ISAC Update and An Overview of ISAC’s Teacher Programs

December 19, 2018
2018-19 (FY19)
2018-19 Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- Fall (first) term claim deadline date was **Friday, December 7, 2018**
  - Review the Payment Results/Exceptions Report in the MAP system to confirm that claims processed as expected
  - Funding for fall term MAP claims has been released from the State Comptroller’s office
    - Colleges should be receiving funds in mid to late December

- Following first term claim analysis, ISAC is releasing 2018-19 MAP grants from suspense for students whose initial FAFSA receipt dates were **February 28, 2018 through and including April 4, 2018**
  - Released records may be viewed in the MAP system starting today, Wednesday, December 19
  - 2018-19 MAP grants for eligible students with initial FAFSA receipt dates on or after April 5, 2018 will remain in suspense status
Identifying Released Student Records

- There is not an indicator in the MAP system that identifies which student records were released from suspense; rather, the suspense flag ("S") is simply removed.
- To identify student records released from suspense (as well as those that remain in suspense), the MAP system provides a Filter functionality that can be used to generate a report based on specific data elements, such as the application receipt date.
- To filter for released records, select the relevant date range (e.g., February 28, 2018 through April 4, 2018) on the Filter screen and then select the List tab to generate a customized view of student records.
  - Similarly, the filter functionality allows users to create a report of records that remain in suspense status.
On the Filter Screen, select start and end Application Receipt Dates to identify released records, then select the List tab to view the filtered list.

The Application Receipt Date can be added to the List view from the Columns screen.
My Zone System Updates

- The My Zone system used to administer ISAC teacher programs is currently unavailable and will not be available again until early January.

- Maintenance and analysis is being performed in preparation for the eventual transition of the Minority Teachers of Illinois and Golden Apple Scholars programs into GAP Access
  - A timeline has not yet been established for the transition
2019-20 (FY20)
2019-20 Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- 2019-20 MAP Start-Up Formula was approved in September
  - Effective maximum start-up annual award amount is $4,869
    - Includes a 2% reduction factor

- As part of the student notification process, schools are required to:
  - Announce MAP awards to the students enrolled at their institutions
  - Clearly identify the awards on award notifications as: State of IL MAP Grant (Est)
  - Include specific MAP award letter language on or with school-issued award letters
    - Refer to the MAP Award Announcements page at isac.org for required award letter language

- Given the likelihood that 2019-20 MAP award announcements will be suspended at some point during the processing cycle, it is recommended that students submit the 2019-20 FAFSA® as soon as possible
  - Based on current application volume, ISAC does not expect to announce a suspense date before the end of the 2018 calendar year
Agenda

- ISAC Update
- ISAC Teacher Programs
  - Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program
  - Golden Apple Scholars Program
  - Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program
- Resources
- Questions/Comments
ISAC’s Teacher Programs

- **MTI** • Minority Teachers of Illinois
- **GAS** • Golden Apple Scholars
- **SETTW** • Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver
- **TESP** • Teacher Education Scholarship Programs
MTI Program

- Available to minority students enrolled in a teacher education program
  - Undergraduate or graduate student
    - Includes freshmen
    - May give preference to juniors and above
- Requires a one-year teaching commitment for each year of scholarship received
  - Converts to a loan if commitment is not met
MTI Benefits

- Award amount is up to $5,000 per year
- Can receive for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters
- Can be used for tuition, fees, room and board or commuter charges (cannot exceed Cost of Attendance)
MTI Eligibility Criteria

To qualify, a student must:

- Be a minority student
- Be an Illinois resident
- Be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate or graduate student
- Be pursuing a teaching degree
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Meet satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution
MTI Definitions

- **African American/Black**
  - A person having origins in any of the black racial groups in Africa
- **Asian American**
  - A person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, including Pakistan, and the Pacific Islands, including among others, Hawaii, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia
- **Hispanic American**
  - A person of Spanish or Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race
- **Native American**
  - A person who is a member of a federally or state recognized Indian tribe, or whose parents or grandparents have such membership, including the native people of Alaska
Applying for MTI

