

## 2021-22 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing

*Updated - July 2021*

Issue	Guidance	Regulatory/Rule Reference/Resources
<b><i>RISE Act Eligibility</i></b>		
<i>If a student completed a FAFSA but did not pass the database match checks, can they complete an Alternative Application?</i>	<p>The Alternative Application is not intended to be an alternate option for students who do not pass the database match checks on the FAFSA. It is intended for students who meet the specific eligibility criteria in the RISE Act legislation.</p> <p>If the student completed a FAFSA in error and meets all the criteria specified by the RISE Act, the student may complete the Alternative Application.</p>	<p>Illinois <a href="#">Public Act 101-0021</a></p>
<i>For students who have filed both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application, is the school responsible to compare and resolve conflicting data?</i>	<p>If a school is aware that a student completed a FAFSA and the Alternative Application, the school should review the ISIR to determine if there are eligibility issues that would need to be resolved before awarding MAP.</p> <p>It is in a student’s best interest to complete the FAFSA if eligible to do so and to resolve eligibility issues that may be flagged on an ISIR to maximize the amount of financial aid the student is eligible to receive.</p> <p>If an institution has any information that indicates an applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements for MAP or is aware of conflicting information, regardless of which application was used, the school is expected to resolve it.</p> <p>Schools are not expected to check all Alternative Applications to see if those students have also submitted a FAFSA. However, as part of the payment claim and reconciliation process for MAP recipients, schools are expected to review results to ensure that a student does not receive a MAP award as both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application applicant in the same term.</p>	<p><a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions</a>, Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility</p> <p><i>Updated July 2021</i></p>

<p><i>How can schools ensure that a student isn't receiving MAP as both a FAFSA applicant and an Alternative Application applicant?</i></p>	<p>While schools are not expected to check all Alternative Applications to see if a FAFSA has been filed by the same student, schools are expected to ensure that students are not being paid MAP under both applications. At the school level this may best be accomplished by reviewing MAP reports and identifying students on the list with the same name, address, date of birth and/or other identifiers that would be unique to a student.</p> <p>In general, if a student is eligible to receive MAP as the result of having a valid FAFSA/ISIR on the file, the student should not receive MAP as an applicant through the Alternative Application. The intent of the RISE Act is for students ineligible to file a FAFSA to apply for MAP using the Alternative Application; students eligible to file a FAFSA should continue to do so from one year to the next. The Alternative Application is not intended as a way to circumvent the federal FAFSA process for applicants who have student eligibility issues such as being in default, owing a refund on a federal grant, having a Social Security Number issue, etc.</p>	<p><i>Updated July 2021</i></p>
<p><i>Are there scenarios when it would be acceptable for a student to file a FAFSA after submitting an Alternative Application for the same award year?</i></p>	<p>In general, a student should not complete both applications, however, if the student filed an Alternative Application, but then becomes eligible for federal aid during the award year, it would be acceptable to file a FAFSA for the same award year.</p> <p>For example, transgender students who may have completed a 2021-22 Alternative Application may want to consider filing a FAFSA now that there is no longer a requirement to register for Selective Service to be eligible for Title IV aid (as of June 17, 2021).</p> <p>For students who may have filed an Alternative Applicant and then become eligible to file a FAFSA during the award year, schools may rely on the initial application receipt date of the Alternative Application if the FAFSA is filed after a 2021-22 MAP suspense date has been announced. Depending on the receipt and suspense dates in these situations, the school may need to contact School Services for assistance with payment claim processing.</p> <p>Additionally, as part of the payment claim and reconciliation process, schools are expected to review all results to ensure that a student does not receive a</p>	<p><a href="#">DCL GEN-21-04, published June 11, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Federal Register Notice, published June 17, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">ISAC e-Message, published June 30, 2021</a></p> <p><i>Added July 2021</i></p>

