ISAC

ISAC Operational Update and Program News

August 30, 2023

2022-23 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2023

2022-23 Close Out

- Debit letters for the 2022-23 MAP, MTI and ECACE programs have been sent to Financial Aid Directors
  - These are sent to institutions that have an outstanding amount due to ISAC for one or more of these programs
  - The letter provides a summary of the total amount due to ISAC for each program
  - All refund checks should be made payable to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission
    - Refund checks should be accompanied by a [Gift Assistance Programs Check Return Form](#), and the specific term(s) and program(s) for each refund must be identified
    - Please do not send refund checks to ISAC without providing the appropriate adjustment data

- Funds are due to ISAC by September 29, 2023

- The address to send checks and the Check Return Form to is:
  - Finance & Accounting Division - J10, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Rd Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

- Questions may be directed ISAC's School Services Department at 866-247-2172 or isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC

isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/

GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS REFUND CHECK FORM

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209
866.247.2172
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

Please report the dollar amount refunded for each program/year if submitting a single check with funds for **multiple** programs or academic years.

Mail Refund Checks to:
Finance & Accounting Division - J10
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

To ensure refunds are credited to the correct account (both school and/or student) and the appropriate ISAC gift assistance program, please complete the requested information below.

DATE SENT TO ISAC	
SCHOOL NAME	
MAP CODE /ED CODE/IVG CODE	
PROGRAM(S)	
ACADEMIC YEAR(S)	
VOUCHER NUMBER (specific to the above academic year)	
TERM(S)	
CHECK NUMBER	
CHECK DOLLAR AMOUNT	$

REASON FOR REFUND

[ ] Returning Amount Due at End of Year: Per ISAC's letter indicating total amount owed.

[ ] Current and/or Prior Year Refund:
- *Provide the students' names and Social Security numbers (last 4-digits);*
- *Indicate actual credit hours enrolled;*
- *List dollar amount refunded for each term; and*
- *State the institution's reason for the refund.*

[ ] External Compliance: ISAC's Finance & Accounting Division will forward a copy of the Final Program Review Report to the appropriate internal department.

[ ] Other Refund: Provide Explanation

ISAC #3247 06/19 (ON3247 Web 6/19) Printed by authority of the State of Illinois

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ISAC Gift Assistance Programs   Other Programs   **Processes**   ISAC Administrative Rules   E-Library   Partner Training

Home › Financial Aid Administrators › Processes › Refunds And Unpaid Claims ›

Refunds and Unpaid Claims

Upon receipt of disbursements, schools must verify each recipient's enrollment status for the term for which payment was made. When it is becomes necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, it must be done in a timely manner. A Gift Assistance Refund Check Form must also be completed and submitted along with the payment.

In regard to unpaid claims, schools or students can seek recourse at the end of the year through the Court of Claims. Appropriate documentation must accompany all claim forms. All correspondence must be written, and filing a claim does not guarantee payment. As of July 1, 2000, there is a two-year time limit to file Court of Claims.

MAP Electronic Processing
MAP Advising Data Collection
MPCH Adjustments (COVID: Spring 2020)
NON-MAP Programs Adjustments (COVID: Spring 2020)
ING Grant Electronic Processing
IVG Electronic Processing
ECACE Electronic Processing
GA Electronic Processing
MTI Electronic Processing
Gift Assistance Budget Instructions
External Compliance Program Review
State Comptroller's Website
Refunds And Unpaid Claims
Returning Program Funds To ISAC
Court Of Claims
Payment Offset And Reconciliation

Home › Financial Aid Administrators › Processes › Refunds And Unpaid Claims › Returning Program Funds To ISAC ›

Returning Program Funds to ISAC

When it is necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, a Gift Assistance Refund Check Form must be completed and submitted along with the payment. It provides the following:

- Information about program funds being returned;
- ensures that refunds are credited to the proper account (both school and/or student), program, and academic year; and
- In situations where the school checks the box "current and/or prior year refund," the form asks that a list of student names and SSNs for whom payment is being returned be attached.

ISAC will continue to offset Monetary Award Program (MAP) funds from future payments to the school for awards that are cancelled or reduced during the academic year.

The Gift Assistance Refund Check Form, along with the check(s) made payable to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, should be sent to:

Finance & Accounting division - J10
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

ISAC

2023-24 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

FY24 ISAC Program Appropriations

- Monetary Award Program (MAP) − $701,566,200
- Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program − $10,750,000
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program − $8,000,000
- Social Work Scholarship/Repayment Programs (combined appropriation) − $6,000,000
- Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) − $4,000,000
  Grant Programs for Dependents of Police, Fire or Correctional Officers − $1,300,000
- Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program − $975,000
- Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program − $500,000
- Grant Program for Exonerees − $150,000
- Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program − $26,400
- AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program − $50,000,000
  - AIM HIGH Program funds are disbursed in lump sums by ISAC to public universities.

ISAC

2023-24 MAP Payment Processing

- Schools may begin to submit 2023-24 payment requests for the fall term

- 2023-24 MAP maximum award amount is $8,400

  - Claims may be submitted through the MAP system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol process
    - Deadlines dates for the first term will be set later this fall

- Payment requests are processed on a nightly basis and results are provided the next business day

- See the August 21 e-Message for program updates:
isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2023-0821.html

ISAC

MAP – Certificate Programs

- To request MAP payment for a student in an eligible certificate program, report the number of credit-based hours in which the student is enrolled for the term.
    - If the student is enrolled in additional coursework, the number of enrollment hours reported should be the combination of the certificate program hours and other coursework the student may be enrolled in.

- When submitting a MAP payment request for a student in a certificate program, the Short-Term Certificate Program indicator should be checked in the MAP system.
    - The certificate box should be checked even if the hours are mixed (a combination of traditional and certificate program courses).
    - Help text is provided to clarify when the indicator should be checked.