- Applicants must complete the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Application
  - The application is available in a PDF format at isac.org for applicants to download and print
    - The online application process is currently unavailable
  - The application also serves as a promissory note
  - A completed and signed paper application must be mailed to ISAC at the address listed on the application form

- Note: The 2018-19 application is still currently available, and the 2019-20 application is expected to be made available later this week.
Applying for MTI

- A new application is made available in December each year
- Priority application filing date is March 1 prior to the start of the academic year
- Renewal applicants must submit a new application each year
- ISAC will send a letter to applicants acknowledging receipt of the application
  - If the application was incomplete, the letter will identify the additional information that is needed
See List of Participating Schools:
http://www.isac.org/students/during-college/documents/1819MTISchools.pdf

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GAS Program

- A scholarship program that identifies talented high school seniors, as well as first and second-year college students, who have the promise to be excellent teachers in high-need schools
  - Created in 1988 by the Golden Apple Foundation
    - Not-for-profit organization based in Chicago
      - www.goldenapple.org
    - Prepares student teachers for lasting success in the most challenging teaching environments
- Eligibility criteria, application process and selection is handled by Golden Apple Foundation
  - Ensures the quality of Scholars through a rigorous selection process
- Recipients commit to teach for five years at an Illinois school of need
GAS Benefits

- Maximum annual award for freshmen and sophomores: $2,500
  - Semester schools receive $1,250 per term
  - Quarter schools receive $834 for the first quarter, $833 for the second quarter, and $833 for the third quarter

- Maximum annual award for juniors and seniors: $5,000
  - Semester schools receive $2,500 per term
  - Quarter schools receive $1,667 for the first quarter, $1,667 for the second quarter, and $1,666 for the third quarter

- Scholars also receive a $2,000 stipend to attend summer institutes
GAS Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a GAS award, a student must

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- be a resident of Illinois
- be a high school graduate or hold a General Educational Development (GED) certificate
- be enrolled at a four-year institution designated as a participating college by the Golden Apple Foundation
- be enrolled in a course of study leading to initial teacher certification or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education approval to teach
- enter into a program agreement and promissory note with the Golden Apple Foundation and ISAC
- participate in all required programs and adhere to residential guidelines and standards of conduct
- not receive funds from ISAC’s MTI or SETTW Program during the same term(s) for which the student is receiving a GAS award
- earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (if a sophomore, junior or senior)
Applying for GAS

- Any Illinois high school student interested in a teaching career may apply by completing an online application at goldenapple.org
  - Must also provide ACT scores and transcripts to Golden Apple.
- Teachers, principals, counselors, or mentors can also nominate a student for the Golden Apple Scholars program
  - Once the nomination form is submitted, the nominated student will receive an email with login information and a link to apply online
  - Golden Apple educators will review online applications, choose the finalists to be interviewed and select the new class of Scholars in Spring 2019.
- Application process for 2019 is currently open
  - Priority Application Deadline was December 1
  - Regular Application Deadline is March 1
TESP Processing

- Application
- Certification and Qualification
- Rank and Awarding
- Notification
- Payment

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

Program News
(last updated March 1, 2018)

2018-19 Application
2017-18 Program Funding
2017-18 Payment
2017-18 Award Determination
2017-18 Qualification
2017-18 Certification
2017-18 Application
Enrollment Status Verification
Additional MTI References

2018-19 Application

The priority application consideration date for the 2018-19 MTI Scholarship Program was March 1, 2018. The application remains available, however, complete applications received after this date will continue to be considered for the MTI Scholarship Program for as long as funding remains after all timely qualified applicants have been awarded. The date through which 2018-19 applications will be accepted is dependent upon application volume and available funding.

The Application Procedures for MTI page within this section (FAA area), includes
The Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program and Golden Apple Scholars (GAS) Program are administered via ISAC’s My Zone portal.