	MAP award as both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application in the same term in the award year.	
<i>Are international students who are in the U.S. on a visa and have attended high school in Illinois for at least three years eligible to complete the Alternative Application?</i>	<p>No. They are unlikely to be eligible. The intent of the RISE Act is to retain undocumented students who are Illinois residents and provide them with equitable access to state financial aid.</p> <p>In order for undocumented students to qualify to apply for Illinois aid, all of the RISE Act criteria must be met, including the condition that applicants agree to sign an affidavit stating that they plan to file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S. at their earliest opportunity to do so and that they have not established a residence outside of Illinois. Students with a temporary visa would likely not meet the conditions of those two pre-screening criteria and therefore would not be eligible to complete the Alternative Application to apply for MAP.</p>	<p><a href="#">Public Act 101-0021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid FAQs</a></p>
<b>MAP Eligibility</b>		
<i>Whose responsibility is it to confirm that the student is eligible for MAP?</i>	<p>It is both ISAC's and the college's responsibility to confirm eligibility for MAP in accordance with the requirements listed in ISAC's Administrative Rules in both the General Provisions and the Monetary Award Program sections.</p> <p>This includes resolving any conflicting data that the college may become aware of prior to certifying the student as eligible at the time of the MAP payment request.</p>	<p><a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions</a>, Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The evaluation of applicant eligibility is the responsibility of both ISAC and the institution.</li> </ul>
<b>Certifying MAP Eligibility – Illinois Residency</b>		
<i>What are the MAP residency requirements for students who are eligible to complete the</i>	<p>The residency criteria in the RISE Act determines if a student is eligible to apply for MAP using the Alternative Application. To qualify to receive MAP benefits, students must also be a "resident of Illinois" as defined in ISAC's Administrative Rules:</p>	<p><a href="#">Public Act 101-0021</a></p> <p><a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions</a>, Section 2700.20 Definitions and Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility</p>

<p>Alternative Application?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dependent student is a resident of Illinois if the parent of the dependent applicant who is required by the instructions to complete the FAFSA or the RISE Act application (the Alternative Application), physically resides within the State of Illinois, and Illinois is his or her true, fixed and permanent home.</li> <li>• An independent student is a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resides within the State of Illinois (at the time of application), and has so resided for a period of 12 continuous full months immediately prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested and Illinois is his or her true, fixed and permanent home.</li> </ul>	
<p>What if undocumented students and/or parents are unable to provide acceptable documentation to confirm residency?</p>	<p>Just as with FAFSA applicants, if a dependent student and parent have provided Illinois addresses on the Alternative Application and there is no conflicting data to suggest that the data is incorrect, no additional documentation is required.</p> <p>Additionally, an institution is not required to collect documentation to confirm residency if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant received payment of a MAP award during the previous academic year, or</li> <li>• The applicant was enrolled in an ISAC-approved MAP institution or an ISAC-approved Illinois high school for the preceding consecutive 12 months prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested.</li> </ul> <p>Colleges are expected to use the same policies and procedures for students who have completed the Alternative Application applicants to confirm Illinois residency as they use for students who have completed a FAFSA.</p> <p>An FAQ document providing additional guidance about confirming Illinois residency can be found on the Partner Training page in the E-Library at isac.org.</p>	<p><a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions</a>, Section 2700.20 Definitions and Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility</p> <p>Illinois Residency and Verification FAQs - <a href="#">Partner Training</a> page in the E-Library at isac.org</p>
<p><b><i>Certifying MAP Eligibility – Selective Service Registration</i></b></p>		<p><i>Previous guidance regarding Selective Service registration requirements has been removed in response to ED’s elimination of the requirement for federal student aid.</i></p> <p><i>Updated July 2021</i></p>

<p><i>With the removal of the Selective Service registration requirement for federal student aid, has the requirement also been removed for ISAC programs?</i></p>	<p>Yes, ISAC will be amending its 2021-22 administrative rules regarding the Selective Service requirement, and will publish additional details at <a href="http://isac.org">isac.org</a> when the updated rules go into effect (expected to be in August 2021, prior to implementing the payment processing cycle for 2021-22).</p> <p>This change is in response to the U.S Department of Education’s (ED) early implementation of the removal of the Selective Service registration requirement change authorized by the <i>FAFSA Simplification Act</i>, which was enacted into law in December 2020 as part of the <i>Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021</i>.</p> <p>The Act makes many important changes to the <i>Higher Education Act of 1965</i> (HEA) and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), including amending Sec. 484 of the HEA to remove the requirement that male students register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for federal student aid.</p> <p>Under the Act, the Department of Education (ED) could implement these changes by providing 60 days’ notice in the Federal Register, which was done on June 17, 2021. Institutions may implement the changes as early as the date the notice published and must implement the changes no later than 60 days after the date of the Federal Register notice, which is August 16, 2021.</p> <p>For the 2021-2022 award year, the Selective Service question (as well as the option to register with the Selective Service) will remain on the FAFSA. However, failing to register with the Selective Service will no longer impact a student’s Title IV aid eligibility.</p> <p>Consistent with federal guidance, failing to register with Selective Service will no longer impact a student’s eligibility for ISAC’s programs, including students who complete an Alternative Application to apply for the MAP grant.</p>	<p><a href="#">DCL GEN-21-04, published June 11, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Federal Register Notice, published June 17, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">ISAC e-Message, published June 30, 2021</a></p> <p><i>Added July 2021</i></p>
<p><b>Confirming MAP Eligibility - No Student Loan Default</b></p>		