- For payment requests submitted via File Transfer Protocol, a "Y" indicator should be provided in Field #24 in the FTP file, per the file specifications.

Check this box if some or all of the term MAP award will be used for a credit-based Occupational or Career and Technical Certificate program at a public institution, and it is a program that is not currently eligible for federal Title IV financial aid.

ISAC

MAP – Certificate Programs

- If requesting payment in the MAP system in GAP Access, the indicator can be provided on the:
  - o Student Payment Detail screen – for individual reporting
  - o Input Enrollment screen – for batch reporting, will apply to all students entered on the screen
  - o Payment Generation screen – for batch processing; will apply to all students selected (and saved) on the Student Payment List

MAP – Processing Reminder

- If a payment request has been submitted for a term and the MAP code needs to be corrected or updated:

  - First, cancel the original request (just as you would do a cancellation for other reasons, such as a withdrawal)

  - Once the cancellation has processed, submit a new request using the alternate budget code

- This can be done in GAP Access in the MAP system for individual adjustments to a student's record or it may be done using FTP

  - In either case, this would be a two-step process of cancelling the request and letting it process, and then submitting a new request after the cancellation has processed

- Keep in mind claim deadline dates when making this kind of adjustment to ensure plenty of time to cancel and then submit a new claim

ISAC

2023-24 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- Awarding for all Timely Renewal applicants who have been certified as eligible has taken place effective August 18

- Award notifications were mailed to all eligible applicants by ISAC

- Colleges may view award results on the "Student List Eligibility: View screen" in the MTI system within GAP Access

- Online application remains available
  - Priority consideration date was March 31, 2023 to be considered Timely

- Colleges certify eligibility in the MTI system
  - Continue certifying eligibility on a daily basis to ensure your students will be included in the awarding process

- All certification records must be completed, regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled

ISAC

2023-24 MTI Program

- In light of the recent Supreme Court decisions pertaining to college admission practices,

- ISAC continues to administer all of our programs, including MTI, with no changes and in accordance with Illinois statue and ISAC's administrative rules.

- In order to ensure qualified applicants are considered for available program funding, be sure to continue certifying records for both renewal and new applicants so they are included in future rounds of awarding and receive the appropriate notifications.

- isac.org/newsroom/isac-press-releases/2023-Press-Releases/Higher-Ed-FinAid-Leaders.pdf

IBHE ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION **ICCB** ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD **ISAC** Illinois Student Assistance Commission

July 21, 2023

Dear Institution Leaders and Financial Aid Officers,

The recent opinion by the Supreme Court of the United States narrowing universities' ability to consider race in their *admissions* decisions has understandably created angst among students, families, and the higher education community about the immediate implications for admissions and potential future implications beyond admissions into financial aid and other program areas. Furthermore, potential future effects or subsequent rulings make it pertinent to all of higher education. A feeling of uncertainty is expected when something that was settled law for decades is overturned. Now is the time to ask questions, seek counsel, assess our current practices and plan for action; it is not the time for hasty reaction.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) are committed to working with Illinois public and private colleges and universities, highly selective and open enrollment community colleges alike, to ensure racial and ethnic

Featured

- Joint letter from education agencies regarding Supreme Court decision on race-conscious admissions

- ISAC Statement on SCOTUS Decision Blocking Student Debt Relief: Next Steps for Student Borrowers

- ISAC Statement on the SCOTUS Decision Addressing Affirmative Action

- Learn about Public Service Loan Forgiveness

- Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program Application

- 2023-24 ECACE Flyer

- Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

- Visit the ISAC Student Portal

2023-24 MTI Payment Processing

- Schools may begin to submit 2023-24 payment requests for the fall term

- First-term payment requests must be submitted on or before Friday, December 29

- Claims may be submitted through the MTI system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol process

- Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, *generating* the request and then *submitting* the request

- Colleges are encouraged to submit payment requests as soon as possible

ISAC

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2023-24 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Tuition waivers have been awarded in accordance with ISAC Administrative Rules, with priority consideration of March 1, 2023
    - Award notifications and Rights and Responsibilities documents were mailed to eligible applicants
    - Letters were sent to all other qualified applicants who are not selected
    - Be sure to communicate to students what their award amount is

- Schools may now complete the tuition waiver process in GAP Access
    - This is done by certifying eligibility in GAP Access for both newly-awarded students and transfer students is available in the SETTW system within GAP Access

- Each of the public universities with students who were awarded 2023-24 tuition waivers has been sent an e-mail from ISAC
    - Certify each student's eligibility within 60 days of the date on which the e-mail is received

- If subsequent 2023-24 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send similar e-mail messages to impacted institutions.

ISAC

Dual-Awarding Students Eligible for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple

- If a student qualifies for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple the student must choose which program they would like to use
  - A student cannot receive the benefits of two programs in the same award year
  - ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept
  - These letters include a deadline date to return the form

- If a student decides to change which program benefit he/she wants to receive:
  - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made
    - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for MTI before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple

- Program teaching obligations
  - SETTW requires two-year teaching commitment
  - Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment
  - MTI has a one-year teaching commitment for each year that the scholarship is received
  - These programs will convert to a loan that the student must repay if the teaching commitment is not met.

- Schools can find more information on these programs on ISAC's website in the FAA area, the Administrative Rules, and the User Guides
  - isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/2023-24-isac-rules.html
  - isac.org/gap-access/#guide

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Ways to View Students Awarded GA, SETTW & MTI

- Click on 🔍 icon
- This will take you to the Student Detail: Eligibility screen.
- Scroll down to view if the student was also awarded GA or SETTW

MTI   **Student Eligibility List: Sort**

Home **Student** Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Filter **Sort** Columns

Unselected	Selected
☐ Applicant Category	☐ Last Name
☐ Application Complete	☐ First Name
☐ Award Amount	
☐ Award Date	
☐ Awarded GA	
☐ Awarded SETTW	
☐ Certified Date	
☐ DOB	
☐ Default	
☐ Male	

Selected checkboxes will be sorted descending. Unchecked checkboxes will be sorted ascending.

