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| Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program (ISAC program) | Priority Application Deadline Date and Eligible Colleges: March 1 prior to start of the academic year (must reapply each year) at an ISAC-approved Illinois public or private college | Teaching full time (one year for each year in which scholarship assistance was received) in a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary, or secondary school with at least 30% minority enrollment; begin teaching within one year following graduation from or termination of enrollment in a teacher education program, at a recognized nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, elementary, or secondary school in Illinois, and continue teaching for at least two of the five years immediately following | Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date | Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program (ISAC program) |}

**Priority Application Deadline Date and Eligible Colleges:**
- March 31 prior to start of the academic year (must reapply each year) at an ISAC-approved Illinois public or private college
- March 1 prior to start of the academic year (must apply only once) at an ISAC-approved Illinois public four-year college offering a concentration in special education

**Eligibility:**
- Priority date set and announced each year when application is made available. Public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateway-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institutions
- Applications must be received by the deadline date, prior to the student's high school graduation or during their freshman or sophomore year in college - Illinois public and private colleges

**Award Amount:**
- Up to $3,500 per year for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters to cover tuition, fees, room and board
- Up to $23,000 tuition assistance up to $23,000
- Up to $4,000 per year for undergraduate and/or post-baccalaureate study

**Awarding Criteria:**
- Funds awarded to timely renewal applicants first, and then in date received order until funds are exhausted, with a priority given to timely applicants who demonstrate financial need and those in junior status and above; at least 35% of allocated funds reserved for male students (on January 1 of each year reserved funds may be awarded to female applicants), and at least 30% of allocated funds reserved for qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority given to those enrolled in an educator preparation program with a concentration in bilingual, bicultural education
- 210 awards given each year to students enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students seeking initial certification in any area of special education; 40 awards given each year to certified teachers (not already certified in special education).
- Funds awarded to timely applicants first, in order of those with the most financial need
- Golden Apple Foundation selects high school and college students each year, according to their guidelines

**Program of Study:**
- Seeking certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary or secondary school level or pursuing additional coursework needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification.
- Seeking initial teacher certification in a special education discipline
- Seeking postsecondary credential or undergraduate degree in the field of early childhood education or a Professional Educator's License in early childhood education. If attending a 4-year institution, be at the junior level or above, or hold an Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Arts, or Associate of Science degree focused in early childhood education
- Seeking initial certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary, middle or secondary level or pursuing additional coursework needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification
- Enrolled in coursework necessary to begin career in teaching

**Teaching Commitment:**
- Teach full time (one year for each year in which scholarship assistance was received) in a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary, or secondary school with at least 30% minority enrollment; begin teaching within one year following graduation from or termination of enrollment in a teacher education program, at a recognized nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, elementary, or secondary school in Illinois, and continue teaching for at least two of the five years immediately following
- None
- Begin teaching within two years following completion of degree or certificate program in a nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, or a public elementary or secondary school of need in Illinois, as defined by the Golden Apple Foundation, and continue teaching for at least five years
- Teach full time in a high-needs field** in a public or private elementary or secondary school or educational service agency that serves low-income students for at least four years within eight calendar years after completing program of study for which grant was received

**Repayment:**
- Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date
- Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date
- Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date
- Conversion to Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan with interest rate equal to current Direct loan rate, accrues from disbursement date

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* ISBE - Illinois State Board of Education
** Students cannot receive an award from more than one ISAC teacher program during the same term

Last updated April 27, 2022 for 2022-23 processing cycle.