An ISAC Operational Update & A Review of the 2023-24 FAFSA, Alternative Application and MAP Start-Up

September 28, 2022
# 2022-23 Fall Term Claim Deadline Dates

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- For more details on payment processing on each program, see their respective pages in the Gift Assistance area of the FAA section at isac.org
2022-23 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

• Applications continue to be accepted even though the March 31, 2022 priority consideration date has passed
  o 2022-23 applicants must also complete a 2022-23 FAFSA or Alternative Application

• 2022-23 awarding has taken place for all timely renewal applicants who have been certified as eligible.

• Colleges should continue certifying eligibility MTI applicants on a regular basis, throughout the year
  o If you aren’t able to certify a student’s bilingual information, you can still certify based on general criteria until you’ve obtained the additional documentation needed
  o It is better to certify under general criteria than not at all so that they student can be considered in all rounds of awarding that may take place
  o Bilingual certification provides priority, but is not required

• As announced in a September 15 e-Message, 2022-23 MTI first-term payment requests can be completed online and submitted electronically to ISAC via the MTI system.
• **Qualified Bilingual Minority Applicant**
  o A qualified bilingual minority applicant is one who demonstrates proficiency in a language other than English by receiving:
    o a State Seal of Biliteracy from the State Board of Education, or
    o receiving a passing score on an educator licensure target language proficiency test.

  o Resource Links:
    ▪ [https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Home.aspx](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Home.aspx)
    ▪ [https://www.isbe.net/sealofbiliteracy](https://www.isbe.net/sealofbiliteracy)
    ▪ [https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educator-License-with-Stipulations.aspx](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educator-License-with-Stipulations.aspx)

  o Related Illinois Administrative Rules --
    ▪ [https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/02300680sections.html](https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/02300680sections.html)
      o Definitions -- "State Seal" or "Seal" means the State Seal of Biliteracy created by Section 2-3.159 of the Code and this Part.
MAP Advising

• The annual collection of MAP Advising will begin soon
• Colleges will be provided with additional time to provide the data
• Watch for an e-message in October that will provide more details
2023 - 2024
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)
Available on October 1, 2022

- Paper FAFSA®
  - Fillable PDF
  - 2023-24 FAFSA colors are yellow for student information and purple for parent information
  - Will be accepted for processing on October 1, 2022

- FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)
  - studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa
Due to the FAFSA Simplification Act the following changes are being made to the 2023-24 FAFSA.

- Removed question 21 - Are you male or female?
  - This was removed from the FASFA, SAR, SAR Acknowledgement and e-SAR.

- Removed question 22 - Selective Service questions and the match with the agency.
  - This change also removes the option for a student to register for Selective Service. This was removed from the FASFA, SAR, SAR Acknowledgement and e-SAR.

- Removed question 23 - Drug conviction question.
  - This was removed from the FASFA, SAR, SAR Acknowledgement and e-SAR.

These changes will impact the numbering sequence on the paper FASFA form.
Changes to the 2023-24 FAFSA®

- Income from work question
  - Changed wording to read “This information may be found on the W-2 forms or by adding up the following items IRS 1040-line 1 (or IRS form 1040-NR-line 1a) + Schedule 1-lines 3+6 Schedule K-1 (IRS form 1065)-Box 14 Code A. If a tax form line’s value is negative, treat it as zero in your calculation.

- Wording for “Child Support Paid and Child Support Received” are bolded to hopefully make this clearer to applicants.

- Clarified “Untaxed foreign income not earned from work” to read:
  - “Other untaxed income not reported in items 41a through 41g, such as worker’s compensation, disability benefits, and untaxed foreign income not earned from work.”
Changes to the 2023-24 FAFSA®

- **Homeless questions**
  - The three questions to determine homeless or unaccompanied youth will now be renewal eligible on the FAFSA on the Web.
  - This allows for answers to be carried forward into the 2023-24 FAFSA.

- **On FAFSA on the Web under the “Sign and Submit” section**
  - Users will now be asked to provide the student’s gender, race and ethnicity prior to submitting the application.
  - This will be optional and will only be on the initial application and not on any subsequent corrections.

- **The myStudentAid Mobile application has been disabled**
  - However users will still be able to access their FAFSA application on a mobile device by logging into StudentAid.gov on their mobile browser.
Demographic Survey

Before you sign and submit, please answer a few questions about the student.