The MTI Student List Eligibility: View screen shows whether a student is also awarded GA or SETTW

- Scroll all the way over using the scroll bar at bottom of screen

Using the "Sort" tab, you can create a list of students who have been awarded MTI, sorted by Award Date

You can also create a list of students who have been awarded GA or SETTW

After selecting your Sort options, click on the "List" tab to view the sorted list of students

Administration School Programs

MTI   **Student List Eligibility: View**

ct School and School Code

[⌄] Go

ne **Student** Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

Filter Sort Columns

ries displayed 100 ⌄

DOB	Male	Default	Units	School Code	Application Complete	Applicant Category	Certified Eligible	Certified Date	Academic Level	Award Amount	Award Date	Awarded GA	Awarded SETTW	Bilingual Certification	EFC
	Yes	N	0			Incomplete						Y			
	Yes	N	0		05/17/2022	Untimely New	Y	07/19/2022	Freshman	0	09/28/202			N	0
	No	N	0		05/17/2022	Untimely New	Y	07/19/2022	Junior	0	01/19/202			N	0
	No	N	0		03/07/2022	Timely New	Y	07/19/2022	Freshman	0	01/19/202	Y		N	39224
	No	N	0		05/19/2022	Ineligible						Y			
	No	N	0			Incomplete						Y			

wing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

|◄ ◄ **1** ► ►|

Dual-Awarding Students with MTI & Golden Apple

- Example of a student for which payment was requested for both the MTI & GA scholarships
- The college must CANCEL one of the scholarships
- This will be an audit finding if not corrected

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2023-24 Military Programs

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant
  - Benefit usage reporting for the Fall Term 2023, which starts the 2023-24 award year, is now available and must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29**.
  - The application is opened and starting with the 2023-24 academic year:
    - there are no longer term deadline dates by which applications must be submitted each term
    - applications must be received by ISAC in time for eligibility to be determined
    - the applicant will need to notify the college about their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the first term for which benefits have been requested
  - Eligibility data for 2023-24 is now available in GAP Access.

- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
  - Online application process is available
    - The application is not specific to an award year
  - Benefit usage reporting for the Summer Term 2023, which starts the 2023-24 award year, is now available and must be submitted **on or before Friday, September 29**.
  - Benefit usage reporting for the Fall Term 2023 must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29**.

ISAC

2023-24 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) Program

- The 2023-24 application for this program is no longer being accepted
  - Application period each year starts on March 1

- The deadline to submit an Application/Promissory Note/Grant Agreement was April 30, 2023
  - Applicants who submitted **an unsigned** application prior to the April 30 deadline were sent a notification of incomplete application

- Program administration for 2023-24 will take place in GAP Access
  - Further details on the certification process and payment request processing will soon be announced when they become available

ISAC

2023-24 ECACE Scholarship Program

- This will be the third year of this federally-funded program

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - Priority access to funding date for the 2023-24 academic year was August 7, 2023
  - Applications continue to be accepted

- Enhancements to eligibility have expanded access to the program
  - ISAC will be offering a webinar in early September to address questions colleges may have about the expanded eligibility criteria for 2023-24
  - Watch for an e-message to announce the date and time

- Further details, including proof of employment requirements, are provided at the Application Procedures for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship page.
  - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/ECACE-scholarship/Application-Procedures/index.html

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2023-24 ECACE – Program Overview

- The ECACE program provides funds for those who are currently working or have worked in the early childhood education field and are seeking additional credentials and degrees.

- Must be an undergraduate or graduate student who attends a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institution.

- A recipient may receive an award amount up to total cost of attendance, after all other financial aid has been applied (last payer)

- The ECACE scholarship is not need-based aid

- Recipients are expected to continue or return to teaching or direct services in the early childhood care and education field in Illinois after completion of their program of study.

ISAC

2023-24 ECACE Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program during the 2023-24 academic year, an applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (federal definition)
- be a member of the incumbent workforce, currently working or having worked in the early childhood industry (in either a licensed or license-exempt facility), including home-based child care (e.g., family, friend, neighbor), center-/community-based care, Preschool for All programs, school-based preschool settings, and Head Start programs, that serve children from birth to age 5. Acceptable positions include teachers, assistant teachers, directors, family child care providers and assistants
  - applicants must provide documentation confirming their current membership in the Gateways to Opportunity® Registry

ISAC

2023-24 ECACE Eligibility Criteria

- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time (at least 3 credit hours) basis at the undergraduate or graduate level at a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institution, and pursuing at least one of the following:

  - an Associate of Applied Science degree (or related certificate) in early childhood education *or* an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood at an approved college;

  - a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with or without a Professional Educator License; or

  - for those who already hold a bachelor's degree:
    - courses to make them eligible for a lead teacher position in a licensed program;
    - a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement;
    - additional endorsements (Bilingual, English as a Second Language, Special Education) or letters of approval or credentials; or,
    - for those seeking licensure, and/or an additional endorsement, a Master's degree in early childhood.

