

ISAC Operational Update and Program News

December 20, 2023



2023-24 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- Fall-term payment (claim) deadline date was **Friday, December 8, 2023**
 - Any initial claims made after the deadline date will be considered late and will only be paid if funding is available after paying timely claims.
- Payment requests are processed on a nightly basis and results are provided the next business day.
- ISAC suspended the announcement of 2023-24 MAP awards for students whose initial 2023-24 FAFSA® or Alternative Application was received on or after September 23, 2023
 - Suspension is reflected on the appropriate screens and reports of the MAP system, as well as in the MAP Eligibility File Extraction.

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) Program

- Application period was March 1 through April 30, 2023
 - No longer accepting applications for this award year
 - An application must be completed and submitted each year to be considered for an award, regardless of whether the student may have received previous awards
 - The NES Application/Grant Agreement/Promissory Note must have also been submitted to ISAC on or before April 30, 2023
 - Applicant must have submitted a 2023-24 FAFSA or Alternative Application and have a valid EFC calculated
- Certification of eligibility was recently completed by colleges
 - Colleges were asked to complete certification for all applicants on their student list, both eligible and ineligible
 - Certification is done for the academic year (rather than by term)
 - Colleges must provide the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as part of the certification process
 - If a college does not have one, please contact School Services
 - Awarding does not take place until the certification process has been completed

NES Program

- Initial round of awarding took place at the end of November
 - Letters of eligibility were sent to students who were awarded
 - Colleges will see an award date and maximum annual award amount on their Student List in the NES system in GAP Access
 - The certificate, diploma or degree being pursued by the recipient determines the NES maximum award amount
 - Award amounts differ by type of college
 - All awarded amounts assume full-time enrollment and include a living allowance
 - The living allowance amount is only available to students who are full-time according to the school/program's definition of full-time
 - \$5,200 is the amount of the living allowance portion of the scholarship amount
 - The amount is set by statute and program rules to be the same as the living allowance in the MAP formula for the respective award year
 - For 2023-24, the living allowance is \$5,200

NESSP 2023-2024: Student List Eligibility: View

Select School and School Code

Go

Home **Student** Certification Payment

List Filter Sort Columns

Entries displayed 100

#	Sel	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	DOB	School Code	Application Complete	Applicant Category	State of Legal Residence	Resident Status	Education Program	Enrollment Type	Certified Eligible	Certified Date	Award Date	Award Amount
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-					Y	Timely New		Y	Graduate Degree in Nursing	Part time	Y	10/02/2023		
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-					Y	Timely Renewal		Y	Graduate Degree in Nursing	Full time	Y	10/02/2023	11/29/2023	17813.00
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx					Y	Timely New		Y	Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing	Full time	Y	10/02/2023		

View Report

Excel Report

Save Selected

- You can view the list of students who have submitted a NES application to ISAC and listed your school as the college the applicant plans to attend.
- Click on **Student** for the student list. The list will initially appear in alphabetical order; however, you may use the **Filter**, **Sort** and **Columns** functionality to customize your view as needed.
- In addition to the applicant data, the **Student List Eligibility: View** screen includes the application complete status and icons to indicate eligibility issues.

- Certified Eligible
- Certified Date
- Award Date
- Award Amount

- Application Complete
- Applicant Category

Scroll the horizontal scroll bar at the bottom of the page to navigate to the right to see the remaining columns on the **Student List Eligibility: View** screen.

Award Amount and Years of Funding

The certificate, diploma or degree being pursued by the recipient determines the NES maximum award amount and the maximum number of years the award may be received.

The 2023-24 NES maximum annual award amount is either \$8,916 or \$17,813.

\$8,916 Maximum Award	\$17,813 Maximum Award
certificate in practical nursing <i>* any school type</i> <i>* one year of assistance</i>	associate degree in nursing <i>* two-year private colleges or four-year colleges/universities</i> <i>* two years of assistance</i>
associate degree in nursing <i>* community colleges or nursing schools</i> <i>* two years of assistance</i>	baccalaureate degree in nursing <i>* four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools</i> <i>* four years of assistance</i>
hospital-based diploma in nursing <i>* community colleges</i> <i>* three years of assistance</i>	graduate degree in nursing <i>* four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools</i> <i>* five years of assistance</i>
	graduate degree in nursing to become a nurse educator <i>* four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools</i> <i>* three years of assistance</i>

Scholarship funds may be used during all terms of study (including summer).

- NES awards will pay a portion of tuition and fee charges, plus – for full-time students only – a living allowance (previously referred to as a stipend). The scholarship pays for coursework within the nursing curriculum, but does *not* pay for pre-requisite coursework.
- The total amount of NES assistance awarded to an eligible applicant in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.



