

# Overview of ISAC's Teaching Programs

Presented by: Tania Mendoza

September 2021



### ISAC's Teacher Programs

MTI

 Minority Teachers of Illinois

GA

Golden Apple Scholars

SETTW

Special Education
 Teacher Tuition Waiver

### An Overview of the 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
- 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
  - a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen or meet
     the undocumented student criteria of the RISE Act
  - an Illinois resident
  - enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate or graduate student
  - pursuing a teaching degree
  - maintaining a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
  - meeting 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

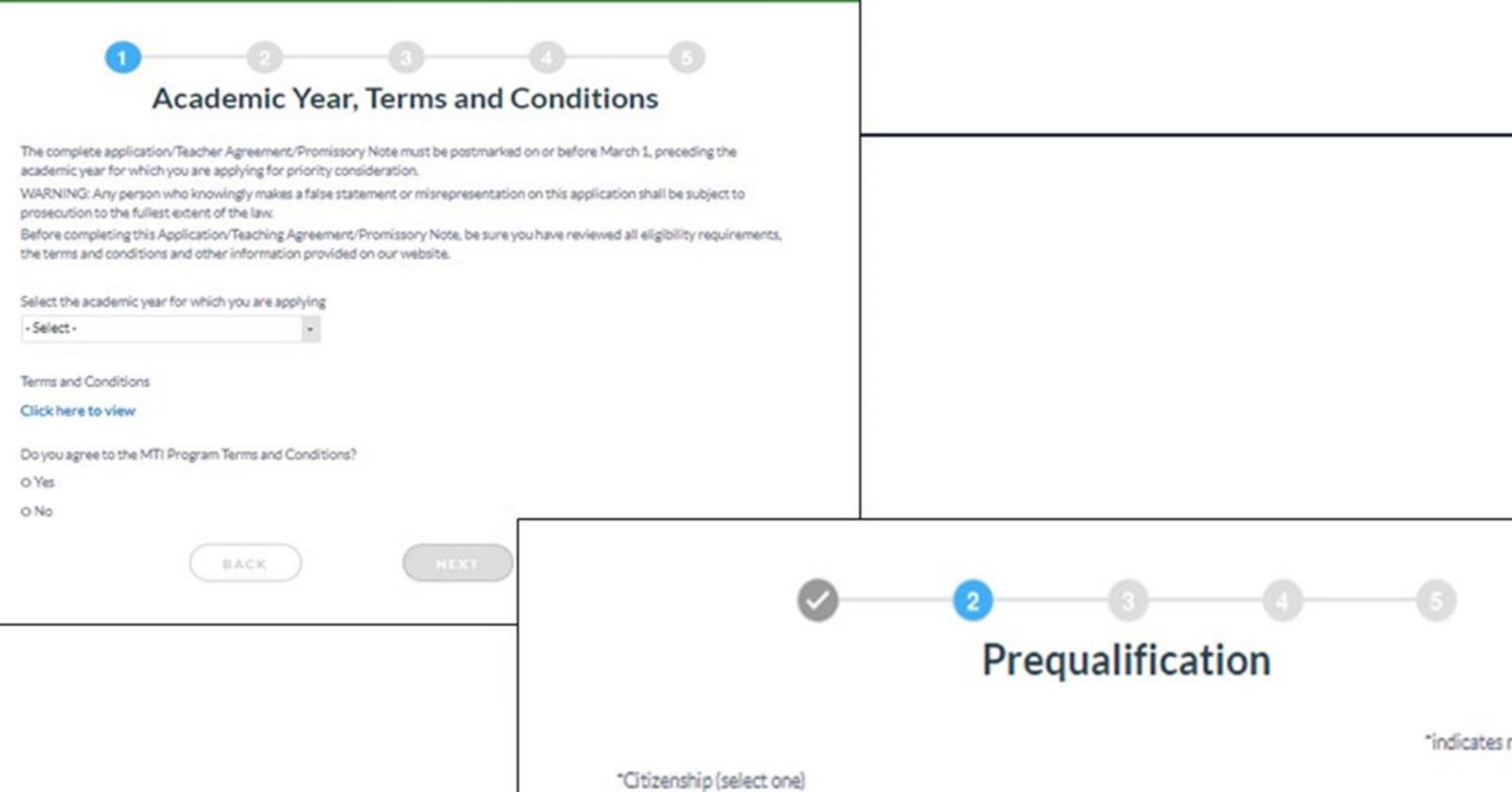
### Applying for MTI

- Applicants must complete the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Application
  - Application also serves as a promissory note
- After entering and submitting data via the online application, students must follow on-screen instructions to print and sign the application and mail to ISAC
  - In addition, an e-mail acknowledgement with instructions for signing and mailing page one of the application to ISAC is sent as soon as the application is submitted
- The application is not complete until the Application/Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note with an original ink signature, is received at ISAC

### 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 an e-mail and a letter to applicants acknowledging receipt of the application
  - If the application was incomplete, the letter will identify the additional information that is needed

### MINORITY TEACHERS OF ILLINOIS APPLICATION / PROMISSORY NOTE



OU.S. Citizen

O Eligible Noncitizen

O Not a citizen or eligible noncitizen

BACK

NEXT

\*indicates required field

### Not Eligible Noncitizen



#### Prequalification: Not a Citizen or Not Eligible Noncitizen

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may still be eligible for state financial 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")
- 2. Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
- 3. Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "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
- 6. 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).