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2023-24 ECACE Processing

- Applications with Timely New, Timely Renewal, Untimely New and Untimely Renewal designations are all considered *complete*

- Prequalification results are available twice each week -- on Wednesday and Friday mornings
  - Only records for students who have completed the online application process and who meet all initial eligibility requirements are considered for prequalification

- Prequalified applicants who have been awarded are eligible for payment and as part of the payment request process, additional eligibility requirements must be verified by the college
  - Colleges must determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving
  - Maximum award amount populates in the "Max Annual Award Amount" field in GAP
  - 2023-24 maximum award amount is $33,558

- First-term payment requests may now be submitted for students who have completed the application process and who have been prequalified by ISAC

ISAC

2023-24 ECACE Processing

- Claims for prequalified students are submitted in the ECACE system in GAP Access

- By submitting a payment request, colleges are certifying that the student is enrolled and continues to meet all eligibility criteria

- A first-term priority payment request deadline date will be announced once it has been determined
  - However, colleges are encouraged to submit payment requests and to indicate if prequalified students will not be accepting their award as soon as possible

- A Payment Result Summary and Invoice Detail Report can be viewed or printed by selecting the Report tab in the ECACE system the day after a payment request has been processed

- Disbursement of funds is processed by the State Comptroller's Office, and payments are made on a monthly basis
  - Allow 4 to 6 weeks for payment processing

Certifying & Payment Request - ECACE System

ECACE 2023-2024: Student Detail: Payments

Home   Application   Student   **Payment**   Reports

By submitting a payment request to ISAC, a college is certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria.

List   Eligibility   **Payment**

Request:
Payment
Cancel
Ineligible
Delete

Enrollment Status:
Full time
Half time
At least 3 credit hrs

Current SSN
[ ] Go

Annual Award Amount
33558.00

Academic Level:
Freshman
Sophomore
Junior
Senior
Graduate/Post Baccalaureate

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring	4-Summer
School Code			
Request	[⌄]	[⌄]	[ ]
Enrollment Status	[⌄]	[⌄]	[ ]
Academic Level	[⌄]	[⌄]	[ ]
Program/Degree Pathway	[⌄]	[⌄]	[ ]
Ineligible Reason	[⌄]	[⌄]	[ ]
Requested Amount	$[ ]	$[ ]	$[ ]

Program/Degree Pathway:
Associate of Applied Science
Bachelor's Degree
Certificate
Master's Degree
Other Post-Baccalaureate Pathway

Requested Amount:
Enter term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving

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Ineligibility Reason - ECACE System

Ineligible Reason:
- Not enrolled this term
- Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen
- Not a HS grad/no GED
- Defaulted student loan
- Not pursuing an early childhood education major
- Not make satisfactory academic progress
- Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
- Student is not accepting ECACE Scholarship
- No remaining unmet cost

If a college determines that a prequalified applicant does not meet all eligibility requirements, they report the reason for ineligibility.

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring	4-Summer
School Code			
Request	⌄	⌄	⌄
Enrollment Status	⌄	⌄	⌄
Academic Level	⌄	⌄	⌄
Program/Degree Pathway	⌄	⌄	⌄
Ineligible Reason	⌄	⌄	⌄
Requested Amount		$	$
Activity Date			
Status			
Result code			
Expanded Result			

Not enrolled this term
Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen
Not a HS grad/no GED
Defaulted student loan
Not pursuing an early childhood education major
Not making satisfactory academic progress
Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
Student is not accepting ECACE Scholarship
No remaining unmet cost

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ECACE – FAQs

- **For which programs, credentials, and degrees may students use the ECACE Scholarship?**

  - To be eligible for the scholarship, a person must be working or have worked in certain positions in an early childhood congregate care setting, such as a child-care center, family childcare, preschool, Head Start, public school preschool, etc.

  - Eligible positions may include teachers, teacher assistants, teacher aides, directors, preschool classroom-based paraprofessionals, and others. Eligible position codes are listed on the ISAC website
    - isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/ecace.html

  - Students must attend eligible programs at Consortium institutions that are Gateways Entitled, if applicable. Eligible applicants may receive scholarships to work towards Gateways Credentials (ECE, Infant Toddler, and/or Director), an early childhood certificate, an associate degree in early childhood, a bachelor's degree in early childhood, with an optional Professional Educator License and endorsement, a master's degree in early childhood for those seeking licensure, and additional endorsements for a Professional Educator License.

ecace.org/ECACE_FAQ.html

ISAC

ECACE – FAQs

- **Are universities required to transfer in the full AAS degree in early childhood? Can universities require additional coursework?**

  o **Public Act 102-0174** requires universities to grant junior level status in an early childhood education program to any student who graduated from an Illinois community college with an Associate of Applied Science degree in early childhood education if the student meets the requirements of the AAS degree program, is transferring from a program entitled to offer the Gateways ECE Credential Level 4 and earns a minimum grade point average of a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

  o A public university may not require students who meet these requirements to repeat courses taken and completed successfully at the community college and applied toward the associate degree, and all courses completed successfully in the AAS degree program must count toward baccalaureate degree completion.

  o Students entering with an AAS may not be required to take a total number credits greater than those students first starting in a baccalaureate degree program.

  o Additional coursework may be required if a student is seeking to add one or more endorsements to the student's Illinois Professional Educator License.

ecace.org/ECACE_FAQ.html

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ECACE Resources
ecace.org

To locate Consortium Member List:

Hover over *Consortium* and click on *Consortium Members List*

To locate Frequently Asked Questions:

Hover over *Resources* and click on *Frequently Asked Questions*

ecace.org/Consortium_Member_Roster.html

ECACE

MEETINGS   CONSORTIUM   ADVISORY COMMITTEE   RESOURCES   FIND YOUR NAVIGATOR   FOR MORE INFORMATION

Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity

Consortium Member Roster

Printer Friendly Vers

Consortium Member and Representative List
as of July 25, 2023

INSTITUTION	TYPE OF INSTITUTION	VOTING MEMBER	TITLE
Black Hawk College	Community College	Amy Maxeiner	Chief Academic Officer
Blackburn College	Private Colleges & Universities	Cindy Rice	Professor, Chair of Education
Chicago State University	Public University	LaVada Taylor	Dean, College of Education
College of DuPage	Community College	Jean Zaar	Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Ed & Care
College of Lake County	Community College	Diane Schael	Instructor, Education