These questions don't affect aid eligibility. Your answers to questions in this survey will not affect your eligibility for federal student aid and will not be used in any aid calculations.

What is your gender?
- Male
- Female
- Nonbinary
- Decline to answer

Are you transgender?
- Yes
- No
- Decline to answer

What is your ethnicity? Choose all that apply.
- Not Hispanic nor Latino origin
- Cuban descent
- Mexican, Mexican-American, or Chicano descent
- Puerto Rican descent
- Other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin
- Decline to answer

What is your race? Choose all that apply.
- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Asian Indian
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Japanese
- Other Asian origin
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Decline to answer
FAFSA Demonstration Site

- The demo site can be used to:
  - Help you increase your understanding of the FAFSA
  - Train new staff members or other school departments
  - Provide orientation to students and parents to the FAFSA

- At the demo site, you can:
  - Complete a sample FAFSA form
  - Make corrections
  - Check the status of the application

- The site is intended as a training tool; no data is submitted to CPS

- Demonstration site URL: [https://fafsademo.test.ed.gov](https://fafsademo.test.ed.gov)
  - A username and password is not required to access the site.
Welcome to Federal Student Aid’s CPS Web Applications Demo System

This Web site is a demonstration version of Federal Student Aid’s 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 FAFSA on the Web and FAA Access to CPS Online sites. The site provides a way for financial aid administrators to show students and parents, as well as financial aid office staff, how to use FAFSA on the Web and FAA Access to CPS Online. It offers most of the features of the production versions of the FAFSA on the Web and FAA Access to CPS Online Web sites, except that no data is processed.

Note: The following information applies to this Web site:

- We authenticate users when they log into FAA Access to CPS Online. We ask users to provide a Federal Student Aid User ID (FSA User ID) and Password to access federal student aid information through the Internet. Since this is a demonstration Web site and user authentication is not required to access test data, the authentication step is skipped.
- Saved data and submitted data are cleared from the database each evening.
- Actual personal identifying information should never be used on this Demo site.
- Unlike the production site, an estimated EFC is not calculated after an application is submitted. The EFC value is always all 9s for any test case on the Demo site.
- Printed signature pages include a “test sample” watermark and should not be accepted or processed.
- If another user saves a renewal or correction application in FAFSA on the Web, the user must start a new transaction.
- Unlike the production site, the “CPS Web Applications Demo System” user selects “Exit” or “Home” from the Demo site, they will be directed to the FAFSA on the Web application, renewal page.

The Demo site includes all FAFSA on the Web application, renewal page.

Pre-loaded test data is provided for applications that depend on historical data, such as application status check, student inquiry, and electronic signatures. Multiple transaction numbers greater than 01, FAA login information is also provided.

2023-2024
2022-2023

2023-2024 Renewal FAFSAs

2023-2024 Processed FAFSAs, FAFSA Corrections, Print SAR, Application Status Check, and Student Inquiry

https://fafsademo.test.ed.gov
Library

Below you will find a categorization of the documents published to the Knowledge Center.

Current publications are categorized by Resource Type, Program, Functional Area, and/or System. If you are unable to locate the publication you are looking for, access the Maintained for Historical Purposes page to view a list of historical categories.

Publications by Resource Type

- Application Processing
- Campus-Based Awards
- COD XML Schema
- Conference Presentations
- CPS
- Dear Colleague Letters
- Direct Loan Tools
- EDconnect
- EDExpress
- Electronic Announcements
- Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans (ECASLA)
- Federal Registers
- Federal School Code Lists
- FFEL Special Allowance Rates
- FFEL Variable Interest Rates
- FISAP Form and Instructions
- Foreign School Updates
- FSA Assessments
- Handbooks, Manuals, or Guides
- Historical Resources
- NSLDS User Resources
- Podcasts
- SAIG
- System Technical References
- TDClient
- Worksheets, Schedules, and Tables

Letters and Announcements

Policy and operational guidance for participants in the administration of Title IV federal student aid programs.

- Dear Colleague Letters
- Electronic Announcements
- Foreign School Updates
To assist the community with the 2023–24 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, we are pleased to provide the attached Microsoft PowerPoint presentation and PDF file with information and screenshots of the 2023–24 online FAFSA form.

Please note that the presentation's screenshots are intended to show most of the questions on the FAFSA form; however, most students and parents may not need to answer all these questions when completing their FAFSA form. Data used in the presentations is test data and is intended to show examples of what it looks like on the website.