"indicates required field

"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?

O Yes

No

BACK

NEXT



#### Prequalification: Not a Citizen or Not Eligible Noncitizen

In order to be eligible to apply for a Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) 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;
- you graduated from a public or private high school, or received the equivalent of a high school diploma, in Illinois;
- 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 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver you will be providing an affidavit stating that you will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity you are eligible to do so; and
- you have not established a residence outside of Illinois.

"indicates required field

"Do you meet all of the above criteria?

O Yes

O No

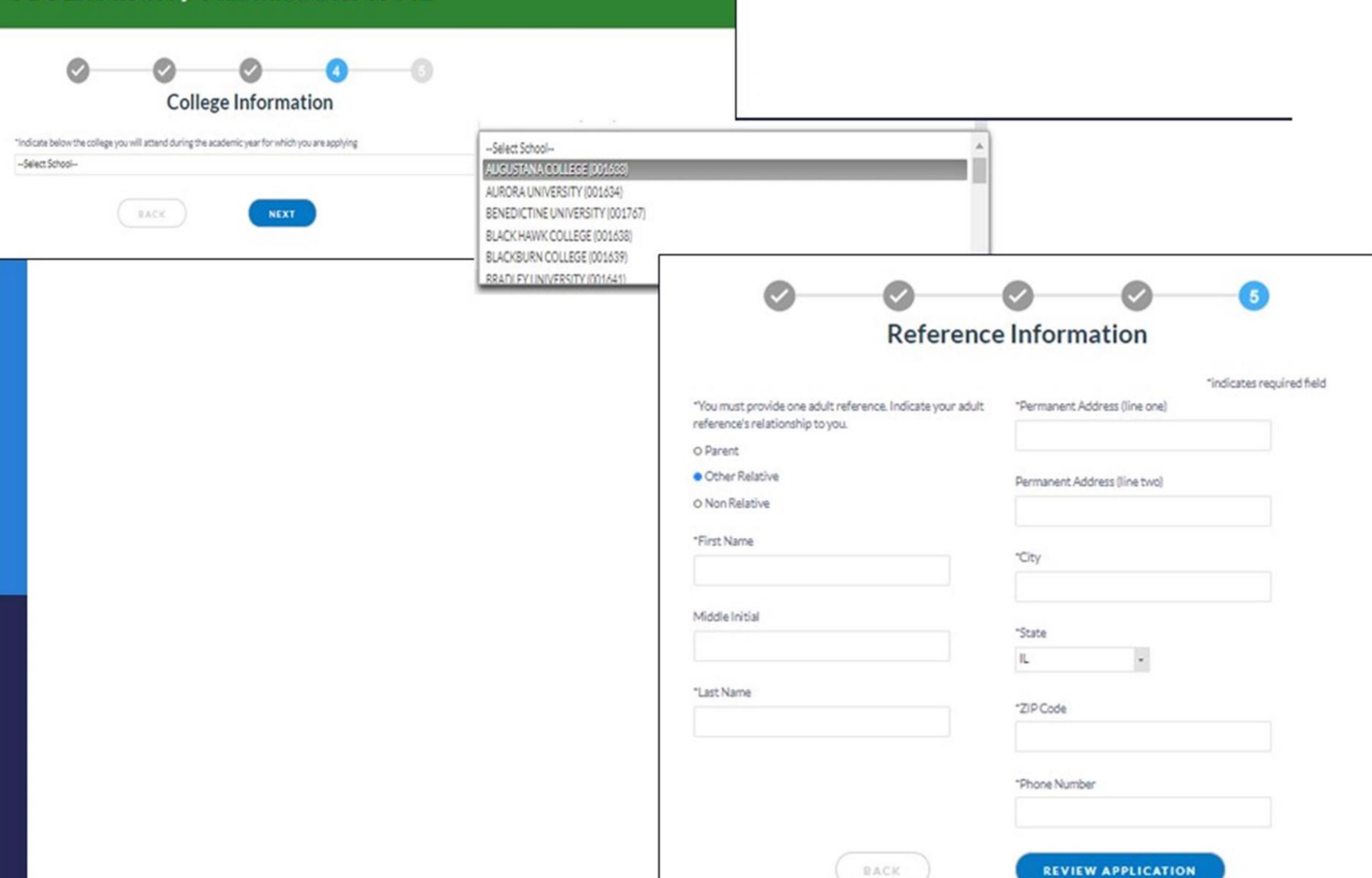
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ACCOUNT			
Account Information	Personal Information		
First Name	Challenge Question		
TANIA	What is your favorite pet?		
Last Name	Challenge Answer		
MENDOZA			
E-mail			
tania.mendoza@illinois.gov			
Confirm E-mail			
tania.mendoza@illinois.gov			
Password			
Confirm Password			
C	REATE ACCOUNT		
		Based on the responses you	provided, you are eligible to file a Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI)
		application.	
			PROCEED TO APPLICATION
	l l		