NES Payment Process

- Payment request process began on December 14
 - Schools may submit payment (claim) requests for the fall term
 - Schools will need to report enrollment status and number of hours enrolled
 - Two fields will be available for entry
 - Tuition and Fee amount
 - Amount entered after all other tuition and fee
 - Living allowance amount
 - If the enrollment status is not full-time, this field will be grayed-out and data cannot be entered
 - Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, which involves *generating* the individual requests and then *submitting* the requests.
 - The fall-term priority claim deadline date will be announced once it has been determined

2023-24 NES Payment Processing

12/14/2023

Unless otherwise noted, links in this message are to corresponding Assistance Commission (ISAC) website (isac.org).

The 2023-24 [Nursing Education Scholarships \(NES\)](#) payment process and colleges may submit payment requests (claims) for the fall term.

Payment records that schools have saved will display a Status of "U" have submitted will display a Status of "S." Once ISAC begins processing records with a Status of "S" will receive payment results. The [NES](#) updated once payment results are available for schools to view – able to generate payment reports.

The fall-term priority claim deadline date will be announced once it

The [NES User Guide](#) has been updated to reflect the 2023-24 payment process. Details regarding the payment process are also available via the [NES Payment](#) page.

What's New

The changes indicated below have taken effect with 2023-24 NES payment processing.

- Awarded living allowance funds that had been disbursed directly to eligible full-time students as a "stipend" in the 2022-23 and earlier academic years are now included in the payment amount requested by and paid to the college (i.e., NES awards no longer have a stipend component).
 - If the recipient is enrolled, the institution may credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable.
 - If appropriate, any balance is to be returned to the recipient.
- Funds resulting from each payment request submitted via the NESP system are delivered to the college in a lump sum (either electronically or as a check, depending on how the college has set up their payments), rather than as individual checks for each recipient that had been co-payable to the student and school.
- [Payment Offset and Reconciliation](#) procedures now apply to Nursing Education Scholarships.
 - Refund checks should not be sent for cancellations/adjustments made throughout the award year.
 - Funds should only be returned to ISAC after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular school year.

Watch for Updates

Program updates – including notification of when schools will see 2023-24 payment results in the NESP system – will be announced via our usual means of communication: the [FAA Message Board](#), the [NES Program News](#) page, and/or this e-Messaging system.

You are receiving this message because you registered for ISAC's e-Messaging service through one or more subscription groups for FAAs.

If you have any questions regarding this e-Message, please contact ISAC's School Services Department by calling toll free at 866.247.2172 or sending an e-mail message to isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov.

<https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2023-1214.html>

NES Payment Process

- Changes to 2023-24 payment process
 - The process of sending stipend checks directly to the student and individual scholarship checks co-payable to the student and the school has been eliminated, starting with the 2023-24 award year
 - Payment request processing takes place in the NES system in GAP Access and is similar to other ISAC programs
 - Payment requests will be disbursed to the college in a lump sum so that NES funds can be credited to student accounts rather than as individual checks for each student
 - Funds will be provided electronically or as a check, depending on how your college is set up
 - Payment offset and reconciliation procedures will apply to NES
 - Refund checks should not be sent for cancellations/adjustments made throughout the award year
 - Funds should only be returned to ISAC after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular school year

NES Student Payment List: View Screen

The initial loading of this page will result in a default view with the following columns:

- # (Rows)
- Sel (Select)
- Term Number
- Current SSN
- Last Name
- First Name
- Annual Award Amount
- School Code
- Request Code
- Enrollment Status
- Program of Study
- Ineligible Reason
- Living Allowance
- Tuition and Fees
- Requested Amount
- Amount Paid
- Adjusted Amount
- Result Code
- Expanded Result
- Result Date
- Status Code
- Invoice Number

The screenshot displays the 'NES Student Payment List: View' screen. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Student', 'Certification', 'Payment', and 'Reports'. The 'Payment' menu is active, showing options like 'List', 'Filter', 'Sort', 'Columns', and 'Submit Payment Requests'. The 'Entries displayed' dropdown is set to '20'. The main table has a header with columns: #, Sel, Term Number, Current SSN, Last Name, First Name, Annual Award Amount, School Code, Request Code, Enrollment Status, and Program of Study. A second table below it has a header with columns: Ineligible Reason, Living Allowance, Tuition and Fees, Requested Amount, Amount Paid, Adjusted Amount, Result Code, Expanded Result, Result Date, Status Code, and Invoice Number. A red arrow points to a scroll bar at the bottom of the page, with a callout box stating: 'Use scroll bar at bottom of the page to navigate further to the right'.