- My Zone hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
TESP Processing

- Application
  - For MTI, students submit applicant data to ISAC
    - An Initial Certification record is created in My Zone when the application process is complete
  - For GAS, the Golden Apple Foundation provides data to ISAC about eligible applicants
    - An Initial Certification record is created in My Zone for each eligible applicant
TESP Processing

- Certification and Qualification
  - Initial Certification records appear in My Zone for MTI and GAS
  - Schools must verify enrollment and certify eligibility in order for students to be considered for an award
    - All Initial Certifications should be completed regardless of whether or not the student is eligible or ineligible
      - The only way an applicant will receive an award notification letter from ISAC is if the Initial Certification is submitted
  - For MTI, the Student Certification: List identifies each applicant as being in one of three categories:
    - Renewal Timely Applicants
    - New Timely Applicants
    - All Untimely
  - Corrections to a certification record can be made online until the Qualification process runs;
    - After the Qualification process runs, one of the statuses (T, Q or D) displays in the Status column on the Student Certification: List screen. If a status displays, corrections must be made by ISAC.
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<th>First Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017/09/19</td>
<td>2017/10/03</td>
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</table>
This section will be pre-populated with the student’s application information.
Processing Certification Records

A certification record is created and available for entry after an application is processed. The Status column on the Student Certifications: List screen will be blank when certification record is available to be completed.

One of the following codes will display in the Status column on the following business day after the certification record is processed:

- U – Unqualified
- Q – Qualified
- E – Exceeds maximum eligibility units.
- W – Withdrew application
- D – Disqualified
- DW – Disqualified due to withdrawal of the application
- DE – Disqualification due to exceeding maximum eligibility units
- T – Transferred

A certification record for GAS and MTI can be made online when the status code is blank, W, E or U. After an eligible record has been qualified, corrections to a certification record cannot be made online. If a status code is Q, D, DW, DE or T, corrections must be made by ISAC.

All requests for corrections can be submitted to ISAC by e-mail, FAX or telephone at:

ISAC
Attention: School Services Department – D2A
1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015
FAX: 847.831.8327
TESP Processing

- Rank and Awarding
  - For MTI:
    - All timely, certified applicants are considered in the initial awarding
      - If funding is insufficient for all timely qualified applicants, awarding is based on the date-received order of applications as follows:
        - Qualified renewal applicants
        - Qualified applicants at or above the junior level
        - Other qualified applicants
  - For GAS:
    - All timely, certified applicants are considered in the initial awarding
      - To qualify to be awarded an applicant must meet all eligibility requirements of the Golden Apple Foundation and ISAC
  - Students cannot be awarded MTI and GAS in the same award year
    - MTI and GAS cannot be used with SETTW
TESP Processing

- **Award Notification**
  - ISAC sends letters to MTI applicants
    - *Eligible - Funded* letter – sent to students who are eligible for the award
    - *Eligible - Unavailable Funds* letter – sent to students who are eligible for the award, but for whom funds are not available
    - *Notification of Ineligibility* – sent to applicants determined to be ineligible for the award
    - *Notification of Disqualification* -- sent to students who no longer qualify for the scholarship
  - Golden Apple Foundation notifies Golden Apple Scholars
Payment Request Rosters for MTI and GAS are completed and submitted to ISAC via My Zone.

After the Payment Request Roster is processed and a voucher number and date have been authorized, a Payment Authorization Report will be available in My Zone.

- Will include all students for whom payment was claimed.
- Report can be viewed online, printed or saved and will remain available for the entire academic year.
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PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION VIEW

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Program Type: MTI

Report:
001-MTI-20171120.rtf

Voucher #:
3652

Voucher Date:
11/22/2017

Displaying results 1 - 1 (of 1)

Rows Per Page:
20

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Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Scholarship and Specialized Grants-Teaching Scholarships
2017-18 MINORITY TEACHERS OF ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Payment Requests Approved on 11/20/2017

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MTI Teaching Requirements

- MTI recipients must teach on a full-time basis one year for each academic year for which an award was received.
- The teaching obligation must be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school, at which no less than 30 percent of the enrolled students are minority students as certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
  - The percentage of an Illinois school's enrolled students meeting minority status requirements can be found at ISBE's eReport Card Public Site.
- Recipients must begin teaching within one year following termination from the program of study funded by the scholarship and continue until the teaching obligation is fulfilled.
GAS Teaching Requirements