	*indi	ficates required field
First Name	Citizenship	
TANIA	U.S. Citizen	
fiddle Initial	*State of Legal Residency	
	- Select	
Last Name	*Ethnic Background (select one)	
MENDOZA	- Select -	- Select -
Prior Last Name (if applicable)	*Are you Male? O Yes O No	African American / Black Native American Hispanic American Asian American Not a Minority - not considered for MTI
Date of Birth	Provide your e-mail address to receive application atatus upda E-mail	Estas .
	tania.mendoza@illinois.gov	*Permanent Address (line one)
PORTANT: PLEASE NOTE your Social Security number (SSN) is needed for entification, verification and processing purposes in furtherance of your request for randal ald; your Social Security number is needed for the purpose of collecting funds randed to you in the event that those funds convert to a loan under the terms of this	Confirm E-mail	
Social Security Number	tania.mendoza@illinois.gov	Permanent Address (line two)
Confirm Social Security Number		*City
		*State
Phone Number		IL .
		*ZIP Code

### MINORITY TEACHERS OF ILLINOIS APPLICATION / PROMISSORY NOTE



#### Application Review

ACADEMIC YEAR, TERMS AND CONDITIONS Edit

Academic Year for which you are applying 2020-2021

Agree to the Terms and Conditions for the MTI

Program

/es

PERSONAL INFORMATION Edit

First Name TANIA

Middle Initial

Last Name MENDOZA

Prior Last Name (if applicable)

Date of Birth 05/18/1995

Social Security Number 123-45-6789

Phone Number (123) 456-7890

Permanent Address (line one) 1755 LAKE COOK ROAD

Permanent Address (line two)

City DEERFIELD

State IL

ZIP Code 60015

Citizenship U.S. Citizen

State of Legal Residence IL

Ethnic Background Hispanic American

Are you Male? No

E-mail tania.mendoza@illinois.gov

COLLEGE INFORMATION Edit College you will attend for indicated academic year AUGUSTANA COLLEGE REFERENCE INFORMATION Edit Adult reference's relationship to you Other Relative CATALINA First Name Middle Initial SANTANA Last Name 1755 LAKE COOK ROAD Permanent Address (line one) Permanent Address (line two) DEERFIELD State 60015 ZIP Code (122) 456-7890 Phone Number PRINT & SIGN



**PRINT & SIGN** 

#### CONFIRMATION



#### Final Step

You're Not Done Yet! To complete your MTI application, you must print the full (5 page) Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program Application/Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note packet. Sign and date the application where indicated (ink signature only) and mail only the first page to:

### 1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

Be sure to retain a copy of your signed Application/Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note, along with the Terms and Conditions, for your records.

Only paper applications with original signatures will be accepted; do not submit the application via email or FAX. For priority consideration, applications must be postmarked on or before March 1 preceding the academic year for which you are applying. Your application will not be considered complete until the signed document is received in our office.

If you become aware that changes to your application data are needed, follow the procedures on our website.

#### **Notifications**

If you provided your e-mail address, a status notification will be sent if we do not receive your signed application.

You will receive a letter notifying you of your eligibility status within 2 weeks after receipt of your complete signed application.

Print & Sign Your Application

### E-MAIL CONFIRMATION/REMINDER

#### One more step to complete your MTI application



ISAC.NoReply@Illinois.gov

There's just one more step - your data was received, but to complete your Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program application, you must submit a printed application that contains an original, in ink signature.

After printing the complete application packet, submit only the one-page application; do not include the pages containing the Terms and Conditions. Be sure to retain a copy of your signed Application/Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note, along with the Terms and Conditions, for your records.

Your signed Application/Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note must be mailed to:

ISAC Dept. D 1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

Only paper applications with original signatures will be accepted; submissions via e-mail or FAX will not be accepted. For priority consideration, applications must be postmarked on or before March 1 preceding the academic year for which you are applying.

If you become aware that changes to your application data are needed, follow the procedures

(https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/minority-teachers-of-illinois-mti-scholarship-program.html#changes) on our website.



1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209 800.899.ISAC (4722) Website: Isac.org E-mail: Isac.studentsen/ices@illinois.gov

### MINORITY TEACHER OF ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (MTI) APPLICATION/TEACHING AGREEMENT/PROMISSORY NOTE ADDENDUM

#### Certification of Eligibility Requirements

You must read the eligibility requirements below and certify your eligibility for the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Program. By completing this Addendum, you will be certifying that you meet the criteria listed in Eligibility Status 1 or Eligibility Status 2, below.

#### Eligibility Status 1

You are not a U.S. ditzen (U.S. National) and you are not an "eligible noncitizen". ("Eligible noncitizen" is described below.)