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ecace.org/ECACE_FAQ.html

2023-24 Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers (PFC)

- Application is now available for students to download and complete

- The application priority consideration date for full-year and fall-only awards is October 1, 2023

- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the fall 2023, spring 2024, and summer 2024 terms

- Term deadline dates are:
  - October 1, 2023 – Full Year Consideration
  - March 1, 2024 - Only 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Consideration
  - June 15, 2024 - Only Summer Term Consideration

- Applicants must reapply each year

- Qualified applicants will be sent a Notice of Eligibility from ISAC
  - If application is incomplete, a Notice of Incomplete Application will be sent to the applicant

Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program (SWSP)

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal

- The priority application consideration date for the 2023-24 academic year was August 28, 2023

- Complete applications submitted after that date will be considered only if available funding remains after all timely complete applicants have been awarded

2023-24 Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal

- The priority application consideration date for full-year and fall-only awards is October 1, 2023

- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the fall 2023, spring 2024, and summer 2024 terms

ISAC

2023-24 Grant Program for Exonerees

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal

- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the fall 2023 and spring 2024 terms (the grant is not available for summer terms)

- Applications are processed in date-received order ("first come, first served")

- Qualified applicants are sent a Notice of Eligibility letter from ISAC

2023-24 Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal

- The priority application consideration date for the 2023-24 academic year is November 15, 2023

- Program administration for 2023-24 will take place in GAP Access
  - Certification of applicants' employment status at community mental health facilities must be verified as part of program eligibility

ISAC

2023-24 Administrative Rules

Amended Parts:

- Part 2730 – Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program
  - Deleting application deadlines for each term
  - Adding language stating the applicant must notify the institution of eligibility status no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term
    - Similar to IVG

- Part 2763 – Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  - Technical and maintenance edits

2023-24 Administrative Rules

- Part 2700 – General Provisions
  - Amendments to a few definitions
    - updating "Distance Education" to be consistent with federal definition
    - deleting "High School Equivalency Certificate" definition
    - adding "State of Illinois High School Diploma" definition (P.A. 102-1100)
    - deleting "Telecommunications Course" definition

  - Adding MAP to programs that are exceptions with regard to the rule that limits benefits for distance education to Title IV-eligible courses (related to MAP now being eligible for short-term certificate programs that are not Title IV-eligible)

  - Deleting all of 2700.30(h) related to the Education Loan Information Pilot Program due to repeal of the act on June 1, 2023
    - h) *Annually Provided Information*
      - *Public universities or community colleges that enroll students who are eligible to receive financial aid, and that receive education loan information for a student enrolled in that institution, are required to annually (on a date determined by the institution) provide to the student or parent or guardian (whichever may be appropriate based on adherence to applicable privacy laws) the following information …*

  - **Please note: Even though this is being removed from the 2023-24 rules, it was still a requirement for the years it was in effect and compliance will be confirmed during an ISAC program review for those award years (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23**

2023-24 Administrative Rules

https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2023-0809.html

2023-24 ISAC Administrative Rules Available

08/09/2023

The 2023-24 ISAC Administrative Rules, effective July 1, 2023 for the 2023-24 academic year, are now available for reference at the ISAC website. The rules are accessible in two locations:

- in the e-Library of isac.org, by clicking on #4, Administrative Rules, and
- in the About ISAC area of isac.org, by clicking on Administrative Rules.

The online rules are posted in two formats: alphabetical by program and by program type/topic.

Amendments were made to three Parts: General Provisions, Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program and Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program, effective July 1, 2023. Also included in the newly published 2023-24 rules are Parts that were amended [Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program] and added [Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program, School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program, and Nursing Education Scholarships (transferred from the Illinois Department of Public Health)] earlier in the year.

While most of the amendments were of an administrative nature, more substantive changes were made to these areas.

- **IVG Program** (Part 2733) – was amended based on legislation that requires only the most recent period of federal active duty service to be classified as honorable (effective February 6, 2023).
- **General Provisions** (Part 2700) – was amended to delete the section of the rules (2700.30(h)) that outlined the requirement for colleges to provide annual notification to students regarding their education loans. This section of the rules was deleted due to the repeal of the law on June 1, 2023. Additionally, the definition of distance education was updated, and the "High School Equivalency Certificate" definition was updated to "State of Illinois High School Diploma", based on legislation making that change (effective July 1, 2023).
- **ING Grant Program** (Part 2730) – amendments were made to delete term deadlines and update applicants' responsibilities to be consistent with those under other programs (to notify the institution of their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which a grant is requested) (effective July 1, 2023).

ISAC State Legislative Update

- ISAC State Legislative was updated on August 18 to provide Public Act numbers for bills in the report; all have now been signed into law
  - isac.org/e-library/prs-rls-st-leg/isac-state-legislative-updates/index.html

- The Update provides information on bills impacting ISAC as well as higher education in general

- Colleges are encouraged to review the entire update

- For example, you'll find information about the requirement to provide a transcript to a student or former student, even if the person owes a debt to the institution
  - Bill SB 49 passed and is now Public Act *103-0054*
  - Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, requires each institution to have a written policy "that outlines the process by which a current or former student may obtain a transcript or diploma that has been withheld from the student because the student owes a debt."

ISAC State Legislative Update

Katharine Gricevich
Director of Government Relations
August 18, 2023

Note: This report includes only minor updates to the June report, including Public Act numbers for all bills listed in that report; all have now been signed into law.