<p><i>Since there is not a database match with the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) to confirm that a student does not have a student loan in default, are Alternative Application students exempt from this requirement?</i></p>	<p>While these students are not exempt from this MAP eligibility requirement, keep in mind that undocumented students would not be able to obtain a federal student loan without a Social Security Number.</p> <p>Transgender students who may have an SSN are asked to provide it in the pre-screening questions so that ISAC can determine if the student has received MAP in the past and if the student is in default on an ISAC-guaranteed student loan.</p> <p>If, in the process of importing and/or reviewing Alternative Application Student Records in your student information systems, you are able to determine that a student does have a loan in default, the student would not be eligible to receive MAP benefits until the default was resolved according to the specifications provided in ISAC rules.</p>	<p><a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions</a>, Section 2700.40 General Applicant Eligibility Requirements</p>
<p><b>Conflicting Information</b></p>		
<p><i>Can MAP still be disbursed if conflicting information has not been resolved?</i></p>	<p>ISAC rules allow a student to receive a first term award conflicting information is being resolved, but it must be resolved before the second term payment can be requested.</p>	<p><a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions</a>, Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility</p> <p>i) Institutions may request first term payment even though verification is not yet complete. If, after verification, an ISAC payment adjustment is appropriate, institutions must submit the appropriate refund. If verification is not completed within 60 days after the conclusion of the regular school year, the institution shall return the first term payment to ISAC. For other than the first term of eligibility in an academic year, the verification process must be completed before the institution may request payment.</p>
<p><i>Since students who complete the 2021-22 Alternative Application are</i></p>	<p>Consistent with the U. S. Department of Education’s (ED) guidance for 2021-22 verification requirements, colleges are only expected to verify data used to calculate a student’s EFC on a 2021-22 Alternative Application if there is conflicting information and/or if there is a reason to question the accuracy or completeness of the information provided.</p>	<p><a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions</a>, Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility</p> <p><a href="#">DCL GEN-21-05, Changes to 2021-22 Verification Requirements, published July 13, 2021</a></p>

<p><i>not subject to being selected by ISAC for verification as FAFSA applicants are, is there an expectation for colleges to verify data from students and families to ensure that the EFC is correct?</i></p>		<p><a href="#">ISAC e-Message, posted July 16, 2021</a></p> <p>Update July 2021</p>
<p><i>How should schools address situations where it appears that parents were required to file taxes, but indicated on the Alternative Application that they had not filed? FAFSA applicants in similar situations would not be able to receive financial aid/MAP until taxes had been filed, so does that same rule apply to students who have completed an</i></p>	<p>Because income and asset data is critical to calculating an EFC and, subsequently, a MAP award, it is important that accurate data is used on the application. If a college is aware of conflicting information and/or has reason to believe that the EFC may not be accurate because the parents did not file taxes when required to do so, then the college would need to work with the parents in the same manner that they would with a student who completed a FAFSA and their parents did not file taxes when required to do so.</p> <p>There is an interactive tool on the IRS website that colleges can direct parents to which can help them understand the reasons to file and the process: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/help/ita/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return">https://www.irs.gov/help/ita/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return</a>.</p> <p>Colleges will need to determine, according to their policies and procedure and the individual student situation, the best way to proceed to resolve conflicting information and ensure that MAP is awarded on accurate application data.</p>	