NES Student Detail: Payments Screen

NESP Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

Payment

Current SSN Go

Annual Award Amount 17813.00

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring	4-Summer
School Code			
Request	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Status	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Hours	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Program of Study			
Ineligible Reason	<input type="text"/>		
Living Allowance	<input type="text"/>		
Tuition Fees	<input type="text"/>		
Requested Amount	<input type="text"/>		

Save Changes Discard Changes

Enrollment Hours -- select: **1 - 25** credit hour(s) the student is enrolled in for the term

*Use the scroll bar to navigate up to 25 credit hours

20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

Request -- select:

Payment – to request a payment

Cancel – to cancel a previously requested award

Ineligible – if student is ineligible

Delete – to remove

Enrollment Status -- select whether the student is **Full-time** or **Part-time** enrolled for the term

Living Allowance -- Enter amount to request. This field will not exceed the maximum allowed.

Tuition & Fees -- Enter amount to request

Requested Amount -- Total amount requested for student payment

NES Student Detail: Payments Screen

NESP Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List **Payment**

To navigate to another student, enter the student's SSN in the **Current SSN** field and click on the **Go** button.

Current SSN **Go**

Annual Award Amount
17813.00

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring	4-Summer
School Code			
Request	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Status	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Hours	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Program of Study	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ineligible Reason	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Living Allowance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tuition Fees	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Requested Amount	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

No longer enrolled in a nursing program of study
GPA not at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
GPA at program start not at least 3.0 on 4.0 scale
Withdrawal prior to end of term
Not enrolled at least one-third of full-time hours
Not an Illinois resident
Defaulted student loan
Student is not accepting NESP
Not US citizen/eligible non-citizen
Not a HS Grad/no GED
Not making satisfactory academic progress
Award Decline
Graduated in a prior term

Click on the **Save Changes** button to save the payment request, or the **Discard Changes** button to discard the payment request, at the bottom of page.

Save Changes **Discard Changes**

NES Submit Payment Requests Screen

- The payment request process is not complete until the next step of Submitting the Payment Request to ISAC has been completed by using the Submit Payments Requests screen.
- **Submit Payment Requests** screen is used to submit payment (claim) requests.
- First, select the appropriate academic **Term** using the drop-down box in the **Term** field (initially blank) for which the request is being made from.
- A list of your selected records will not display until you have selected a **Term**.
- Click on Submit button to submit the payment request
- Ensure that a submission message is received and make note of the number of records submitted

The screenshot displays the 'Submit Payment Requests' interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Administration', 'School', and 'Programs'. Below this, the page title 'NESP' and 'Submit Payment Requests' is shown. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Student', 'Certification', 'Payment', and 'Reports'. A toolbar contains 'List', 'Filter', 'Sort', 'Columns', and a green 'Submit Payment Requests' button. A message box states 'Payment Submitted for 17 records' with a 'Term' dropdown menu set to '1 Fall'. At the bottom right, there are 'Submit' and 'Reset' buttons.

NES Student Payment List: View Screen

- Payment records that schools have *saved* will display a Status of "U" (Updated)
- Payment records that schools have *submitted* will display a Status of "S" (Submitted)
- Once ISAC begins processing submitted claims, only records with a Status of "S" will receive payment results

Status Code:
U = Updated
S = Submitted
P = Processed

#	Sel	Term Number	Current SSN	Last Name	First	Annual	School	Request	Enrollment	Program of Study	Ineligible Reason	Living Allowance	Tuition and Fees	Requested Amount	Amount Paid	Adjusted Amount	Result Code	Expanded Result	Result Date	Status Code	Invoice Number		
1	\$	1	3000-000-																		U		
2	\$	2	3000-300-			8000.00		8000.00														U	
3	\$	3	3000-300-			.00																U	
4	\$	1	3000-300-																			U	
5	\$	2	3000-300-			5000.00		5000.00														U	
6	\$	3	3000-300-			8000.00		8000.00														U	

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

Use scroll bar at bottom of the page to navigate further to the right

NES Student Payment List: View Screen

- Once ISAC begins processing submitted claims, payment results will display on the **NES Student Detail: Payment** screen the day after payment requests are processed
- This page also will be updated once payment results are available for schools to view – at that time, schools will also be able to *generate* payment reports
- A Payment Result Summary and Invoice Detail Report can be viewed or printed by selecting the Report tab in the NESP system the day after a payment request has been processed
- The disbursement of funds is processed by the State Comptroller's Office
- The NES User Guide has been updated to reflect the 2023-24 process
<https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/NESUserGuide.pdf>

Q. When requesting a payment (claim) for a student, do schools have to divide the annual award amount evenly among the terms?

A. No, schools may request a payment (claim) for any amount in the term(s) as long as it does not exceed the maximum annual amount awarded to the student and does not exceed the cost of attendance.

