teacher Program Updates

• Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program
  o The priority application consideration date was March 1, 2024
  o Does not require a FAFSA or Alternative Application to complete the application process
  o Applications continue to be accepted, but will only be considered if available waivers remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded

• Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  o The priority application consideration date was March 31, 2024
  o Applicants must also submit a 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application
  o Due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be provided for applicants who were not able to submit their FAFSA by March 31
  o Reminder for Institutions: Participating colleges must host an annual information session about MTI for teacher candidates of color and require that each program recipient meet with an academic advisor at least once per academic year

• Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program
  o The deadline application date was April 1, 2024
  o Applications for the program are processed by the Golden Apple Foundation goldenapple.org/scholars
ISAC Budget Reporting

- Pursuant to ISAC Rules [Section 2700.30 (e)], postsecondary institutions participating in gift assistance programs with ISAC shall annually report tuition and fee charges to ISAC on or before June 1 preceding each academic year.

- The process to collect 2024-25 budget data for MAP, IVG & ING opened on April 1, 2024.
  - Colleges will continue to report main tuition and fee rates, and can report differential rates as needed.

- The due date to submit budget data is **June 1, 2024**.
  - If school budgets won’t be final by then, estimated data may be submitted.
  - Schools should notify School Services by e-mail if estimated data is being provided and will need to be updated during the summer months.
  - All budget data must be submitted before MAP payment processing can begin.
  - ISAC will offer a webinar on the Budget Reporting process on **Tuesday, May 14 at 10 a.m.**
Enhancements to the GAP Access Registration Process

- Primary Administrators are now able to more easily provide access to new Administrators
- GAP Access User Guides have been updated
- Reminder -- Password resets can be done by the school
  - please see the prompt under the GAP Access Login Box
• Subscription groups for specific programs are available
Federal Updates
Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center
2024-25 FAFSA Information from ED

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information
FAFSA Simplification Questions and Answers

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

Questions on this topic are divided into the following categories:

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

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

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

Information About...
- Elevating Teaching
- Early Learning
- Engage Every Student
- Unlocking Career Success
- Cybersecurity
NASFAA Upcoming Webinars

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

• The Basics of Gainful Employment & Financial Value Transparency – May 8
• Annual Business Meeting & Policy Update: Spring 2024 – May 22
• Hot Topic – May 29

• nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand
ILASFAA Roundtable Discussion

- ILASFAA will be hosting a virtual event on April 30 from 12 -1 PM

- This will be an open forum discussion where there will be talk about everything 2024-2025 FAFSA, verification, delays, corrections, and anything else that may be on your mind!

- This is an open forum so all mics will be open for questions and comments.

- If you have any questions, you would like posed to the group, please feel free to submit them in advance to sherry.schonauer@illinois.gov or adavis11@illinois.edu.

- You can register for the event at: https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/r31e0b2dce5a4453db6a22e8dad48dfcc
ISAC’s Webinars for FAAs

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

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

To participate in these webinars, visit the Partner Training page in the e-Library on the day of the training for the webinar link and presentation materials
- [isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html](http://isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html)
ISAC’s Student Services Department

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: 800-899-ISAC (4722)
Fax: 847-831-8549
E-mail: isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

Spanish-speaking counselors are available
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

Call Center Reps
Bertha Esquivel
Ghouse Farooqi
Matt Setnicar
Manju Thomas
Larry Thompson
ISAC’s Partner Services Department

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

Phone: 866-247-2172
Fax: 847-831-8549
E-mail: isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

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Questions/Comments

Thank you for attending today!