<i>Alternative Application?</i>		
<b>Correcting Application Data</b>		
<i>What type of changes can a student make to the Alternative Application once it's been submitted?</i>	<p>Any of the data elements on the application, except the ISAC-assigned ID number, can be corrected or updated by the student. However, in general, a student should not update information that was correct as of the date it was initially signed and submitted. Like the FAFSA, it is considered to be a “snapshot” of the family’s financial situation as of that date.</p> <p>All corrections, including changing or adding school choices, will require the student to re-sign the application. If changes are made to parent data, the parent will need to re-sign the app as well. Both the student and the parent should use the same PIN provided to them in the initial application process.</p> <p>Each time a correction or update is made, a new transaction will be generated.</p>	
<i>What if a student makes a change to the e-mail address on their application? Does that automatically update the username and login information for their application?</i>	<p>If a student updates his or her e-mail address on Section 1 of the Alternative Application, the e-mail address provided when creating his or her Student Profile is not automatically updated.</p> <p>The e-mail address provided when creating the Student Profile is pre-populated on the application, and if a change is made when completing Section 1 of the application, the student will still need to use the Student Profile e-mail address to log back in to the application for future updates or corrections, or to start an application in a subsequent year.</p> <p>When a student updates his or her e-mail address in Section 1 of the application, ISAC recommends that the student also update the e-mail address on their Student Profile, and the <a href="#">Alternative Application User Guide</a> provides guidance on how to do that.</p> <p>While this is not required, it may help avoid confusion should the student need to log back in to the application at a later time, and it will ensure that all communication about the application is directed to the same e-mail address.</p>	See the <a href="#">Alternative Application User Guide</a> for more information on username, passwords and making corrections to the Alternative Application



	<p>The e-mail address that is provided in Section 1 of the Alternative Application is the e-mail address that the student’s Personal Identification Number (PIN) will be sent to, is the e-mail address that the college will see on the student application record, and is the e-mail address that ISAC may use to communicate with the student in the future.</p> <p>When creating an Alternative Application Student Profile and completing the application, students are encouraged to use a personal e-mail address (such as gmail, yahoo, or hotmail) rather than a school provided e-mail address that could potentially change if they change schools.</p>	
<p><i>Can financial aid administrators make corrections to a student’s Alternative Application record?</i></p>	<p>Yes. In March 2021, ISAC implemented a process in the MAP system of the GAP Access portal to provide colleges with the ability to make corrections and submit professional judgment adjustments to 2021-22 Alternative Applications.</p> <p><i>Professional Judgment and Application Correction</i> tabs have been added to the <i>Student Detail: Eligibility</i> screen in the MAP system that will allow colleges to access a student’s Alternative Application record and update most of the information on the application, with the exception of the following data elements: ISAC ID Number, student e-mail address, parent e-mail address, and school choices/codes.</p> <p>During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed to the next page until required information has been entered.</p> <p>Once all changes have been entered, you must select a “Submit” button to complete the update process. If updated data is not submitted at the time of entry, all changes will be lost; they cannot be saved to be submitted at a later time.</p> <p>Updates will be processed nightly and results will be available on the following business day.</p> <p>ISAC will only process one correction/update in a business day, so both the college and the student cannot make corrections or updates on the same day.</p>	