Multiple disbursements are not required in cases where the recipient's eligibility is not determined until the final term of the award year for which the scholarship is being awarded. If the student has applied for or is enrolled in a term(s) which is less than the award year, they may receive the full maximum annual award amount if warranted by the cost of attendance for the term(s) enrolled.

Link to ISAC's website page regarding NES Payment & Disbursement

<https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/NESP/payment.html>

Q. What does "pay a portion of tuition and fee charges" and "other funding" mean? Are there any limitations to what it can pay?

A. "Pay a portion of tuition and fee charges" means the total amount of NES assistance awarded to an eligible applicant in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available to the recipient for that year and does not exceed the cost of attendance.

- So, in other words, it is the amount of tuition and fee charges remaining on a student's account after all other funding has been applied. "Other funding" is any other financial aid designated specifically for tuition and fees, and the remaining balance is the amount of your NES payment request.
- NES pays for tuition and fees, not tuition and mandatory fees, as well as a living allowance for full-time students (previously referred to as a stipend). The scholarship pays for coursework within the nursing curriculum but does not pay for pre-requisite coursework. Keep in mind that the NES definition of "fees" is way broader than ISAC's definition of mandatory fees... NES fees pay mandatory charges that all students enrolled in a nursing program must pay, including required course or lab fees.

Administrative Rules – Section 2749.10 Definitions <https://www.isac.org/e-library/documents/administrative-rules/2023-24-isac-rules/2749-NES.pdf>

Q. What award amount is a student eligible to receive if they will be attending the fall term (first term) only due to graduating at the end of the term?

A. Schools may request up to the full amount of the Annual Award Amount (scholarship) in the first term but cannot exceed cost of attendance (COA). If students COA will allow them to receive the full award amount for the fall term due to graduating the following term, schools may request full scholarship amount.

Keep in mind, if the student does not end up graduating in the first term and the school requested the full annual award amount, the student will not have any remaining funds available for the rest of the academic year.

If the school was unable request the full award amount in the first term due to COA, they would be able to request remaining award funds.

- Ex: If the school requested \$10,000 for the first term, (\$5,000 T&F + \$5,000 living allowance) then the school would only be able to request \$7,813 (\$7,613 T&F + \$200 living allowance) for the remaining term(s).

Q. What if the NES tuition and living allowance amount the student is eligible for exceeds the cost of attendance (COA)?

A. The student's financial aid award would have to be adjusted to not to exceed the cost of attendance.

Q. Is the living allowance per semester?

A. No, the living allowance is an annual amount awarded for full-time students only – a living allowance (previously referred to as a stipend), is combined into a Maximum Annual Award Amount (scholarship) which includes the Tuition and Fees and Living Allowance into one scholarship for the academic year.

Q. Is NES first payer or does other programs get paid first, such as MAP?

A. Do what is in the best interest of the student. What this means is that by paying the MAP grant first would be in the best interest of the student because the MAP grant does not need to be repaid back if the recipient terminates studies or fails to become employed, like the NES does.

- Remember, NES recipients must have signed an agreement promising continuous attendance in school and begin employment requirements in Illinois within six months of graduating and remain employed for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship, otherwise the funds awarded must be paid back (loan plus interest).
- NES may cover some fees that MAP may not, and NES covers tuition and fees whereas MAP covers tuition and mandatory fees, so maybe what MAP doesn't cover NES will cover.

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship

- Prequalified applicants who have been awarded are eligible for payment
 - Maximum award amount populates in the “Max Annual Award Amount” field
 - 2023-24 maximum award amounts are:
 - \$33,558 at four-year institutions
 - \$18,262 at community colleges
- For students who plan to attend different types of institutions during the award year, the ECACE system will calculate an eligible award amount based on the student’s type of school listed on their application each term
 - For example, an award amount of \$25,910 would show as the maximum eligible award amount for a student who has listed a community college on their application for the fall term and a four-year institution for the spring term
 - Half of the community college award + half of the four-year college award
 - $\$9,131 + \$16,779 = \$25,910$
- The ECACE Scholarship is last payer, is not need-based aid and can be used for any cost of attendance component
- Colleges determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving

ECACE Scholarship

- Schools are encouraged to complete and submit payment request data as soon as possible
- To be considered timely, 2023 fall term claims must be submitted on or before **Friday, December 29, 2023**
- By submitting a payment request, a college is certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria
- If a college determines that a prequalified applicant does not meet all eligibility requirements, report the reason that best describes the reason for ineligibility
- ECACE is payable in a summer term if the student has not used their maximum award amount in previous terms
- ISAC will announce Spring and Summer claim deadline dates next Spring when we get closer to that timeframe

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- Continue to submit payment requests for the 2023 fall term
- To be considered timely, requests must be submitted on or before **Friday, December 29, 2023**