The first spring session of the 103rd General Assembly came to a close in the early hours of Saturday, May 27th – missing the originally-scheduled date by just over a week, but still comfortably ahead of the traditional May 31st adjournment.

Shortly after midnight that Saturday, the House passed the fiscal year 2024 budget (Senate Bill (SB) 250, now Public Act 103-0006) and the budget implementation (BIMP) bill, which makes changes to statute that help put the budget plan into effect (House Bill (HB) 3817, now Public Act 103-0008). Both bills had passed the Senate in late-night votes earlier in the week. In both chambers, the votes were essentially along party lines, although three Senate Democrats voted "no" on the budget, citing their opposition to legislative pay increases and a desire to see additional funding devoted to pensions. Having negotiated the final deal with House and Senate Democrats, Governor JB Pritzker signed the budget bill in a ceremony on June 6th. (He did use a reduction veto, also known as a line item veto, to pare back salaries for elected and appointed officials to levels intended under the law.)

Highlights of the FY24 budget are described below, along with other legislative items affecting college access and affordability that were approved by both the House and the Senate and have now been signed into law.

BUDGET

SB 250 (Sims/Gordon-Booth – Public Act 103-0006) allocates state and federal funding for FY24 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) and made supplemental appropriations for the final weeks of FY23. According to a summary from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, the General Funds budget for FY24 appropriates $50.428 billion and is based on projected revenues of $50.611 billion, resulting in

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ISAC Press Releases

Illinois General Assembly Legislative Reports

ISAC State Legislative Update

Bills Making Changes to Existing ISAC-Administered Programs

- **HB 301** (Stuart/Halpin) makes the merit-based, means-tested **AIM HIGH program permanent**, with the following changes. (These are in addition to the expansion of the program under the BIMP, which would extend eligibility to families with incomes up to eight times the federal poverty level.)

  o Universities must use the words "AIM HIGH" in the names of any campus programs supported by AIM HIGH funds.

  o Universities may award AIM HIGH grants to part-time students who are completing their final semester/quarter.

  o Universities will be required to match state funding at a higher rate than under current law, beginning with funds appropriated for FY24. A public university in which an average of at least 49% of the students seeking a bachelor's degree or certificate received a Pell Grant over the prior 3 academic years will be required to match 35% (instead of 20%) of the amount of state funds awarded in a given academic year with non-loan financial aid for eligible students; universities where fewer than 49% of students are Pell recipients must match 70% (instead of 60%) of state funds awarded.

  o Universities must maintain their level of non-loan financial aid spending from AY17-18 (FY18) or AY21-22 (FY22), whichever is lower. (Under current law, the baseline maintenance of effort is set at FY18 levels.)

  o The Commission will not be required to issue a separate annual report on the program after 2024, although data collection will continue, and reporting will occur through the agency's data book.

  o *Status: Passed Both Houses*

- **HB 2380** (Fine/LaPointe) would **expand the Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program**, which was established in law last year. The bill would include employees of any "community-based human services agency" "that is contracted with, receives funding from, or is grant-funded by" one of the state human services agencies specified in the law. The bill would also remove a provision that limits an applicant to a maximum of four years of grant assistance, and it allows the agency to prioritize applications based on financial need. The bill has a July 1, 2023, effective date, but funding for the program was not included in the FY24 budget.

  o *Status: Public Act 103-0031*

- **HB 2898** (West/Villanueva) is an initiative of the Partnership for College Completion. Under the bill, if a for-profit institution is found by the federal government to have used unfair,

Preparing for Repayment of Federal Student Loans

- The payment pause **will end on August 30, 2023**.

- Starting September 1, interest will begin to accrue, with payments being due in October.

- To help borrowers in Illinois, ISAC is hosting free webinars on how federal student loan borrowers can navigate repayment

- To learn more about preparing for repayment, visit the Return to Repayment page
  - https://www.isac.org/ReturnToRepayment

- For registration details, visit the Webinars page in the Professional Development Opportunities area at isac.org
  - For questions, contact isac.borrowersupport@illinois.gov

- Encourage borrowers to join us on one of these dates in September for a *Preparing for Federal Student Loan Repayments to Resume* webinar
  - Thursday, September 7, 9-10 a.m. (CT)
  - Wednesday, September 13, 12-1 p.m. (CT)
  - Friday, September 22, 10-11 a.m. (CT)

ISAC

Call for Proposals for the 2023 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) Symposium

A one-day symposium for attendees to learn about best practices for supporting students in completing a financial aid application.

Registration will open in September.

TWO locations this year!

- **Illinois Central College on Wednesday, October 25, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

- **Moraine Valley Community College on Tuesday, November 7, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

School counselors, college and career staff, financial aid administrators, community-based organizations, and other college-access professionals who support students and families throughout the financial aid process are invited to ***submit a session proposal*** to present at one or both locations for the FAFSA Symposium!

The session proposal form is now open and will close Friday, September 8, 2023.

For more information about the symposium, visit www.isac.org/pd/FAFSA-Symposium.

Policies & Procedures Webinars for FAAs

- Starting in September, ISAC's Partner Services Department will present a monthly webinar on the second Tuesday of the month that will focus on important policies and procedures for ISAC programs

- *Confirming Illinois Residency for ISAC Programs* will be the first Tuesday Training topic

- It will be offered on Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.