	<p>Students will be notified by ISAC via e-mail whenever an update is made to their application.</p> <p>For transactions that are generated as the result of a professional judgment adjustment, an indicator will be provided on the Student Detail screen.</p>	
<p><i>Why am I not seeing the Application Correction tab on the Student Detail screen?</i></p>	<p>If the Application Correction tab does not appear as an option on the Student Detail screen, confirm that you have accessed a 2021-22 Alternative Application record. This process is not available for 2020-21 Alternative Application records.</p>	
<p><i>What are the steps for making a correction to an Alternative Application record in the MAP system?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Log in to the MAP system in the GAP Access portal.</li> <li>• Select the 2021-22 academic year on the MAP system home screen.</li> <li>• Navigate to the <i>Student Detail</i> screen by entering the student’s ISAC ID number in the SSN field on the MAP home screen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Or, from the <i>Student List</i> screen, select the <i>Student Detail</i> icon to navigate to the <i>Student Detail</i> screen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If unsure of a student’s ISAC ID number, use the Filter function to filter by the student’s name.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• If there is more than one transaction for the student, be sure to identify which transaction you want to be the basis for the correction process.</li> <li>• On the <i>Student Detail: Eligibility</i> screen, select the <i>Application Correction</i> tab and begin the process of updating the application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When making a Professional Judgment adjustment, the option to perform a dependency override is associated with Section 3 of the application where you will have the option to provide/update parental data or continue with a dependency override.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review all changes and click on the Submit button to complete the correction/update process.</li> <li>• Review the new transaction on the next business day to ensure corrections/updates processed as expected.</li> </ul> <p><i>Reminders:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GAP Access users must have the appropriate level of access to make updates in the MAP System.</li> </ul>	<p>For additional assistance on accessing and navigating the MAP system, see the MAP User Guides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Student Eligibility</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Payment</a> (includes the MAP Payment Results, Reject Reasons, Late and Disqualify codes)</li> </ul> <p>For assistance on activating and managing GAP Access users, see the <a href="#">GAP Access User Guides</a> for step-by-step instructions.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">2021-22 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout</a> in the <a href="#">Electronic Tools</a> section of the E-Library for information on the data elements provided on student record files.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access is granted and update by the college's GAP Access Administrator(s).</li> <li>● If the <i>Professional Judgment</i> and <i>Application Correction</i> tabs do not appear as options on the <i>Student Detail</i> screen, confirm that you have accessed a 2021-22 Alternative Application record. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ability to make corrections is not available for 2020-21 Alternative Application records.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The MAP system is available each day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (CT).</li> <li>● For students who have completed a FAFSA, colleges should follow the usual process of making corrections/adjustments through the U.S. Department of Education's process.</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional Judgment</b>		
<i>Are students who have completed an Alternative Application subject to the same rules and guidance regarding professional judgment as a FAFSA applicant?</i>	Yes. Colleges may rely on the same policies and procedures they may already have in place for FAFSA applicants who have special circumstances.	
<i>Can a financial aid administrator make a professional judgment adjustment to a student's Alternative Application record, or does it</i>	<p>In March 2021, ISAC implemented a process in the MAP system of the GAP Access portal to provide colleges with the ability to make corrections and submit professional judgment adjustments to 2021-22 Alternative Applications.</p> <p><i>Professional Judgment</i> and <i>Application Correction</i> tabs have been added to the <i>Student Detail: Eligibility</i> screen in the MAP system that will allow colleges to access a student's Alternative Application record and update most of the information on the application, with the exception of the following data elements: ISAC ID Number, student e-mail address, parent e-mail address, and school choices/codes.</p>	

<p><i>have to be submitted to ISAC?</i></p>	<p>When making a Professional Judgment adjustment, the option to perform a dependency override is associated with Section 3 of the application where you will have the option to provide/update parental data or continue with a dependency override.</p> <p>During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed to the next page until required information has been entered.</p> <p>Once all changes/updates have been entered, you must select a “Submit” button to complete the process. If updated data is not submitted at the time of entry, all changes will be lost; they cannot be saved to be submitted at a later time.</p> <p>Updates will be processed nightly and results will be available on the following business day.</p> <p>ISAC will only process one correction/update in a business day, so both the college and the student cannot make corrections or updates on the same day.</p> <p>Students will be notified by ISAC via e-mail whenever an update is made to their application.</p> <p>For transactions that are generated as the result of a professional judgment adjustment, an indicator will be provided on the <i>Student Detail</i> screen.</p> <p>Colleges should follow their usual policies and procedures for determining if a professional judgment determination is appropriate for a student. Information regarding the justification for a dependency override or EFC adjustment and supporting documentation should be retained in the student’s file and does not need to be submitted to ISAC.</p>	
<p><i>Why am I not seeing the Professional Judgment tab on</i></p>	<p>If the <i>Professional Judgment</i> tab does not appear as an option on the <i>Student Detail</i> screen, confirm that you have accessed a 2021-22 Alternative Application record. This process is not available for 2020-21 Alternative Application records.</p>	