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Continue to complete the tuition waiver process for students listed in the SETTW system by certifying each student's eligibility and enrollment
 - Colleges are asked to certify student's eligibility within 60 days of receiving an e-mail notification that you have students who have been awarded

Golden Apple (GA) Scholars Program

- Continue to submit payment requests for the 2023 fall term
- To be considered timely, requests must be submitted on or before **Friday, December 29, 2023**.
- The Golden Apple Foundation only awards a student for one term at a time
 - As a result, the award field in the GA system identifies the awards as *Annual Award Amount To Date*
 - For example: In the fall term, the *Annual Award Amount To Date* shows the fall term amount only, not the entire award year
 - If the same student is awarded for the spring term, the “Annual Award Amount To Date” will increase in the spring to include the second term award amount

Golden Apple

Awarded columns showing if MTI and/or SETTW has been awarded to warn you of a potential conflicting scholarship

Annual Award field has been adjusted to show as **Annual Award Amount To Date**

GA 2023-2024: Student List Eligibility: View

Select School and School Code

Home **Student** Certification File Upload Payment Reports

List Filter Sort Columns

Entries displayed 100

Sel	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	DOB	Default	Total Units	Application Date	Applicant Category	School Code	Certified Date	Annual Award Amount To Date	Awarded MTI	Awarded SETTW
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00	Y	
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	30	08/24/2023	Timely Renewal		09/06/2023	2500.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	2500.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	2500.00		

Golden Apple Payment Adjustment

- If an adjustment is needed to increase or decrease an award;
 - a school can submit a request asking to increase/decrease up to the Annual Award Amount for the term
 - GAP Access will process the new payment request and will send an additional payment minus any previous funds paid if it is an increase
 - if it is a decrease, it will process that request and adjust the award accordingly
 - For Example: The annual award amount shown is \$2,500 for Term 1 and the school only requested \$1,250 for Term 1. A request can be submitted to increase the award up to the full annual award amount for Term 1.
 - GAP Access will process the additional request and remit payment for \$1,250 and increase the amount paid for the term to \$2,500.

Golden Apple Payment Adjustment

A request can be submitted to increase/decrease the award up to the full annual award amount.

For example: GAP will process the additional request and remit payment for \$1,250 and increase the amount paid for the term to \$2,500.

GA 2023-2024: Student Payment List: View

Select School and School Code:

Home Student Certification File Upload **Payment** Reports

List Filter Sort Columns Payment Request Entry Submit Payment Requests

Entries displayed 100

Sel	Req Sel	Term Number	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount To Date	Term Award Amount	School Code	Request Code	Academic Level	Enrollment Status	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Amount Paid	Adjusted Amount	Res Cod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		ABBY		2500.0	2500.00	P		Senior	Full time		1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		ABBY		2500.0	2500.00	P		Senior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00	1250.00	B
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		KIRSTEN		2500.0	2500.00	P		Junior	Full time		1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		KIRSTEN		2500.0	2500.00	P		Junior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00	1250.00	B

Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Programs

- Benefit usage data for the 2023 fall term must be submitted on or before **Friday, December 29**, to be considered timely
- 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 for the term
 - 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
- Reminder: Illinois National Guard members who have served at least 10 years in the Guard may be eligible to receive up to 180 Units (6 years) of ING Grant benefits

ING Grant Benefit Eligibility

Just a reminder...