Finally, please keep in mind that this presentation is large, and may take time to open or download on your computer.

**Attachments**

The Department of Education strives to make all content accessible to everyone. While this document does not currently meet the standards of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Federal Student Aid is working to create an accessible version. If you need access to this document before the accessible version is available, please contact the Information Technology Accessibility Program Help Desk at ITAPSupport@ed.gov to help facilitate.
2023-24 FAFSA Verification

- The U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued 2023-24 verification guidance on July 8, 2022 in Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) GEN-08-07
  - Provides a list of verification items for applicants selected by ED, as well as acceptable documentation and suggested text for each of the items

- Verification Tracking Groups are the same as those for 2023–24

- As always, colleges are required to verify anything that is conflicting information.

- Incarcerated/Confined Students
  - V4 & V5 will only be required to verify their identity and submit a statement of educational purpose.
  - Also, schools are not required to verify an incarcerated/confined student selected for V1.
Pell for Incarcerated Students

- As part of the FAFSA Simplification Act incarcerated students will regain the ability to receive a Federal Pell Grant if enrolled in an eligible Prison Education Program
  - This is expected to go into effect with the 23-24 FAFSA.

- In anticipation of this, an additional paper FAFSA will be introduced for 2023-24 with the heading “Incarcerated Student” at the top of the form
Pell for Incarcerated Students

There will be three ways an applicant could be identified as incarcerated:

- The FAFSA form is submitted with an address that matches an address on ED’s Correctional Facility file
- The applicant submits the new paper FAFSA form for incarcerated applicants, which is clearly marked with “Incarcerated Applicant Form” at the top of the application.
  - The only difference in the regular FAFSA form and the Incarcerated FAFSA form is the P.O. Box number where the application is sent.
- An FAA submits an application for incarcerated students and sets the Incarcerated Applicant Flag
2023-24 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
The Alternative Application provides a pathway for students who meet eligibility requirements of the Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act to apply for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant.

- The RISE Act, which went into effect January 1, 2020, allows undocumented students ineligible for federal financial aid to apply for state financial aid.

- An Alternative Application is made available for each award year on October 1 when a new FAFSA is launched.

- The same financial data elements collected on the FAFSA (income and assets) are collected on the Alternative Application and an EFC is calculated to determine a student’s eligibility for MAP.
  - A 2023-24 Alternative Application will be launched on October 1, 2022.
Alternative Application Process

- The Alternative Application is only available as an online application, and is not compatible with a mobile device.

- Students and parents of dependent students must sign the application electronically using Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) that will be provided by ISAC.

- Once the application has been signed and submitted, an EFC will be used in the MAP Formula in the same way that it is used for FAFSA applicants.

- The EFC, the eligible MAP award amount, and other relevant data elements will be provided to colleges as an Alternative Application Student Record in GAP Access.
Alternative Application Changes

- Failure to register for Selective Service no longer disqualifies an applicant from receiving federal student aid and therefore eliminates the need for transgender students to apply for financial aid under the RISE Act.

- As a result, with the implementation of the 2023-24 Alternative Application, the pre-screening questions for students who may identify as transgender will be removed from the application process for both 2022-23 and 2023-24.

- Please note that although Selective Service registration is no longer required to qualify for federal student aid, a federal law that applies to both citizens and noncitizens requires Selective Service registration for those who are under 26 and assigned a male gender at birth.
Accessing the Alternative Application

• The Alternative Application can be accessed from ISAC’s home page at isac.org
  • Navigate to the RISE Act information page using the link in the Featured section
    • Provides detailed information about eligibility requirements
    • isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/
• The Alternative Application is not accessible in ISAC’s Student Portal or on the general ISAC Applications page with other ISAC program applications
Accessing the Alternative Application

- The Alternative Application is available in English and Spanish.
- Resources are available to assist with the application process.