#### And

You meet all of the following requirements:

- you resided with your parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in Illinois;
- you graduated from a public or private high school, or received the equivalent of a high school diploma, in Illinois;
- 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;
- you have not established a residence outside of lilinois; and
- by signing the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program Application/Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note Addendum, you will
  provide an affidavit stating that you will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity you
  are eligible to do so.

#### Eligibility Status 2

You are a U.S. citizen (U.S. National) or you are an "eligible noncitizen". ("Eligible noncitizen" is described below.)

#### And

You are a transgender person.

"Generally, an eligible noncitizen is defined by federal law as any of the following:

- U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card (formerly kno
- Conditional permanent resident (I-551C);
- other eligible noncitizen with an Amval-Departure Record (I-94) from the designations: "Refugee", "Asylum Granted", "Indefinite Parole", "Humanit
- a citizen of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Isla
- hold a T nonimmigrant status ("T-visa") (for victims of human trafficking)
- a "battered immigrant-qualified alien" who is a victim of abuse by your cit
  designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

#### Certification/Affidavit

By signing this Addendum, I certify that I have read the Eligibility Requirements and that I either meet the requirements of Eligibility Status 1 or Eligibility Status 2, as stated, making me eligible to complete the application for the Minority Teachers of Illnois Scholarship Program.

I also understand that I have applied to be considered for the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program and that my eligibility will be determined based on additional factors, including, but not limited to, my Illinois residency and the availability of funds appropriated by the State.

If I am not a U.S. citizen (U.S. National) or eligible noncitizen as defined in federal law, I hereby swear on oath that I will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity I am eligible to do so.

I further certify that I am the person identified on the application.

I understand that any person who, by means of any faise statement, wilful 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 of the information and attestations provided in the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program Application/Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note and Addendum are true, accurate and complete.

Signature	Printed Name	Date

Potent by Authority of the State of Binois

### List of Participating Schools

- Can be accessed at:
  - Student section of ISAC website
    - https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/documents/2223MTISchools.pdf
    - Job Aids section of the E-Library



1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209 800.899.ISAC (4722)

Website: isac.org E-mail: isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

### 2022-23 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program Approved Illinois Schools

Last Updated September 7, 2021

FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL CITY
001633	AUGUSTANA COLLEGE	ROCK ISLAND
001634	AURORA UNIVERSITY	AURORA
001767	BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY	LISLE
001638	BLACK HAWK COLLEGE	ALL LOCATIONS
001639	BLACKBURN COLLEGE	CARLINVILLE
001641	BRADLEYUNIVERSITY	PEORIA
007265	CARL SANDBURG COLLEGE	GALESBURG
001694	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
006656	COLLEGE OF DUPAGE	GLEN ELLYN
007694	COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY	GRAYSLAKE
001665	COLUMBIA COLLEGE	CHICAGO

### MTI Processing

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



### MTI Processing

- Application
  - Made available each December prior to start of the award year
  - Student completes application online
  - Creates a student record in MTI system in GAP Access
- Initial Certification
  - Applicant data is provided to schools in GAP Access
  - Schools must certify student's eligibility status and verify enrollment
  - Generates a notification to ineligible applicants
- Rank and Awarding
  - Initial qualification
  - Students with a completed certification will be considered for an award
- Notification
  - ISAC sends letters to MTI students
  - Schools receive award eligibility information in GAP Access
- Payment
  - Schools submit payment requests in GAP Access and credit student accounts
  - ISAC authorizes payment and provides result reports to schools
  - Payment sent to the schools from the Comptroller's office

### MTI Awarding

- 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
- Students cannot be awarded MTI and GA in the same award year
  - MTI and GA cannot be used with SETTW

### MTI 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

### MTI Program News

- As a result of the Education and Workforce Equity Act (Public Act 101-0654), several changes will be implemented for the MTI program, effective for the 2022-23 award year
  - Legislation passed following the January 2021 Lame Duck session
  - Signed into law on March 8, 2021
- Future MTI enhancements:
  - Increases the percentage of funds to be reserved for male applicants to 35%, with priority given to qualified Black males
  - Incorporates consideration of financial need in awarding
  - Allows for students to be eligible for MTI even if not yet enrolled in an educator preparation program if they have received a College and Career Pathways Endorsement and commit to enrolling in a course of study leading to teacher licensure
  - If funding reaches specified thresholds:
    - Award amount would increase to \$7,500
    - Funds would be reserved for qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority given to students enrolled in a program with a concentration in bilingual, bicultural education

### MTI Program News

- □ New MTI definitions/terminology for 2022-23
  - Qualified bilingual minority applicant
    - A qualified student who demonstrates proficiency in a language other than English by receiving a <u>State Seal of Biliteracy</u> from the <u>State Board of</u> Education or receiving a passing score on an <u>educator licensure target language proficiency test</u>.
  - College and Career Pathway Endorsements
    - Pursuant to Section 80 of the <u>Postsecondary and Workforce</u> <u>Readiness Act</u>
      - Students earn endorsements by completing an individualized learning plan, a career-focused instructional sequence, and professional learning opportunities.