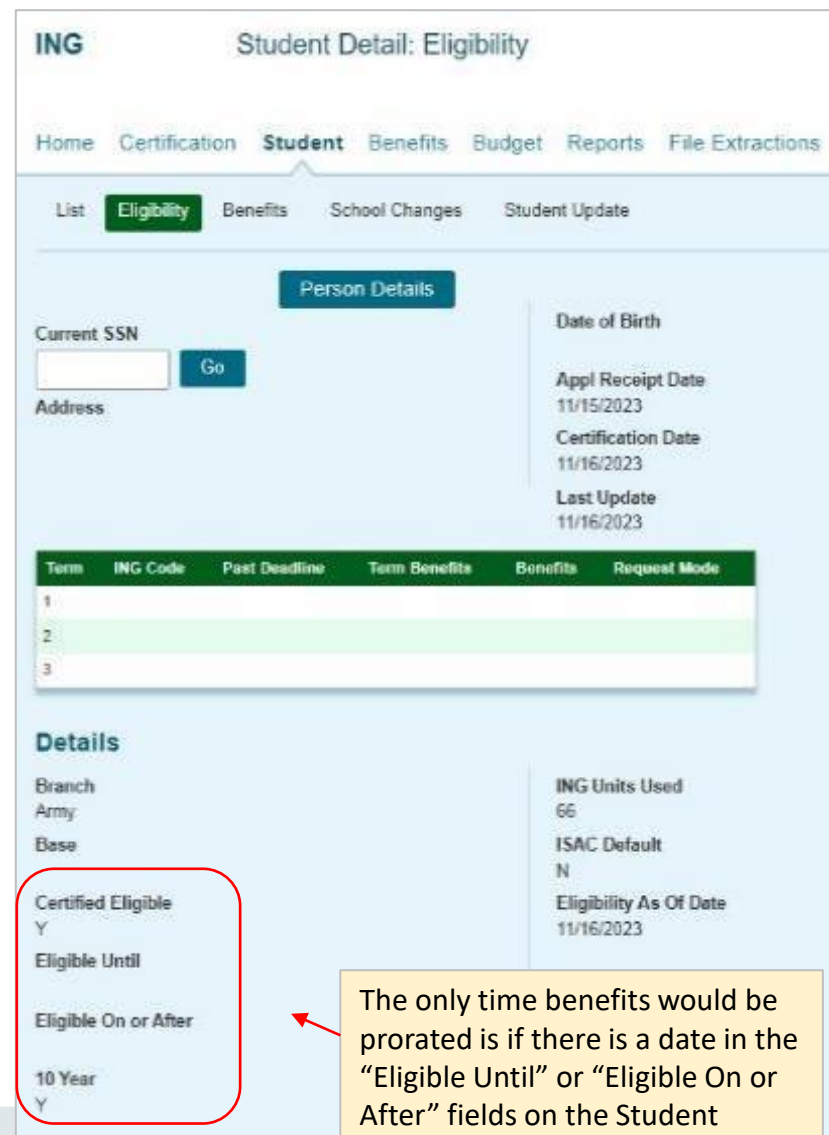
Prorating ING Grant benefits is only completed

- if the student has not completed one full year of service in the Illinois National Guard after the semester starts, *or*
- if their active status with the Guard ends during a term

Costs are prorated on the basis of the institution's scheduled days of instruction minus institutionally scheduled holidays and examination periods

- Calculation: Total tuition cost divided by total instructional days = cost per day x days of eligibility = total proration.

ING Administrative Rules: <https://www.isac.org/e-library/documents/administrative-rules/2022-23-isac-rules/2730-ING.pdf>



ING Student Detail: Eligibility

Home Certification **Student** Benefits Budget Reports File Extractions

List **Eligibility** Benefits School Changes Student Update

Person Details

Current SSN Go

Address

Date of Birth

Appl Receipt Date 11/15/2023

Certification Date 11/16/2023

Last Update 11/16/2023

Term	ING Code	Post Deadline	Term Benefits	Benefits	Request Mode
1					
2					
3					

Details

Branch Army

Base

Certified Eligible Y

Eligible Until

Eligible On or After

10 Year Y

ING Units Used 66

ISAC Default N

Eligibility As Of Date 11/16/2023

The only time benefits would be prorated is if there is a date in the "Eligible Until" or "Eligible On or After" fields on the Student Detail: Eligibility screen in the ING system within GAP.

Illinois Veteran Grant

- Benefit usage data for the 2023 fall term must be submitted on or before **Friday, December 29**, to be considered timely

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

- Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters for the fall term have been e-mailed to financial aid directors, initiating the payment process
- Fall-term payment request deadline date was **Thursday, November 30, 2023**
- Application remains available for students to download and complete
- Remaining application deadline dates for the award year are:
 - March 1, 2024 -- Second 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)

- Awarding took place in mid-November for all timely applicants who have been certified as eligible.
- Payment claims may be submitted through the SWSP system in GAP Access.
- Priority payment request deadline date for the Fall term is **Friday, December 29, 2023.**

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters for the Fall term have been e-mailed to financial aid directors, initiating the payment process
- Fall term payment request deadline date was **Thursday, November 30, 2023**
- The online application remains available in the ISAC Student Portal
- Remaining application deadline dates for the award year are:
 - March 1, 2024 -- Second Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Consideration
 - June 15, 2024 -- Only Summer Term Consideration
- Colleges are encouraged to promote availability and information about this program within their communities

Grant Program for Exonerees

- Online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for 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

Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

- Online application remains available in the ISAC Student Portal
- The priority application consideration date for the 2023-24 academic year was **November 15, 2023**
- Applications received after that date are considered for awards only if funding remains available after all timely, qualified applicants have been awarded
- Program administration for 2023-24 has taken place in GAP Access
 - Certification of applicants' employment status at community mental health facilities must be verified as part of program eligibility
- Disbursements of funds for qualified applicants has begun; notification of eligibility to recipients is underway