Application Process for MAP

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

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

Retaining Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act y la Solicitud Alternativa de Ayuda Financiera de Illinois

Proceso de Solicitud de MAP

Los pasos para llenar la solicitud y el proceso utilizado para determinar la elegibilidad MAP en términos generales se describen a continuación:

- La Solicitud Alternativa de Ayuda Financiera de Illinois estará disponible en línea a través del sitio web de ISAC.
- Las preguntas iniciales al principio de la solicitud ayudan a los estudiantes determinar qué solicitud (RISE o FAFSA) se debe completar.
- Si las respuestas de un solicitante a las preguntas iniciales indican que el solicitante no es elegible para llenar la Solicitud Alternativa, un mensaje le aconsejará que consulte a su consejero de la escuela secundaria, a un profesional de ayuda financiera o a un miembro de ISACCorps para obtener ayuda para completar la FAFSA.
- Similar a la FAFSA, los estudiantes solo completarán las preguntas de la solicitud que sean relevantes para ellos.
- Se calculará un aporte familiar previsto (EFC) basado en la información presentada en la Solicitud Alternativa, que se utilizará para determinar la elegibilidad de MAP del solicitante.
- Para los estudiantes elegibles, se calculará la cantidad de la subvención MAP, la cual será proporcionada a las universidades por ISAC.
- La universidad proporcionará una notificación de elegibilidad al solicitante, no ISAC.
**Alternative Application Pre-Screening Process**

- Pre-screening questions at the beginning of the application help students determine which application (Alternative Application vs. FAFSA) should be completed
  - An applicant will only need to respond to the Pre-screening questions if it is their initial application
  - Renewal applicants will not see the pre-screening questions
  - Data provided by applicants in the pre-screening questions is not provided to colleges

- If an applicant’s answers to the pre-screening questions indicate the Alternative Application should not be completed, a message will advise them to consult their high school counselor, a financial aid professional, or an ISACorps member for assistance in completing the FAFSA
Completion of the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is required to determine Monetary Aid eligibility for RISE Act (Public Act 101-0021) eligible students. For more information on the RISE Act see website. Your application will be processed by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

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

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

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

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

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

- U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as an Alien Registration Receipt Card or “Green Card”)
- Conditional permanent resident (I-821C)
- Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: “Permanently Resident,” “Asylum Granted,” “Indefinite Parole,” “Humanitarian Parole,” or “Cuban-Haitian Entrant”
- A citizen of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM).
- Hold a T nonimmigrant status (“T-Visa”) for victims of human trafficking or your parent holds a T-1 nonimmigrant status
- A “battered immigrant-qualified alien” who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

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

- Yes
- No
Alternative Application Process: Pre-Screening Questions

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

1. You resided with your parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in Illinois;
2. You graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois;
3. As of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma, you had attended school in Illinois for at least three (3) years;
4. By signing the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid you will become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity;
5. You have not established a residence outside of Illinois.

Do you meet **all** of the above criteria?

- Yes
- No

Based on the responses you provided, you are not eligible to file a Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the application that determines eligibility for federal aid, state aid (including the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP)), and institutional assistance.

We encourage you to speak with your high school guidance counselor, an administrator in the financial aid office of the school you plan to attend, or an ISACorps member for further guidance.

Click the "View FAFSA® Website" button below to access the FAFSA® website.
Alternative Application Process: Pre-Screening Questions

Have you already filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) for the 2022-2023 academic year?

- Yes
- No

BACK CONTINUE

Based on the responses you provided, you are eligible to file a Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

Click on the ‘Start Application’ button below to begin your application.

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

- Completing the Application

  - There are seven sections in the application
    - Sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are about the student
    - Section 4 is about the parent
    - Section 7 is for signatures and certification

  - The questions in each section are essentially the same as the questions on the FAFSA and help text is provided

  - Students should answer all questions as accurately as possible
    - Some fields are optional, but most are required
    - Messaging will be presented for required fields left blank, and answers must be provided before navigating to the next page

  - A “Save” button allows applicants to save their data and return at a later time to finish completing the application
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.
Section 1

Student Information > Education Background

- Application was successfully saved.

Highest school completed by Parent 1
- Middle School/Jr. High
- High School
- College or beyond
- Other/Unknown

Highest school completed by Parent 2
- Middle School/Jr. High
- High School
- College or beyond
- Other/Unknown

If you are eligible to complete this application because you indicated in the prescreening section that you meet the RISE Act eligibility criteria as an undocumented student, you must meet the following criteria:
- you graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois, and
- you attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma.

What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2023-2024 school year?
- Diploma from an Illinois high school
- GED from an Illinois Community College Board-approved provider
- Home Schooled in Illinois
- None of the above

What is the name of the high school where you received or will receive your high school diploma? Select a high school or one of the other options provided. Enter the complete high school name, and the city and state where the high school is located if it is not automatically displayed.