<p><i>the Student Detail screen?</i></p>		
<p><i>What are the steps for making a professional judgment adjustment to an Alternative Application record in the MAP system?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Log in to the MAP system in the GAP Access portal.</li> <li>• Select the 2021-22 academic year on the MAP system home screen.</li> <li>• Navigate to the <i>Student Detail</i> screen by entering the student’s ISAC ID number in the SSN field on the MAP home screen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Or, from the <i>Student List</i> screen, select the <i>Student Detail</i> icon to navigate to the <i>Student Detail</i> screen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If unsure of a student’s ISAC ID number, use the Filter function to filter by the student’s name.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• If there is more than one transaction for the student, be sure to identify which transaction you want to be the basis for the professional judgment.</li> <li>• On the <i>Student Detail: Eligibility</i> screen, select the <i>Professional Judgment</i> tab and begin the process of updating the application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When making a Professional Judgment adjustment, the option to perform a dependency override is associated with Section 3 of the application where you will have the option to provide/update parental data or continue with a dependency override.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review all changes and click on the Submit button to complete the process.</li> <li>• Review the new transaction on the next business day to ensure corrections/updates processed as expected.</li> </ul> <p><i>Reminders:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GAP Access users must have the appropriate level of access to make updates in the MAP System. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access is granted and update by the college's GAP Access Administrator(s).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If the <i>Professional Judgment</i> and <i>Application Correction</i> tabs do not appear as options on the <i>Student Detail</i> screen, confirm that you have accessed a 2021-22 Alternative Application record. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ability to make corrections is not available for 2020-21 Alternative Application records.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The MAP system is available each day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (CT).</li> <li>• For students who have completed a FAFSA, colleges should follow the usual process of making adjustments through the U.S. Department of Education’s process.</li> </ul>	<p>For additional assistance on accessing and navigating the MAP system, see the MAP User Guides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Student Eligibility</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Payment</a> (includes the MAP Payment Results, Reject Reasons, Late and Disqualify codes)</li> </ul> <p>For assistance on activating and managing GAP Access users, see the <a href="#">GAP Access User Guides</a> for step-by-step instructions.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">2021-22 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout</a> in the <a href="#">Electronic Tools</a> section of the E-Library for information on the data elements provided on student record files.</p>

<p><b>ISAC Identification (ID) Numbers</b></p>		
<p><i>Will a student's ISAC ID number change each year?</i></p>	<p>No. Once a student has been issued an ISAC Identification (ID) number, it will remain the same for a student from one year to the next.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> A small group of early applicants received new ID numbers due to a change in the methodology used to assign ID numbers shortly after the 2020-21 application was launched so that, moving forward, they will be consistent with the updated methodology (using zeroes in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> field of the number; for example, xxx-00-xxxx). See below for more information on how to identify those.</p>	
<p><i>Why did some students see a change to their ISAC ID number and how can schools determine if the student has a new number?</i></p>	<p>Shortly after the January 2020 implementation of the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, ISAC made a change to the methodology used to assign an ISAC identification (ID) number to students who created an Alternative Application profile. In preparation for year two (2021-22) of the Alternative Application process, a small group of ID numbers were updated for students who submitted an application prior to the change so that their ID numbers are consistent with the updated methodology (using zeroes in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> field of the ISAC ID number; for example, xxx-00-xxxx).</p> <p>In general, once a student has been issued an ISAC ID number, it will remain the same for the student from one year to the next; however, this small, initial group of students was assigned new numbers for future use.</p> <p>Updates to the numbers were implemented by ISAC in August 2020, and notification to impacted students will be provided to them the next time that they access the Alternative Application using their student profile information (in either 2020-21 or 2021-22). Applicants will receive a one-time notification of the change and will be required to acknowledge receipt of the notification before they can proceed to the application.</p> <p>All schools that were listed as a school choice on the student's application will see a new transaction reflecting the updated ID number. Schools will be able to identify impacted students using flags provided on the Alternative Application</p>	<p>The <a href="#">2021-22 Alternative Application Student Record File Layout</a> document can be found in the <a href="#">Electronic Tools</a> section of the <a href="#">E-Library</a> at <a href="http://www.isac.org">www.isac.org</a>.</p> <p>The free app <i>Notepad++</i> is a recommended option for viewing the Alternative Application student records in a easier-to-use format.</p>

Student Record, which are the same type of indicators that schools receive on an a federal Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) that had an SSN change:

- A new transaction will be generated
- The CPS Pushed ISIR Flag field will be populated with “Yes”
- The Student Last Name or SSN Change Flag field will be populated with “Yes”

Below is an excerpt from the Alternative Application Student Record File Layout document highlighting the field numbers where the correction flag indicators will be provided:

1375	1376	225	Application Data Source and Type Code	Yes	
1377	1384	226	Application Receipt Date	Yes	
1385	1385	227	Address Only Change Flag	Yes	
1386	1386	228	CPS Pushed ISIR Flag	Yes	Y = ISAC Pushed Transaction
1387	1387	229	EFC Change Flag	Yes	
1388	1388	230	Student Last Name or SSN Change Flag	Yes	
1389	1389	231	Reject Status Change Flag	Blank	
1390	1390	232	SAR C Change Flag	Blank	
1391	1391	233	Verification Selection Change Flag	Blank	
1392	1394	234	Compute Number	Blank	

Please note: The free app *Notepad++* is a recommended option for viewing the Alternative Application student records in a easier-to-use format.