2022-23 Enrollment Verification Process

- Continue to submit 2022-2023 enrollment verification data for students who previously received funds from ISAC-administered teacher programs
- Enrollment verification data for the SETTW Program and the MTI Scholarship Program is provided through each program's system within GAP Access.
- Data is to be completed by the college and returned to ISAC as soon as possible, verifying award recipients' current enrollment status.
- Data was due to be submitted on or before **Friday, December 1, 2023**.
- ISAC monitors recipients' fulfillment of the program requirements associated with the teacher programs, and if recipients fail to meet the requirements, their awards convert to loans that must be repaid.
- See the October 30, 2023, e-Message for more information
<https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2023-1030.html>

2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

Preparing for the 2024-25 MAP Award Year

- MAP Start-Up Formula has been approved
- Alternative Application has been updated to be consistent with the FAFSA
- Priority deadline date by which returning MAP recipients are to submit their FAFSA or Alternative Application in order to receive priority access to appropriated funds will be February 1, 2024
 - Returning recipients are students who received MAP funds during the previous academic year (e.g., for 2024-25, students who received MAP for 2023-24)
 - All MAP eligibility requirements must continue to be met
- MAP Award Notification Language has been posted
 - There are no changes, other than updating the award year
- 160-Byte File Layout Specifications have been updated and posted
- Shortly after ISAC begins to receive 2024-25 ISIRs, we will start to provide MAP eligibility in the MAP system in GAP Access for both FAFSA and Alternative Application applicants
- All of the usual updates to the website and related materials will be made as implementation moves forward

2024-25 MAP Start-Up Formula

- ISAC Commissioners approved the 2024-25 MAP Start-Up formula in September
 - It is the same as the 2023- 24 Recompute Formula, using
 - 2021-22 reported tuition and fees
 - 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule
 - a \$5,200 living allowance, and
 - an \$8,400 maximum award
 - Replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI)

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Monetary Award Program (MAP) > Formula > 2024-25 MAP Formula

2024-25 MAP Formula

[2024-25 MAP Start-up Formula](#)

Each year the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is responsible for adopting an allocation formula for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). The Commission approves a "start-up" formula that is used to begin making award announcements for students applying for the next academic year. Typically, once the Governor and General Assembly take final action on the budget, the Commission revisits the formula in June or July and takes action to approve a "recompute" formula.

Unless otherwise noted, all calculations should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar upward from .500 and downward from .499. Students who have been paid for 135 or more MAP Paid Credit Hours are not eligible for MAP.

2024-25 Start-up Formula

On September 21, 2023, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission [approved the 2024-25 \(FY25\) MAP start-up formula](#). Following the FY24 recompute formula, the start-up formula for 2024-25 MAP grants – which is outlined in Table One of [Agenda Item 5](#) from the [September 21, 2023 Commission meeting](#) – uses:

- 2021-22 reported tuition and fees;
- the 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule;
- a \$5,200 living allowance; and,
- an \$8,400 maximum award.

In addition, as necessitated by FAFSA Simplification, the 2024-25 MAP start-up formula **replaces**

September 21, 2023
1:00 p.m.

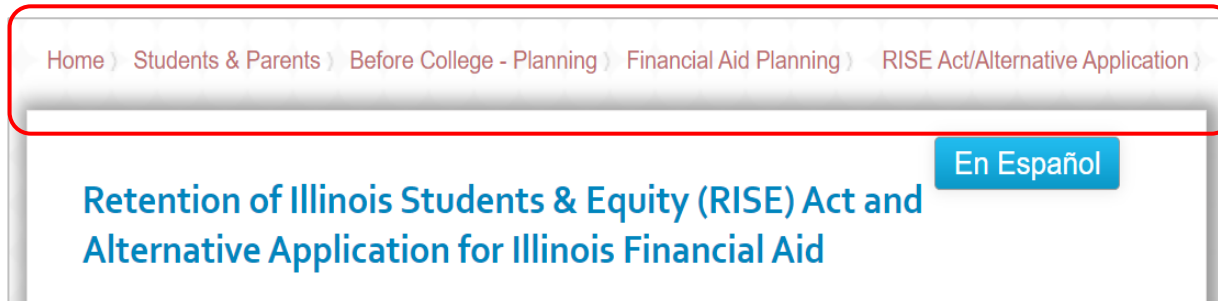
Deerfield Office
3rd Floor – Room 3030
1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, Illinois