High School Name:
SACRED HEART GRIFFIN HIGH SCHOOL
Alternative Application Process

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

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

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

Required Student Signature: UNSIGNED

RESEND LINK & PIN

PROVIDE SIGNATURE

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

SAVE CANCEL

SUBMIT
Alternative Application Process

- Signing and Certifying

- Parent signature process
  - The parent may sign the application after the student has completed their signature process either at the same time, or the parent may log in to the student’s application at a separate time.
  - To log in, a parent will need the Student’s ISAC ID number and the parent PIN, which will be provided to the parent in an e-mail after their e-mail address has been provided on the application.
  - The field for the parent address is in Section 4, page 1 and is a required field.
    - Once the next button is selected to navigate to page 2 of Section 4, an e-mail will be sent to the parent from ISAC and it will include the parent PIN.
  - The student and the parent must have separate e-mails.
By signing and submitting this signature page, I agree, if asked, to provide documentation that verifies the accuracy of the completed Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. This documentation may include, but is not limited to, a copy of my U.S. or State income tax form or pay stubs.

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

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

Required Parent Signature: :: UNSIGNED

RESEND LINK & PIN

PROVIDE SIGNATURE
Alternative Application Process

- Submitting the application
  - Once all applicable signatures have been provided, the Submit button will be enabled
    - The Signature Status field must indicate “Signed” for each required signature in order for the student to be able to submit the application
  - The application receipt date for MAP will be the date that the application is submitted
    - An unsigned application is not considered complete and will not be assigned an initial receipt date until all applicable signatures have been provided
  - A confirmation screen will be presented upon submission and the student applicant will receive a confirmation e-mail from ISAC once all required signatures have been provided
ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2023-2024

Application Submission Confirmation

Congratulations, SHERRY

ISAC ID Number:

Important

- Be sure to retain and secure your ISAC ID Number. The number – which does not change - serves as your individual student identifier at ISAC and at your college.
- Keep your e-mail address current in your Student Profile. You will need your Profile e-mail address to access, update, or correct your Alternative Application in the future.

What Happens Next

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

An abbreviated version of your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address:
Alternative Application Records in GAP Access
Identifying Alternative Application 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
  - Does not include the eligible MAP award amount
- Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout 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

- Creating/uploading Alternative Application Student Record files to colleges’ internal systems is not required.
  - Relevant student applicant data that is provided in GAP Access may be relied on to administer MAP for both FAFSA and Alternative Application applicants
File Layout Documents in E-Library

Electronic Tools

This section provides information on electronic tools and specifications for loan and grant payment processing. Links to helpful software programs are also provided.

Processing ISAC Gift Assistance Programs

2022-23
- FTP Process Using GAP Access Credentials
- 2022-23 MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications
- 2022-23 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout

2021-22
- FTP Process Using GAP Access Credentials
- 2021-22 MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications
- 2021-22 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout
- 2021-22 ING Grant 160-Byte File Layout Specifications
- 2021-22 IVG 160-Byte File Layout Specifications
# MAP File Extractions: Eligibility Status Files

## Select School and MAP Code

### File Extractions

- **Entries displayed:** 10

### Status | Report Type | Start Date | End Date | Date Extracted | File Size (kb) | User Name
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Completed | Alternative Application Student Record |  |  |  | 1668.782 | 
Completed | MAP Eligibility File |  |  |  | 9644.302 | 

### Create New File Extraction

- **Select Report:**
  - MAP Eligibility File
  - Alternative Application Student Record

- **Applicant:**
  - All Students

- **Start Date Range:**

- **End Date Range:**

- **Request Report**
MAP System in GAP Access

Map Reports: Eligibility Reports

Select School and MAP Code

- Reports
- File Extractions

Entries displayed: 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Report Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>File Size (kb)</th>
<th>User Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Payment Results/exceptions</td>
<td>12/10/2020</td>
<td>6.036</td>
<td>MAPInvoice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>MAP Payment Results</td>
<td>12/10/2020</td>
<td>354.459</td>
<td>MAPInvoice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Payment Results/exceptions</td>
<td>12/07/2020</td>
<td>5.338</td>
<td>MAPInvoice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Payment Results/exceptions</td>
<td>12/02/2020</td>
<td>8.051</td>
<td>MAPInvoice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Create New Report

Select Report:
- MAP Eligibility Report

Applicant:
- All Students

Report Type:
- MAP

Begin MAP Paid Credit Hours

End MAP Paid Credit Hours

Request Report

ISAC
2023-24 MAP Start-Up
The Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) start-up formula was approved at ISAC’s September 22, 2022 Commission meeting