### MTI Program News

- New School Requirement for MTI Program, Effective for 2022-23 Award Year
  - Each institution that participates in the MTI program shall host an annual information session about the program for teacher candidates of color
  - Each program recipient enrolled at the institution is expected to meet with an academic advisor at least once per academic year in an effort to facilitate on-time completion the student's educator preparation

### 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

#### Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

#### Program News

(last updated September 22, 2021)

2021-22 Program Funding

2021-22 Payment (submit first-term claims by December 10, 2021)

2021-22 Award Determination

2021-22 Certification

2021-22 Application

Enrollment Status Verification

#### 2021-22

#### **Program Funding**

The 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) appropriation for the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship is \$1,900,000.

#### Payment

As announced in a September 14 e-Message, MTI Payment requests can be completed online and submitted electronically to ISAC via the MTI system.

#### What's new

- Effective with the 2021-22 payment cycle, and as part of our ongoing efforts to best leverage appropriated funds to award as many eligible students as possible, priority payment request deadline dates are being established for each term.
  - The first-term payment request deadline date is Friday, December 10, 2021.
  - The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC staff to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable.

Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, which involves generating the request (either individually or in a batch) and then submitting the request.

Payment results display on the MTI Student Detail: Payment screen and on the Payment Results/Exception report the day after payment requests are processed. After submitting claims, colleges are encouraged to always review the Payment Results/Exceptions report. Retain a copy of the report for each payment request submitted, so that the invoice number on the report can be matched with the voucher and the funds received from the State Comptroller's Office. After payment requests are processed, vouchers are generated and sent via e-mail to financial aid directors.

The disbursement of funds is processed by the State Comptroller's Office. Refer to the State Comptroller's Website page for information on how to track payment.

For more information, refer to the following locations on ISAC's website:

MTI Payment MTI Electronic Processing MTI User Guide

### isac.org

## An Overview of the Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program

- The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program is a teacher preparation and tuition assistance program for high school seniors and freshman and sophomore Illinois college students
- Applicants go through a rigorous selection process
  - Eligibility criteria, application and awarding is handled by the Golden Apple Foundation
- Award amounts are based on the student's academic level (and year in the GA program)
  - Maximum annual award for freshmen and sophomores is \$2,500
  - Maximum annual award for juniors and seniors is \$5,000
- Recipients commit to teach for five years in Illinois

### GA Application Process

- Students apply directly to the Golden Apple Foundation at goldenapple.org
  - Students complete an online application including references and personal statements
  - Participate in prospective Scholar interviews with the Foundation
- Teachers, counselors, principals may also submit a student referral to the Foundation
  - The Foundation will contact the student to provide information on how to apply
- Students may apply as a:
  - High school senior
  - College freshmen or sophomore at partner universities in Illinois
  - Community college students in Illinois

### GA Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act
- Resident of Illinois
- Illinois high school senior, Illinois partner university freshman or sophomore, Illinois community college student.
- Enrolled at an institution designated as a participating college by the Golden Apple Foundation
- 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
- Earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (if a sophomore, junior or senior)

### GA Processing

- Application
  - Students submits application to the Golden Apple Foundation
  - The Foundation provides data to ISAC regarding eligible applicants
    - Tracks the student's year in the program on each applicant's file
  - Applicant data is loaded into GAP Access
- Certification
  - Golden Apple Foundation completes certification of eligible applicants
- Awarding
  - Award amounts are determined by the Foundation
  - Award amount will display in GAP Access when certification is complete
- Notification
  - Golden Apple Foundation notifies GA students
  - Schools receive information in GAP Access
- Payment
  - Schools submit payment requests in GAP Access and credit student accounts
  - ISAC authorizes payment and provides result reports to schools
  - Payment sent to the schools from the Comptroller's office

### GA Certification and Awarding

- The Golden Apple Foundation completes the certification process for eligible Golden Apple recipients
  - Adjustments to a student's academic level during an award year that may impact a student's award amount must be reported to the Golden Apple Foundation so they can update the student's record, if applicable
    - In determining whether to adjust the award amount, the Foundation considers both the academic level based on credits earned and the number of years the student has been in the Golden Apple Scholars program.
      - For example, if a Scholar enters the fall term as a sophomore and earns enough credits to be considered a junior in the 2<sup>nd</sup> term, the Foundation may choose to keep the student at the \$2,500 max award amount (\$1250 for the spring term) since the student is still in the second year of the Scholars program.
- Students cannot be awarded MTI and GA in the same award year
- MTI and GA cannot be used with SETTW

### GA Teaching Requirements

- Scholars agree to teach for five years in an Illinois
   School of Need
- The five-year teaching commitment must start within two years after completion of the degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded.
- If the student is unable or unwilling to fulfill the teaching commitment, the award converts to a loan, payable in full, plus expenses incurred in debt collecting.

#### Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program

#### **Program News**

(last updated September 22, 2021)

2021-22 Program Funding

2021-22 Payment (submit first-term claims by December 10, 2021)

2021-22 Application, Certification and Award Determination

#### 2021-22

#### Program Funding

The 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) appropriation for the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Scholarship is \$6,498,000.

#### 2021-22

#### Payment

As announced in an September 14 e-Message, payment requests for the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program can be completed online and submitted electronically to ISAC via the Golden Apple system.

#### What's New

- Effective with the 2021-22 payment cycle, and as part of our ongoing efforts to best leverage
  appropriated funds to award as many eligible students as possible, priority payment request
  deadline dates are being established for each term.
  - The first-term payment request deadline date is Friday, December 10, 2021.
  - The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC staff to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable.
- An "Academic Level" field has been added to the "Payment Requests" screen, where colleges must provide each Scholar's academic level (e.g., Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior).
- Each Golden Apple recipient's maximum annual award amount is based on the number of years that they have been a Golden Apple Scholar (i.e., "Year in Program"), not their academic level in college.
- The Golden Apple User Guide will soon be updated to reflect these changes.

Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, which involves generating the request (either individually or in a batch) and then submitting the request.

Payment results display on the Golden Apple Student Detail: Payment screen and on the Payment Results/Exception report the day after payment requests are processed. After submitting claims, colleges are encouraged to always review the Payment Results/Exceptions report. Retain a copy of the report for each payment request submitted, so that the invoice number on the report can be matched with the voucher and the funds received from the State Comptroller's Office. After payment requests are processed, vouchers are generated and sent via e-mail to financial aid directors.

The disbursement of funds is processed by the State Comptroller's Office. Refer to the State Comptroller's Website page for information on how to track payment.

### isac.org

### MTI and GA Payment Processing

- □ Payment rosters are completed online and submitted to ISAC in GAP Access for the MTI and GA programs
  - Payment is requested per term. Includes all terms of enrollment that were certified by the school
- □ The college certifies student eligibility and then submits a payment request on behalf of the student.
- ISAC processes the payment request and submits the information to the State Comptroller's Office.
- ■Dependent on the level of State of Illinois funding available at the time of request, the amount of time it takes for funds to arrive at the college can vary

# 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 or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act;
- An Illinois resident
- 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
- Meeting school's satisfactory academic progress criteria
- 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
- An 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 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

#### Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

#### **Program News**

(last updated August 29, 2021)

2021-22 Certification 2021-22 Award Determination 2021-22 Application

Enrollment Status Verification

#### 2021-22

#### Certification

Functionality to certify eligibility for 2021-22 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program newly-awarded students – as well as transfer students – is available in the SETTW system within the GAP Access portal. This new online process replaces the verification roster and certification form that had previously been e-mailed to schools.

Each of the twelve Illinois public universities with students who were awarded 2021-22 tuition waivers was sent an e-mail on August 27, 2021, indicating that the students' eligibility must be certified via the SETTW system. If subsequent 2021-22 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send similar e-mail messages to impacted institutions.

Further details are provided at the Tuition Waiver Process page and in the Tuition Waiver Certification Process User Guide.

#### Award Determination

Award notifications and Illinois SETTW Rights and Responsibilities documents for the 2021-22 academic year were sent to 250 eligible applicants on June 2, 2021. Letters were sent to all other qualified applicants who were not selected.

Refer to the Determining Awards for SETTW section of this area of the website for more information about the award process, including links to sample award notifications and the Rights and Responsibilities document. The SETTW program provides tuition waivers for attendance at public universities in Illinois. Awards are not subject to annual appropriations by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor.

Implementation of the 2021-22 award verification process in GAP Access is anticipated to take place in late summer of 2021. At that time, further details will be provided via this area of the website, the FAA Message Board, and/or ISAC's e-Messaging system.

#### Application

ISAC is no longer accepting applications for the 2021-22 Illinois SETTW Program. The priority application consideration date for the 2021-22 academic year was March 1, 2021. Applications postmarked after the priority application consideration date are considered only if available waivers remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded. It is anticipated that the application for the 2022-23 Illinois SETTW Program will be available at this website in mid-December of 2021.

## isac.org

### 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

# Illinois Loan Repayment Program for Teachers

- Encourages students to enter and continue teaching in Illinois schools in low-income areas
- Eligible applicants can receive up to \$5,000 to repay student loan debt

- To be eligible:
  - Must first qualify for the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program
    - Teach full-time for five complete and consecutive academic years in a low-income school
    - Must complete teaching requirement at an Illinois school
- Applicants must:
  - Complete an ISAC application
    - Must be submitted to ISAC within six months of the date on the Notice of Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness eligibility
  - Provide documentation of teaching service in Illinois
- Note: The complete name of the ISAC program is the Illinois Teachers & Child Care Providers Loan Repayment Program, however, because the Federal Child Care Provider Loan Forgiveness Program is no longer available, there is no longer an application for the Illinois Child Care Providers Program.