- Scholars agree to teach for five years in an Illinois School of Need
  - The five year teaching commitment must be completed within seven years of earning the bachelor’s degree and teacher certification
- Beginning with 2013-14 scholarships, the five-year teaching commitment must start within two years after completion of the degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded
  - For scholarships received prior to 2013-14, award recipients were required to begin their teaching commitments within one year after completion of the degree or certificate program
Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- SETTW is a tuition waiver for attendance at public universities in Illinois
- Awards are not subject to annual appropriations by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor
  - Only available at the 12 public universities in Illinois
- Purpose of the program is to encourage current teachers and academically talented students to pursue careers in the area of Special Education
- Recipients are exempt from tuition and mandatory fees for up to four calendar years
- Recipients must make a commitment to teach in Special Education at an Illinois school for at least two of the five years following graduation
SETTW Eligibility

- Student must:
  - Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
  - Be an Illinois resident
  - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate or graduate student in an area of special education at one of the participating institutions
    - Must be enrolled within 10 days after the beginning of the term for which the waiver was initially awarded
  - Meet school’s satisfactory academic progress criteria
  - Remain in attendance on a continuous basis for up to four years

- Student cannot:
  - Be in default on a federal student loan or owe a refund on any state or federal grant or scholarship
  - Be a prior recipient of this waiver or be awarded MTI or GAS for the same academic year

- A qualified SETTW applicant who is also eligible for MAP must use the SETTW award first
SETTW Eligibility

- Student must meet one of the following:
  - Graduated from an approved high school in the academic year in which the award is made and be performing in the upper half of the graduating class
  - Graduated from an approved high school prior to the academic year in which the award is made and do not hold a valid teaching certificate
  - Hold a valid teaching certificate that is not in the discipline of special education
Applying for SETTW

- Applicants must complete the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Application
  - Download/print from isac.org
  - Three sections
    - Section A – all applicants must complete
    - Section B – required for licensed teachers only
      - Must also submit a copy of Credentials page from ISBE’s Educator Licensure Information System
- Signed original must be mailed to ISAC by the priority consideration date
  - Must be postmarked on or before March 1 (prior to start of the academic year) to be considered timely
    - Faxed copies are not accepted
- Application also serves as a promissory note
- Notice of Eligibility is sent by ISAC to each qualified applicant
SETTW Processing

- Verification Roster
  - Used to verify enrollment status and program eligibility for each student applicant
  - The institution completes and returns to ISAC by due date indicated on accompanying cover letter

- Verification Roster Certification Form
  - Certifies that eligibility and enrollment status have been verified for each student listed on the school’s roster
  - Must be signed by financial aid director or person authorized to sign on their behalf
  - Due date will be shown at the bottom of the form

- Leave of Absence Form

- Tuition Waiver Conversion Form
SETTW Teaching Requirements

- Recipients must teach two years on a full-time basis in the field of special education.
- The teaching obligation must be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school beginning within one year immediately following graduation or termination of enrollment and continuing for two of the subsequent five years.
Repayment of Teacher Programs

- If teaching requirements are not fulfilled, the assistance received converts to a loan
  - Recipient must repay the entire amount of the award prorated according to the fraction of the obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and any reasonable collection fees.
  - Interest begins to accrue on the date the repayment obligation begins

- Repayment is to be completed within 10 years after the assistance converts to a loan
  - For SETTW recipients who were awarded a waiver prior to July 1, 2014, the repayment term is five years
MTI Program News

- **2018-19 Academic Year**
  - Initial awarding for timely renewal applicants took place on August 13 and for Untimely New and Renewal on September 18, and additional rounds of awarding have taken place as applications come in.
    - Award Notifications have been mailed to eligible students
  - Payment request rosters are completed and submitted via My Zone
    - Payment results are made available in My Zone after vouchers have been generated and voucher numbers have been entered into My Zone by ISAC
  - An e-message will be sent to colleges once the My Zone system becomes available again, and it will include guidance for checking for new eligible applicants as well as for payment processing