- Based on projections; assumes level funding
- Uses FY22 tuition and fees
- Maximum annual award amount of $7,200

The approved start-up formula is outlined in Item 4 of the Commission Meeting Agenda Book and may also be found in the MAP section in the FAA area of ISAC's website.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Budget</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Use 2021-2022 reported tuition and fees at all institutions, assessed at 100 percent.  
| 2 | Use one living allowance for all applicants, set to $5,020.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Resources</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Use 80 percent of Pell Grant eligibility as determined by the 2021-2022 Pell Grant Payment Schedule, which contains a $6,495 maximum.  
| 2 | Calculate the ISAC adjusted EFC by inflating the Federal EFC.  
| | Adjusted Dependent Students’ Expected Family Contribution:  
| | Adjustment Factor = \( \frac{\text{Parent Contribution (PC)}}{11,000 + 1.10} \) rounded to 2 decimal places  
| | Adjusted PC = PC × Adjustment Factor  
| | Adjusted EFC = Adjusted PC + highest of Student Contribution or self-help expectation  
| | Adjusted Independent Expected Family Contribution:  
| | Adjustment Factor = \( \frac{\text{EFC}}{11,000 + 1.10} \) rounded to 2 decimal places  
| | Adjusted EFC = EFC × Adjustment Factor or self-help expectation  
| 3 | Use a minimum self-help expectation of $1,800 for all students.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Award Amounts</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Set maximum award equal to lesser of $7,200 or the tuition and mandatory fees specified in the budget. Set the minimum award to $300; round maximum eligibility in $150 increments to calculate partial awards.  
| 2 | Applicants with an EFC of $9,000 or above are not eligible.  
| 3 | If determined necessary after first-term claims are received, either release some suspended applications and/or adjust claim amounts to maximize claims without exceeding the appropriation.  
| 4 | Students who have used 135 or more MAP paid credit hours will not be eligible for MAP.  

MAP Formula

(ISAC Rules, Section 2735.30)

The MAP formula is used to distribute the appropriated grant funds so that the neediest students receive grant assistance. Several components are used to determine eligibility.

ISAC establishes a preliminary, or "start-up," MAP formula each fall (September) to coincide with the introduction of a new FAFSA (on October 1) for the next award year. Historical data on enrollment attrition, the anticipated volume of applications and the best estimate of ISAC's MAP appropriation are all used to determine the MAP start-up formula.

During the summer – after the appropriation for the program has been determined by the Illinois General Assembly, the state budget has been signed by the Governor, and final school budgets are submitted to ISAC – the start-up formula is re-evaluated and a process called "recompute" is begun. During the recompute process, any changes to the formula proposed by ISAC and the ISAC/ILASFAA Formula Committee may be incorporated, as well as adjustments to the budget to reflect current year tuition and fees, based on the MAP appropriation.

MAP Hand Calculation Forms

ISAC provides paper-based worksheets by academic year, which can be used to calculate annual MAP awards for dependent and independent students.

2023-24 Hand Calculation Forms – Start-up
2022-23 Hand Calculation Forms – Recompute
2022-23 Hand Calculation Forms – Start-up
2023-24 Priority Deadline Date

- Returning MAP recipients who submit their FAFSA by the announced priority deadline date will receive priority access to appropriated MAP funds
  - Returning recipients are defined as those students who received MAP funds during the previous academic year
  - Applicants must also continue to meet all other MAP eligibility criteria

- For the 2023-24 award year, the MAP priority deadline date is December 1, 2022
  - The FAFSA application must be submitted on or before December 1 to be considered for priority access to MAP
  - Applications received on or after December 2 will still be considered for a MAP award and processed according to the usual MAP application and suspense process
MAP Start-Up in GAP Access

- MAP eligibility information for applicants completing the 2023-24 FAFSA or the Alternative Application will be made available to colleges in GAP Access during the week of October 10
  - Colleges will be notified when the information becomes available
- User Guides are available in the FAA area of isac.org to assist you in accessing and navigating the MAP system in GAP Access.
Hours of Operation
The MAP system will be available each day between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. (CT).
Payment request records submitted by 7 p.m. will be included in that night’s processing with results available the next business day. Records submitted after 7 p.m. will be included with processing for the next business day with results available in the MAP system the following business day. (Example: Records submitted at 6:45 p.m. on a Tuesday would have results reflected in the MAP system on Wednesday morning, while results for records submitted at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday would appear in on Thursday morning.)