*If I don't know a student's ISAC ID number, how can I look the student up in GAP Access to see if the student has completed an Alternative Application and is eligible for MAP?*

If the student has successfully submitted an Alternative Application to ISAC and included your school on his or her list of school choices, you will be able to access the student's record in the MAP system in GAP Access.

One of the easiest ways to search for a student if you don't know their ISAC ID number is to use the Filter function in the MAP system and filter on the student's first and last name. After entering the filter criteria, return to the Student List view and check to see if the student is listed.

If the student is on the filtered list, you will find eligibility information on the Student List and on the Student Detail screen, and the ISAC ID number will be in the SSN field.

See the [MAP Eligibility User Guide](#) for more information on [GAP Access](#) functionality.

<p><b>Managing Alternative Application Student Records in GAP Access</b></p>		
<p><i>What if a student says he completed the Alternative Application but I'm not able to find his Alternative Application record on the Student List in GAP Access.</i></p>	<p>It may be that the student answered a question on the Alternative Application that would prevent him from being listed on the default view of the student list in the MAP system in GAP Access, such as indicating that he is a “graduate student.”</p> <p>In the default view in the MAP system, schools will not see graduate students (disqualify code 4) on the student list, nor can they access graduate students by using the SSN/ISAC ID search function. To see these students, you must use the Filter function and choose the option to filter for graduate students only.</p> <p>If you determine that a student is not a graduate student and has answered an Alternative Application question incorrectly, the student will need to make a correction to the application so that they can be considered for MAP.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/applying-for-map/2020-21-critical-data.html">www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/applying-for-map/2020-21-critical-data.html</a></p> <p>See the <a href="#">MAP Eligibility User Guide</a> for more information on the Filter and Sort functionality in <a href="#">GAP Access</a>.</p>
<p><i>Is there a quick way to identify Alternative Application students in GAP Access?</i></p>	<p>Schools can run the MAP Eligibility Report under the “Reports” tab in the MAP System in GAP Access.</p> <p>Select the “Create New Report” button and select the “MAP Eligibility Report”.</p> <p>Under the “Applicant” section request the report for “Alternative Applications”. Once the report has been requested it will be available in the report list and you will have the option to open it in Word or Excel format.</p> <p>Another option is to sort on the Social Security Number (SSN) Match Flag field in the MAP system in GAP Access. Because a database match with the Social Security Administration is not done for students who completed the Alternative Application, there will not be a value in the SSN Match Flag field; the field will be blank. FAFSA applicants will have a value in the SSN Match Flag field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the Columns screen, add the SSN Match Flag field to the Selected list so that it will appear as a column on your student list view, then move it to the top of the Selected list.</li> </ul>	<p>See the <a href="#">MAP Eligibility User Guide</a> for more information on the Sort functionality in <a href="#">GAP Access</a>.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the Sort screen add the SSN Match Flag field to the Selected list of fields on which you want to sort, and then move it to top of the list.</li> <li>• When you return to the sorted student list, all student records with a blank SSN Match Flag field will be grouped together at the end of the list.</li> <li>• There is an option to export the student list into Excel by clicking on Excel Report on the bottom of the Student List. In the Excel file, you can Filter the students by SSN Match Flag.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>What if a student has submitted two Alternative Applications? Which one should the school use to award MAP?</i></p>	<p>If schools identify situations where a student has submitted more than one Alternative Application for an award year and, as a result, has been issued more than one ISAC ID#, schools are asked to email ISAC’s School Services Department at <a href="mailto:ISAC.SchoolServices@illinois.gov">ISAC.SchoolServices@illinois.gov</a> to report the duplicate record(s).</p> <p>Maintaining just one student profile, ISAC ID#, and Alternative Application student record is important to ensuring that MAP Paid Credits Hours are assessed properly and that a student is not overawarded.</p> <p>School Services will provide guidance to the school on how to resolve the situation so that the duplicate record(s) can be removed (similarly to how an ISAC Conflict indicator is resolved for a student who has submitted a FAFSA). This will require the school to work with the student to identify which profile/record is the correct one to use moving forward, and the other(s) will be removed from GAP Access.</p> <p>ISAC has an internal process to look for duplicate records on a regular basis and is working to develop a way to flag these issues in GAP Access, however, assistance from schools will also be needed to help determine which record is the valid application for awarding and tracking purposes.</p>	<p><i>Added July 2021</i></p>