

November 2019

Dear High School Counselor:

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) would like to share in the celebration of your students' accomplishments by assisting you with your announcement of the 2020-21 State Scholars from your high school.

Certificates of Achievement

Enclosed are the Certificates of Achievement for your school's 2020-21 State Scholars. The certificates may be distributed to your students based on the preferences at your school, which may be during a high school honors ceremony or other type of acknowledgement event. If a student's name is misspelled on the certificate, simply contact ISAC and we will mail you a revised Certificate of Achievement.

Public Announcement of Scholars

Prior to the certificates being sent to Illinois high schools, each Scholar receives a congratulatory letter from ISAC. By mid- December, the names of all Scholars will be posted to the ISAC website at **isac.org**, giving greater visibility to the recipients at your school. To view the listings, click on the "2020-21 State Scholars" link in the Featured area of our home page. The initial view will list all 102 Illinois counties as links from which you will select the county where your high school is located. Once a county is selected, a listing of the high schools in that county will appear, along with the State Scholar finalists for each school.

To further assist you in announcing your school's State Scholars, a press release template will soon be available via the State Scholar Finalists page of the Counselors area of our website. Just complete the appropriate parts of the press release with pertinent information and the names of your scholars and send it to your local and community newspapers and radio and television stations. In this way, students can be recognized locally for their academic achievement. In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, we remind you that if listings are sent to the media, Social Security numbers are not to be included.

State Scholar Selection Process

Complete program information, including the selection procedures and the formula used in determining the State Scholars, is available in the ISAC Gift Assistance Programs section of the Counselors area of the website (**isac.org**).

Students with Illinois Standard Test Scores (ISTS) of 31 or higher are automatically designated as State Scholars. **Students with an ISTS lower than 31 but who have a Weighted Selection Score (WSS) greater than or equal to the cutoff score of 49 are also designated as State Scholars.**

Appeal of a Student's Status

If you feel a student (or a group of students) should have been designated as a State Scholar but was not, a letter of appeal must be written and sent to ISAC within 60 days of this announcement of the State Scholars.

The State Scholar appeal deadline, instructions and required data for individuals or an entire class are available in the State Scholar Finalists portion of the State Scholar Program section of our website (located within the ISAC Gift Assistance Programs area at **isac.org**).

Appeal letters should be addressed to:

Manager of Applicant Services
Program Services & Compliance Division
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

Communication Reminders

ISAC's e-Messaging service is our primary means of communicating with our school partners. Sign up for **ISAC's e-Messaging service** to ensure you don't miss future announcements. Please share this information with any colleagues who may not yet be registered for the e-Messaging service and encourage them to sign up.

Questions?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact ISAC at **isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov** or call a School Services Representative at 866.247.2172.

School Services Department
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Enclosures