- A link to the webinar will be provided on the Partner Training page on the day of event
    - https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

- Registration is not required
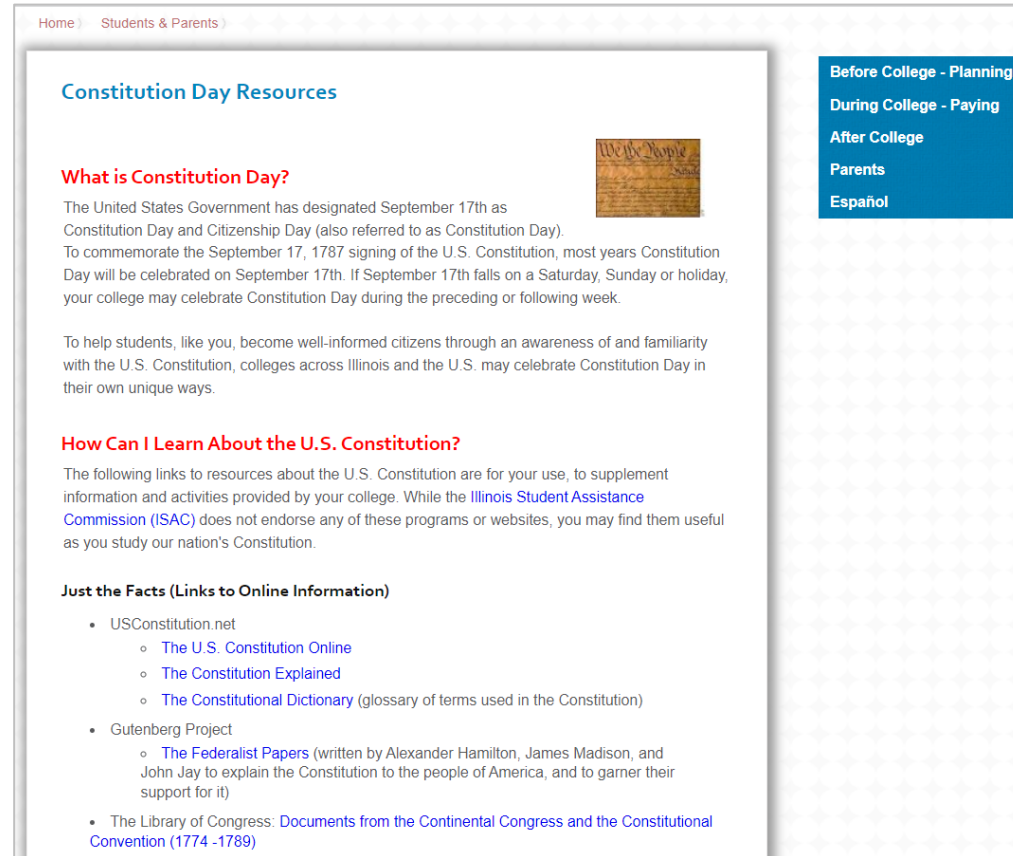
Tuesday Training
Confirming Illinois Residency for ISAC Programs
September 12, 10 a.m.

ISAC

Constitution Day – September 17

- Find resources to help develop programs for the annual observance of Constitution Day

- Access to the Constitution Day Resources page for students, via the Constitution and Citizenship Day document located in the e-Library's Job Aids & Reference Materials area

- Required of institutions receiving federal funding, educational programs about the U.S. Constitution are to be held on (or around) September 17 every year.

Home › Students & Parents ›

Constitution Day Resources

What is Constitution Day?
The United States Government has designated September 17th as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (also referred to as Constitution Day). To commemorate the September 17, 1787 signing of the U.S. Constitution, most years Constitution Day will be celebrated on September 17th. If September 17th falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, your college may celebrate Constitution Day during the preceding or following week.

To help students, like you, become well-informed citizens through an awareness of and familiarity with the U.S. Constitution, colleges across Illinois and the U.S. may celebrate Constitution Day in their own unique ways.

How Can I Learn About the U.S. Constitution?
The following links to resources about the U.S. Constitution are for your use, to supplement information and activities provided by your college. While the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) does not endorse any of these programs or websites, you may find them useful as you study our nation's Constitution.

Just the Facts (Links to Online Information)
- USConstitution.net
  - The U.S. Constitution Online
  - The Constitution Explained
  - The Constitutional Dictionary (glossary of terms used in the Constitution)
- Gutenberg Project
  - The Federalist Papers (written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay to explain the Constitution to the people of America, and to garner their support for it)
- The Library of Congress: Documents from the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention (1774 -1789)

Before College - Planning
During College - Paying
After College
Parents
Español

https://www.isac.org/e-library/job-aids-and-reference-materials/index.html

https://www.isac.org/e-library/documents/job-aids-reference-materials/ConstitutionDay.pdf

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Sign-Up for E-messaging

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

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STUDENTS & PARENTS >
ISAC STUDENT PORTAL
RESEARCH & POLICY >
NEWSROOM
ABOUT ISAC >

Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) e-Messaging

Please fill in the required details and select the Email List(s) you would like to subscribe by marking the boxes below.

*indicates required field

* **Email**

* **First Name**

* **Email Lists**

☐ Business Officer - fiscal updates

☐ ECACE Administrators – program & processing updates about the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program

☐ FAA ISAC Update - monthly newsletter summarizing each month's announcements and updates

☐ Financial Aid Administrators - program & processing updates, rules & regulations, operational announcements

☐ Financial Aid Directors - administrative announcements

☐ MAP Users - operational updates for the Internet application used to process MAP data

☐ NESP Schools – operational announcements for schools participating in the Nursing Education Scholarship Program

☐ Public Schools - operational announcements for colleges participating in the ING Grant and IVG programs

Quick Links
Borrowers
College Illinois!®
Counselors
e-Library
FAAs
GAP Access
Lenders
Military Service
Non-Eligible, Non-Citizens
Transcript Exchange

About ISAC
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Executive Director
The Commission
FOIA

Social Networks

800.899.ISAC (4722)

e-Messaging
Get the latest news & updates from ISAC

Order ISAC Materials

Applications

- Subscription groups for specific programs are available.