- Eligibility requirements:
  - U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
  - Resident of Illinois
  - Be a borrower who has had an amount of their educational loans forgiven by the federal teacher loan forgiveness program
    - Fulfilled the federal requirements at a school in Illinois
  - Have a balance remaining on eligible student loan(s)

- Application process
  - Download and complete the current ISAC application
  - Submit ISAC application and supporting documentation
    - Approval letter for the federal loan forgiveness
    - A copy of the federal application used to apply for the federal program
      - Showing that teaching service was met at an Illinois school
    - A copy of the documentation showing the amount and the date of the federal loan forgiveness
  - Applicants must apply <u>within six months</u> after receiving notification of federal loan forgiveness



1755 Lake Cook Road

Destfeld, E. 60015
800.899 ISAC (4722)
Website: www.lacc.org

E-mail: leac.studenteen/coe@illnois.gov

### FISCAL YEAR 2022 (JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022) ILLINOIS TEACHERS LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATION

WARNING: Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresentation on this form shall be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Important – Please note that your Social Security number is needed for identification, verification and processing purposes in furtherance of your request for financial skit. ISAC will only accept an explication with an original the scenarios or a content or experient.

Please enter the followi	ng information:						
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ddress			Employer's				
City, State, ZIP Code							
			City, State, ZIP Code				
iome Telephone			Work Telephone				
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must include the date the loan was forgiven and the amount forgiven.



### Borrower Identification



Loan Repayment Request



List of Required Documentation

#### SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

- The Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue in the teaching profession. Under this program, individuals who teach full-time for five consecutive, complete academic years in certain Illinois elementary and secondary schools that serve low-income families and meet other qualifications may be eligible for a grant of up to \$5,000.
- This grant is available to Illinois teachers who meet the qualifications for federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness under 20 U.S.C 1078-10, Section 428J.
- The total number of awards each year is contingent on available funding. If funding is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants, awarding is based on the date the complete application, with all required documentation, is received in ISAC's Deerfield office.
- The documentation required in Section 3 and any other requested documentation must be submitted as a part of this application.
- All applicable sections of this form must be complete. The application will be considered for processing as of the date the fullycompleted application and all supporting documentation are received in ISAC's Deerfield office.
- Return the complete application to the address shown in Section 6.

#### SECTION 5: DEFINITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

#### DEFINITIONS

#### Academic year

- · one complete school year at the same school, or
- two complete and consecutive half years at different schools, or
- two complete and consecutive half years from different school years at either the same school or different schools.
   Half years exclude summer sessions and generally fall within a 12-month period. For schools that have a year-round program of instruction, a minimum of nine months is considered an academic year.
- Elementary school is a public or nonprofit private school that provides elementary education as determined by state law and has a
  high concentration of students from low-income families as determined by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Full time means the standard used by the state in defining full-time employment as a teacher. If you teach in more than one school, full time is based on the combination of all your qualifying employment.
- Holder is an entity that holds your loan promissory note and has the right to collect from you.
- Loan Servicer is an entity that collects payments on a federal student loan, responds to customer service inquiries, and performs
  other administrative tasks associated with maintaining a federal student loan on behalf of a loan holder.
- A Resident of Illinois is a person who physically resides in Illinois, and Illinois is his or her true, fixed, and permanent home.
- Secondary school is a public or nonprofit private school that provides secondary education as determined by state law and has a
  high concentration of students from low-income families as determined by the U.S. Department of Education.
- A Teacher is a person who provides direct classroom teaching, or classroom-type teaching in a non-classroom setting, including special education teachers. A school librarian or guidance counselor is not considered a teacher for the purposes of this program.

#### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- You must have been a borrower and received a federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1078-10, Section 428J, and have applied for Illinois Teachers Loan Forgiveness within 6 months of the date on the Notice of Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness eligibility.
- You must have fulfilled your teaching requirements in Illinois at an elementary or secondary school that serves low-income families
  as determined by the U.S. Department of Education.
- You must be a resident of Illinois.
- You must be a citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- You must have a balance remaining on your eligible student loan(s).

#### SECTION 6: RETURNING THE APPLICATION AND ASSISTANCE

#### Please return the complete application and all required documentation to:

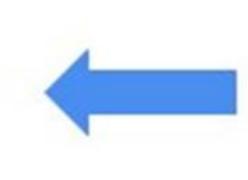
Illinois Student Assistance Commission Dept. D 1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

Applicants should keep a copy of the complete application and documents. Incomplete applications and/or missing documentation will delay an eligibility decision.

If you have questions please contact a Call Center Representative at 800.899.ISAC (4722) or at isac.studentservices@illinois.gov.

## General Information & Instructions





Mailing & Contact
Information

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## Teacher Resources

#### Teaching

Are you thinking about becoming a teacher, but want to make sure it's right for you? There are probably a lot of things you're wondering about, like what you'll need to do to be certified to teach, what salaries teachers make, how you can pay for college and others. Use the information below to find the answers to your questions. The academic advisor at the college you're planning to attend can also counsel you about which classes to take to prepare you for your teaching career.