- **2019-20 Academic Year**
  - The new application is expected to be available at isac.org by December 21, 2018
  - The priority application deadline date is March 1, 2019
    - Encourage students to continue to apply as long as the application is available at isac.org
GAS Program News

- **2018-19 Academic Year**
  - Initial awarding for timely renewal applicants took place on August 13 and for Untimely New and Renewal on September 18
  - Payment request rosters are completed and submitted via My Zone
    - Payment results are made available in My Zone after vouchers have been generated and voucher numbers have been entered into My Zone by ISAC
  - An e-message will be sent to colleges once the My Zone system becomes available again, and it will include guidance for checking for new eligible applicants as well as for payment processing

- **2019-20 Academic Year**
  - Application process for 2019 is currently open
    - Priority Application Deadline was December 1
    - Regular Application Deadline is March 1
      - Golden Apple educators will review online applications, choose the finalists to be interviewed and select the new class of Scholars in Spring 2019.
SETTW Program News

- **2018-19 Academic Year**
  - All tuition waivers have been awarded
    - The first round of awarding took place on June 7 and the second round of awarding took place on October 31.
    - ISAC has mailed award notifications to qualified applicants.

- **2019-20 Academic Year**
  - The application will be available on isac.org in late December 2018
  - The priority consideration application date will be March 1, 2019
Annual Enrollment Status Verification Process

- Each year colleges are required to verify the enrollment status of award recipients of programs with teaching requirements and practice agreements.
  - Illinois Optometric Education Scholarship Program (IOESP)
  - Minority Teachers or Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  - Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Process is completed online via the My Zone portal in late fall for the previous award year
  - For example, in September 2018, colleges verified enrollment status for 2017-18 recipients
  - Data reported is based on each student's last date of enrollment in the required teaching program
  - Colleges must also complete the Tuition Waiver Conversion Form (TWCF) for each SETTW recipients listed on the SETTW Enrollment Status Verification online roster
TESP ENROLLMENT STATUS VERIFICATION: DATA SUBMITTED ON - 11/3/2017

School Code: 001 UNIVERSITY Program Type: MTI

Due Date: 11/30/2017

Provide the date on which the student’s enrollment status changed.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SSN</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>ENROLLMENT STATUS</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
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TESP ENROLLMENT STATUS VERIFICATION

School Code: 001 UNIVERSITY
Program Type: SETTW
Due Date: 11/30/2017

Provide the date on which the student’s enrollment status changed.

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TESP Enrollment Status Verification Overview

Each year, colleges are required to verify the enrollment statuses for recipients in the programs with teaching requirements/practice agreements. ISAC monitors recipients’ fulfillment of the program requirements for:

- Illinois Optometric Education Scholarship (IOESP)
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship
- Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)

TESP Enrollment Status Verification Quick Reference Guide

Steps to enter and submit TESP Enrollment Status Verification and the SETTW Tuition Waiver Conversion Form (TWCF) via My Zone.

1. Access TESP Enrollment Status Verification
   - Select Teacher Education Scholarship Programs (TESP) Enrollment Status Verification from the My Zone Program Selection screen to access the Enrollment Status Verification View screen.
   - Students in the IOESP program will display when the screen is first accessed. Select Program Type from the drop-down box to display the students in a different program (IOESP, MTI & SETTW). Only students for whom ISAC records indicate previously received TESP funds and may have been enrolled during the 2016-17 academic year with an "In School" status ("I") (sorted in ascending Social Security Number (SSN) order) will display.
   - The Academic Year is grayed out and cannot be changed.
   - Click on the <Go> button

2. Enter TESP Enrollment Status Verification
   - If a student is no longer enrolled, select a different status from the drop-down box in the Enrollment Status field. The statuses that display for SETTW recipients are different than those for all other programs. See the Enrollment Status chart below.
   - A Status Date is required if the enrollment status is changed from an In-School status. Click on the calendar icon in the Status Date field and select a date. Use the right and left arrows to decrease or increase the months. Click on the month banner (a faster way to access a different year) to display a box of months and years. Click the month and year to display the calendar for that month. Double click on a date to select the date of the status change.

3. Enter SETTW Tuition Waiver Conversion Form
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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Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov
217-785-7139