ISAC

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Federal Updates

Student Loan Repayment Pause Ends August 30, 2023

- Interest will begin accruing on September 1, 2023

- Payments will begin in October 2023

- U.S. Department of Education recommends that every federal student loan borrower take the following steps to be prepared for repayment:
  - Update contact information
  - Review auto-debit enrollment or sign up for the first time
  - Check out FSA's Loan Simulator to find a repayment plan that meets the borrower's needs and goals or to decide whether to consolidate.
  - Whether entering repayment for the first-time or re-entering repayment, there are loan repayment plans available that may be helpful
    - Including updated income-driven repayment (IDR) plans that can make payments more affordable, depending on income and family size.
  - Borrowers may also be eligible for deferment or forbearance to temporarily stop or lower payments.
    - Loan servicer can help find the best option

- studentaid.gov/announcements-events/covid-19#repayment-prep

Remind Students to Beware of Financial Aid Scams

- Remind students and families who are seeking ways to pay for college to beware of financial aid scams.

- Information is available at the Scholarship and Financial Aid Scams page of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Consumer Information website.
  - consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scholarship-financial-aid-scams

- U.S. Department of Education "Don't Get Scammed on Your Way to College!" document.
  - https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/dont-get-scammed.pdf

ISAC

Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan

- The SAVE Plan replaced the Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) Plan

- Provides the lowest monthly payments of any IDR plan available
  - Like other income-driven repayment (IDR) plans, calculates monthly payment amount based on income and family size
  - Borrowers will be able to consent to the use of their federal tax information to calculate income and family size

- Includes multiple new benefits for borrowers
  - Significantly decreases monthly payments by increasing the income exemption from 150% to 225% of the poverty line
  - Eliminates 100% of remaining interest for both subsidized and unsubsidized loans after a scheduled payment is made
    - For example: If $50 in interest accumulates each month and you have a $30 payment, the remaining $20 would not be charged
  - Excludes spousal income for borrowers who are married and file separately

- If currently enrolled in the REPAYE Plan, will be automatically be enrolled in the SAVE Plan

- FSA Electronic Announcement - August 22, 2023: https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-08-22/loan-servicing-information-availability-saving-valuable-education-save-plan-and-updates-income-driven-repayment-plans

Draft 2024-25 Specifications Guide

- Volumes in the guide contain FAFSA Processing System (FPS) technical and processing information for the 2024-25 award year
    - Consolidation of all FAFSA-related processing information and guidance into a new, multi-volume resource; replaces the previous stand-alone documents

- Updated Volume 4 – Record Layouts and Processing Codes
    - Updated stand-alone draft ISIR record layout in Excel format

- Updated Volume 7 – Comment Codes
    - Describes comment codes on the 2024-25 electronic and paper FAFSA Submission Summary and the ISIR, as well as any action required by the student or school

- Updated Volume 8 – Agency Matches
    - Provides guidance regarding comment codes, status codes, and reject codes from matching agencies; DHS, SSA,VA, and NSLDS

- Updated Volume 9 – Testing and Web Demo System
    - Describes ISIR test data and Web Demo System options for 2024-25

- FSA Electronic Announcements:
    - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-08-11/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-august-2023-update-now-available
    - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/handbooks-manuals-or-guides/2023-05-31/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-september-2023-update

2024-25 Draft Student Aid Index and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide Updated August 25, 2023

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/handbooks-manuals-or-guides/2022-11-21/2024-25-draft-student-aid-index-sai-and-pell-grant-eligibility-guide-updated-aug-25-2023

FSA Webinars

- 2024-25 FAFSA Demonstration was on August 17, 2023
  - Featured a look at the new roles page, inviting contributors, the parent wizard and more.
  - New FSA Outreach YouTube channel
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k26QnHn7Xcs

- If you missed any of the 11 webinars this summer focused on FAFSA Simplification, they can be found under the recorded training at: fsatraining.ed.gov/course/view.php?id=107

- Wednesday Webinar Series, Fall 2023 (2-hour webinars, 12-2 p.m.)
  - Topics Related to the Title IV programs
  - September 13 – Federal Update
  - October 4 – Cash Management and Reconciliation Essentials
  - November 8 – Topic to Be Announced
    - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-08-02/live-internet-webinars-wednesday-webinar-series-fall-2023

ISAC

2023 Virtual FSA Training Conference

- November 28 – December 1, 2023
- Information will be provided in October regarding:
  - Registration
  - Daily Agenda
  - Presenter Biographies
- For more information: https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-08-16/2023-virtual-federal-student-aid-training-conference-program-information-now-available

ISAC Dates to Remember ...

- September 8 – Proposals due for FAFSA Symposium

- September 12 – Partner Services Tuesday Training, 10 – 11 a.m.

- September 21 – ISAC Commission Meeting, 1 p.m.

- September 27 – ISAC Operational Update and Program News, 2 p.m.
    - Monthly Webinar for FAAs

- October 25 – FAFSA Symposium, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
    - Illinois Central College

- November 7 – FAFSA Symposium, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
    - Moraine Valley Community College

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Other Dates to Remember ...

- September 6 – NASFAA webinar, 1 – 2 p.m.
  - NASFAA Business Affiliate: Intersection of Title IV and Clery – Best Practices for Title IV Professionals

- September 13 – FSA webinar, 12 – 2 p.m.
  - Federal Update

- September 17 – Constitution Day

- September 20 – NASFAA webinar, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
  - Policy Update: FAFSA Simplification

- September 27 – ILASFAA webinar, 9 – 11 a.m.
  - FAFSA Simplification Panel Discussion (Registration required)

- October 22 – 25 – 2023 MASFAA Annual Conference
  - Indianapolis, IN (Registration required)

- November 28 – December 1 – 2023 FSA Virtual Training Conference

Questions/Comments

Thank you for attending today!

ISAC Contact Information

School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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