#### Teacher Preparation and Certification

Before you decide to enter the teaching profession, take advantage of the information provided by the Illinois Career Information System - overviews of different teaching fields, including course planning, employment outlook, working condition and wages. You can also access tools available via the Resources area of the ISAC Student Portal – including Cappex and the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard – to help you locate Illinois colleges that offer degrees in education. Additionally, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Division of Educator Licensure website provides the testing requirements to be certified to teach in Illinois, testing preparation and other valuable information about becoming a teacher.

Teacher education candidates preparing to take the required (unless candidate has an ACT Composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT plus Writing exam) Basic Skills/Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) may find the websites listed below helpful. Additionally, many colleges provide testing tools; check with your advisor for their recommendations.

- http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL17\_ictscbt.asp
- http://www.icts.nesinc.com/PDFs/IL\_PracticeTest.pdf
- http://www.il.nesinc.com/
- http://www.icts.nesinc.com/pdfs/il\_field400\_sg.pdf

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#### State of Illinois/ISAC Programs

There are several programs designed specifically for students studying to become teachers, to help pay for college, including the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program, the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program, and the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

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#### Federal Programs

The federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program was designed to benefit current and prospective teachers.

The U.S. Departments of Education and Defense offer the Troops to Teachers program to help military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools. Illinois Troops to Teachers provides information specific to teaching in Illinois, including teacher certification requirements, information about teaching degree programs and assistance in locating employment opportunities.

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**Paying For College** 

**Applying For Financial Aid** 

Types Of Financial Aid

**Advanced Degree** 

**Medical Professions** 

**Military Service** 

Teaching

www.isac.org

#### **Programs Comparison**

A comparison chart provides a side-by-side view of the MTI Scholarship, Illinois SETTW, federal TEACH Grant, and Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois programs.

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#### **Program Requirements**

Some financial aid programs – including many teacher programs – have requirements that must be fulfilled as a condition to receiving the financial aid. If the conditions are not met, the financial aid received will convert to a loan. Be sure you understand what you're agreeing to before accepting the award(s). To learn about the requirements associated with ISAC's programs, refer to our Program Requirements page.

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#### Finding a Teaching Job

Those teaching program recipients who are required to teach as part of their financial aid requirements may find these websites helpful in locating a teacher position in the required field/area.

- Illinois Network of Charter Schools
- School Spring
- ISBE
- Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA)
- K-12 JobSpot
- Noble Network Charter Schools

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#### Loan Cancellation/Forgiveness/Repayment Programs for Teachers

There are also programs available to help teachers repay their student loans after college. The Federal Perkins Loan Cancellation for Teachers program, the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, and some of the Illinois Loan Repayment/Forgiveness Programs offer options for repayment or cancellation of student loans, based on certain teaching requirements.

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#### Additional Resources

 Teacher.org - teacher advocacy site for students interested in considering teaching (and other avenues within the field of Education) as a career

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### **Comparison of Teacher Education Programs**

	Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program (ISAC program)	Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program (ISAC program)	TEACH Grant Program (Federal program)	Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program (ISAC/Golden Apple 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	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	No deadline date – eligibility determined by FAFSA completion for attendance at any college participating in the TEACH Grant Program	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
Enrollment Requirements	At least half time as an undergraduate or graduate student	Register in a special education program as an undergraduate or graduate student within 10 days of the beginning of the term following receipt of the waiver	No minimum enrollment requirement as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate student	Full time as an undergraduate
Award Amount (cannot exceed the cost of attendance)	Up to \$5,000 per year for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters to cover tuition, fees, room and board	Exemption from paying tuition and mandatory fees for up to 4 calendar years at one of the public four-year colleges in Illinois that offer a concentration in special education	Up to \$4,000 per year for undergraduate and/or post-baccalaureate study	Tuition assistance up to \$23,000
Awarding Criteria	Funds awarded to timely renewal applicants first, and then in date received order until funds are exhausted, with a preference given to those in junior status and above; at least 30% of allocated funds reserved for male students (on January 1 of each fiscal year reserved funds may be awarded to female applicants)	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).	None	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 course work needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification	Seeking initial teacher certification in a special education discipline	Enrolled in coursework necessary to begin career in teaching	Seeking initial certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary, middle or secondary level or pursuing additional course work needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification
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 termination of the academic program of study funded by the scholarship, and teach full time on a continuous basis until the obligation is fulfilled	Begin teaching on a full-time basis, in the field of special education, 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	a public or private elementary or secondary school or educational service agency that serves low-income students for at least four years within eight	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
Repayment (if teaching commitment not fulfilled)	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	Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date

ISBE - Illinois State Board of Education

<sup>\*\*</sup> High-need fields are identified on the TEACH Grant Program page at studentaid.ed.gov

Students cannot receive an award from more than one ISAC teacher program during the same term

### ISAC Contact Information

### School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Tania Mendoza, Partner & Training Services

Tania.Mendoza@illinois.gov

## Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!