MAP User Guide
The MAP User Guide is broken down into smaller PDF chapters by function, which can be viewed online, printed or saved to your computer for future reference. The User Guide provides detailed information about MAP functions, processing routines and MAP processing code definitions.

Student Eligibility
Payment (The MAP Payment Results, Reject Reasons, Late and Disqualify codes and the NSLDS® Default Release override can be found at the end of the Payment chapter.)

File Specifications
The MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications document is pertinent to schools utilizing the file extraction features of the MAP system, or sending MAP payment requests to ISAC via File Transfer Protocol (FTP). Changes made to the specifications are highlighted in gray within the document. Refer to the Electronic Tools page for the 2022-23 file specifications.

File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
Enhanced security for ISAC’s File Transfer Website requires a valid GAP Access user ID and password in order to submit files via transfer.isac.org. Additional information and instructions are provided in the FTP Process Using GAP Access Credentials Guide.

Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout
The Alternative Application Student Record can be uploaded to colleges’ internal system(s) to identify which students applied for MAP via the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application). The order of the data in the file layout follows the order in which the questions are asked on the Alternative Application, and generally follows the order of the questions on the paper version of the FAFSA. The values and the formatting used on the Alternative Application Student Record are the same as those used on the ISIR provided by ED for FAFSA applicants, unless otherwise noted.

Creating or uploading Alternative Application Student Record files to colleges’ internal systems is not required. Instead, the relevant student applicant data that is provided in GAP Access may be relied upon to administer MAP for both FAFSA and Alternative Application applicants.

The MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications, FTP process Instructions and Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout documents for the 2022-23 academic year are available via the Electronic Tools page in the e-Library, which may be accessed via the File Specifications link in the right-margin menu of this page.

Helpful Hints
2023-24 MAP Award Notification Language

- The 2023-24 award notification language that colleges are required to provide to all MAP-eligible enrolled students will be posted soon to the MAP section in the FAA area of isac.org, on the MAP Award Announcements page.

- It is important to note that changes are being made to the fourth paragraph of the notification language.
2023-24 School-Issued Award Notification Language

All schools are required to announce MAP Grant awards to all eligible students enrolled at their institutions, including students who are only eligible for a second semester/second and third quarter MAP award. Schools are required to clearly identify the awards on the award notification as: **State of IL MAP Grant (Est)**.

Schools are also required to include the following information with the award notification:

*By applying for financial aid and agreeing to share that information with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) you have been considered for the State of Illinois (IL) Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant. All MAP-approved institutions are required by the State of Illinois to announce MAP Grant awards to students who are enrolled or intending to enroll at their institution. An award amount is included in your financial aid package if you have met the eligibility criteria.*

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

*There are also limitations to how long you can continue to receive a MAP Grant. Usage is tracked by the number of credit hours for which you’ve received MAP benefits and is referred to as MAP Paid Credit Hours (MPCHs). The maximum number of MPCHs that can be received is 135, which is equivalent to approximately four and a half years of full-time enrollment. For your reference, to learn more about MPCH limitations, you may access a record of your MPCHs, as well as other student resources, through the ISAC Student Portal at studentportal.isac.org.*

*Eligibility for the need-based MAP Grant award may indicate that you are eligible for assistance with expenses such as food, housing, or child care for dependent children. If you have dependent care expenses, ask the financial aid office about the federal dependent care allowance. For eligibility and application information about the Supplementation Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Child Care Assistance Program, contact the Illinois Department of Human Services at 800-843-6154 or www.dhs.state.il.us. Contact the Illinois Hunger Coalition Hunger Hotline at 800-359-2163 or www.ilhunger.org.*
ISAC Student Portal Resources

studentportal.isac.org

RESOURCES
Check out resources from ISAC partners to help you with financial aid, and money management.

Student & Parent Quick Links

- E-Message Archives (for Students & Parents)
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)
- StudentAid.gov (includes former StudentLoans.gov, fsaid.ed.gov, and nslds.ed.gov)
- FederalStudentAid
- FederalStudentAid (for parents)
- Military Service

Student Resources Beyond Financial Aid

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

https://www.foodpantries.org/st/illinois
An expanded list of Illinois food pantries.
ISAC Contact Information

School Services
866-247-2172
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services
800-899-4722
isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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Questions/Comments

Thank you for attending today!