

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PART 2760
STATE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Section	
2760.10	Summary and Purpose
2760.20	State Scholar Eligibility
2760.30	Program Procedures

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 25 and authorized by Section 20 (f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/25 and 20(f)].

SOURCE: Adopted at 3 Ill. Reg. 4, p. 38, effective January 26, 1979; amended at 4 Ill. Reg. 16, p. 118, effective April 7, 1980; rules repealed, new rules adopted at 5 Ill. Reg. 7251, effective June 26, 1981; amended at 6 Ill. Reg. 8413, effective June 30, 1982; codified at 7 Ill. Reg. 10878; amended at 9 Ill. Reg. 20877, effective January 1, 1986; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 3242, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 14137, effective August 10, 1987; amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 8654, effective July 1, 1989; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1760 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2760 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17868; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 10589, effective July 1, 1990; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11321, effective July 1, 1992; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10624, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10346, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8395, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9251, effective July 1, 1996; Old Part repealed and New Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11222, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11170, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9201, effective July 1, 2000.

Section 2760.10 Summary and Purpose

- a) The State Scholar Program publicly and personally identifies graduating high school seniors who possess superior academic potential. Each student designated as a State Scholar receives a Certificate of Achievement and statewide recognition in the news media. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) provides the names of State Scholars to Illinois colleges and universities which actively seek State Scholars for admission. No financial assistance is awarded by ISAC through this program.
- b) This Part establishes rules which govern the State Scholar Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

Section 2760.20 State Scholar Eligibility

- a) To be considered for the State Scholar Program, a high school student shall:
 - 1) demonstrate superior academic potential as measured by test scores and high school records;
 - 2) be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;

- 3) be a resident of Illinois;
 - 4) rank in the upper half of his/her high school class at the end of the third semester prior to graduation from high school (normally the sixth semester); and
 - 5) attend an approved high school.
- b) To be considered for the State Scholar Program, a student must take either the ACT Assessment or the College Board's SAT I: Reasoning Test, during the third or fourth semester prior to graduation from high school (e.g., for a student attending high school for the traditional eight semesters, the exam must be taken during the fifth or sixth semester).
- 1) A student may take either or both examinations during the designated period.
 - 2) All scores from such tests taken during the designated period must be submitted to ISAC.
 - 3) If a student submits scores from multiple examinations taken during the designated period, ISAC will use the highest score.
 - 4) When a student submits scores to ISAC, the student must report his/her academic level at the time the test was taken.
- c) ISAC will accept supplementary score reports of tests taken during the designated period upon the student's authorization to the test service. Such authorization by the student must be received by ISAC before August 1.
- d) Students who, for any reason, are unable to take a test on a regular testing date should make special arrangements to be tested in accordance with the procedures of the testing service. Any such special arrangements must take into account the test score submission deadline in subsections (b) and (c) of this Section.

(Source: Amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9201, effective July 1, 2000)

Section 2760.30 Program Procedures

- a) In order for its students to be considered for the State Scholar Program, a high school must calculate and provide to ISAC class ranks as of the third semester prior to graduation of students who desire to be considered for the Program.
- 1) Class ranks are to be calculated so that the class rank for the lowest grade point average (GPA) equals the total number of students being ranked.

Example: Class Rank	GPA
1	99.3
2	98.9
2	98.9
4	98.1
5	97.9
5	97.9
7	97.4

- 2) The equivalent term rank shall be provided for students planning to graduate in other than the traditional four years (see Section 2760.20(b)).
- b) Test scores submitted in accordance with this Part shall be converted to an Illinois Standard Test Score as follows:
- 1) The ACT Assessment Composite Score shall be the Illinois Standard Test Score.
 - 2) SAT I verbal and math scores shall be added, and then converted to the Illinois Standard Test Score using the table below.

Illinois Standard Test Score Table

Illinois Standard Test Score	SAT I Verbal + Math	ACT Composite
36	1580 to 1600	36
35	1530 to 1570	35
34	1500 to 1520	34
33	1450 to 1490	33
32	1400 to 1440	32
31	1360 to 1390	31
30	1320 to 1350	30
29	1280 to 1310	29
28	1240 to 1270	28
27	1200 to 1230	27
26	1170 to 1190	26
25	1130 to 1160	25
24	1090 to 1120	24
23	1050 to 1080	23
22	1010 to 1040	22
21	970 to 1000	21
20	930 to 960	20
19	890 to 920	19
18	850 to 880	18
17	810 to 840	17
16	760 to 800	16
15	710 to 750	15
14	660 to 700	14
13	620 to 650	13
12	570 to 610	12
11	520 to 560	11
10	470 to 510	10
9	430 to 460	9
8	400 to 420	8

- c) High school class ranks submitted in accordance with this Part shall be converted to an Illinois Standard Rank Score as follows:

- 1) First, determine the percentile of the class rank for each student in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Percentile} = \frac{\text{[Size of Class MINUS (Rank in Class minus .5)]}}{\text{divided by Size of Class}}$$

- 2) Then, use the table below to convert a percentile class rank to the Illinois Standard Rank Score.

Percentile	Illinois Standard Rank Score
99.75 - 99.99	30
99.54 - 99.74	29
99.19 - 99.53	28
98.62 - 99.18	27
97.73 - 98.61	26
96.42 - 97.72	25
94.53 - 96.41	24
91.93 - 94.52	23
88.50 - 91.92	22
84.14 - 88.49	21
78.82 - 84.13	20
72.58 - 78.81	19
65.55 - 72.57	18
57.94 - 65.54	17
50.00 - 57.93	16

- d) An Illinois Weighted Selection Score for each student shall be computed by adding the Illinois Standard Test Score to the Illinois Standard Rank Score.
- e) In any academic year, the number of State Scholars is approximately equal to ten percent of the estimated total number of Illinois high school graduates. ISAC annually establishes a minimum Weighted Selection Score to yield this result.
- f) Notwithstanding the previous provisions in this Section, any student nominated by his or her school shall be designated a State Scholar if that student achieves a score at or above the 95th percentile on the ACT Assessment examination, or the equivalent thereof on a comparable examination, regardless of that student's class rank.
- g) A Certificate of Achievement and congratulatory letter are issued for each State Scholar.
- h) A listing of State Scholars shall be available upon request to colleges, members of the General Assembly and to the media.
- i) Mailing labels of State Scholars' names shall be available, at cost, to Illinois colleges, universities and associations of Illinois colleges. Payment must be received by ISAC at the time the mailing labels are ordered. Requestors of labels shall provide written assurance to ISAC that the labels will not be resold or released to others in any manner.

- j) High school officials or student candidates shall have a period of 60 days following the announcement of the State Scholars to appeal a student's status. (See: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.70, Appeal Procedures.)
- k) If an appeal concerning an applicant's eligibility is received, ISAC shall request the high school verify the reported data. If the conflict remains, ISAC shall conduct an audit of the high school's records in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.60.

(Source: Amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11170, effective July 1, 1998)