Springfield Office
3rd Floor Conference
500 W. Monroe
Springfield, Illinois

1. Announcements (Action)
 - A. [Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates and Locations – Commission](#) (Action: Commission)
Action Taken: Approved
 - B. [Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates and Locations – Investment Committee](#) (Action: Investment Committee)
Action Taken: Approved
2. Approval of the Commission and Investment Committee Meeting Minutes (Action)
 - A. [Approval of Minutes of the June 22, 2023 Investment Portion of the Joint Meeting of the Commission and Investment Committee](#) (Action: Investment Committee)
Action Taken: Approved
 - B. [Approval of Minutes of the June 22, 2023 Joint Meeting of the Commission and Investment Committee](#) (Action: Commission)
Action Taken: Approved
3. Approval for the Destruction of Open Meeting Verbatim Records (Action)
 - A. [Approval of Investment Committee Open Meeting Verbatim Records for Destruction](#) (Action: Investment Committee)
Action Taken: Approved
 - B. [Approval of the Commission Open Meeting Verbatim Records for Destruction](#) (Action: Commission)
Action Taken: Approved
4. [Executive Director's Report](#) (Information)
5. [Monetary Award Program \(MAP\) Start-Up Formula](#) (Action)
Action Taken: Approved

2024-25 Alternative Application

- 2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid will coincide with the launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA
- Changes have been made to the application to be consistent with the 2024-25 FAFSA to collect all data elements required to calculate an SAI
- The application will continue to be available in English and Spanish
 - Help text will also be available in Spanish



2024-25 MAP Award Notification Language

- Other than award year reference, there are no changes to the required MAP award notification language for 2024-25
- An updated version of the language has been posted in the MAP section of the FAA area at isac.org

2024-25 School-Issued Award Notification Language

All schools are required to announce MAP Grant awards to all eligible students enrolled at their institutions, including students who are only eligible for a second semester/second and third quarter MAP award. Schools are required to clearly identify the awards on the award notification as: **State of IL MAP Grant (Est)**.

Schools are also required to include the following information with the award notification:

By applying for financial aid and agreeing to share that information with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) you have been considered for the State of Illinois (IL) Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant. All MAP-approved institutions are required by the State of Illinois to announce MAP Grant awards to students who are enrolled or intending to enroll at their institution. An award amount is included in your financial aid package if you have met the eligibility criteria.

The MAP Grant award amount is an estimate made by the financial aid office and is identified as a "State of IL MAP Grant (Est)". Please be aware that the number of available MAP Grants is limited by funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor, and reductions to estimated or actual MAP Grants are possible.

There are also limitations to how long you can continue to receive a MAP Grant. Usage is tracked by the number of credit hours for which you've received MAP benefits and is referred to as MAP Paid Credit Hours (MPCHs). The maximum number of MPCHs that can be received is 135, which is equivalent to approximately four and a half years of full-time enrollment. For your reference, and to learn more about MPCH limitations, you may access a record of your MPCHs, as well as other student resources, through the ISAC Student Portal at studentportal.isac.org.

Eligibility for the need-based MAP Grant award may indicate that you are eligible for assistance with expenses such as food, housing, or child care for dependent children. If you have dependent care expenses, ask the financial aid office about the federal dependent care allowance. For eligibility and application information about the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) and the [Child Care Assistance Program](#), contact the [Illinois Department of Human Services](#) at 800-843-6154 or www.dhs.state.il.us. Contact the [Illinois Hunger Coalition](#) Hunger Hotline at 800-359-2163 or www.ilhunger.org.

MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications

- The final file layout for 2024-25 MAP processing has been posted to the Electronic Tools section of the E-Library
- For 2024-25, these data elements are no longer included on the file:
 - Student Social Security number (SSN)
 - Student Last Name (previously an optional field)
 - Original SSN
 - Name ID
- These Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data elements were removed to protect student identity when transmitting files between ISAC and colleges
- The student's Person Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) that is assigned to the student by the Department of Education (ED) by the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) will replace the SSN on the file
 - The Person UUID field is 36 characters in length, and the total number of characters being removed is also 36, so the length of the file will not change
 - The Person UUID will stay the same for the student across FAFSA cycles
 - ISAC will generate and a Person UUID for Alternative Application applicants

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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

Sign-Up for E-messaging

* 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

- Subscription groups for specific programs are available

Quick Links

- Borrowers
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- GAP Access
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- Military Service
- Non-Eligible, Non-Citizens
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Social Networks



800.899.ISAC (4722)

e-Messaging

Get the latest news & updates from ISAC

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Applications

Federal Updates

Draft 2024-25 Specifications Guide

December 2023 Update #1

- FSA posted an update to the draft 2024–25 FAFSA Specifications Guide
- The volumes contained in this guide contain FAFSA Processing System (FPS) technical and processing information for the 2024–25 award year
- They updated *Volume 7 – Comment Codes*, *Volume 8 – Agency Matches*, and *Volume 9 – Testing and Web Demo System*; these are now final
- The *Introduction* and *Volume 1* are also now final. The *Introduction* has not changed since they posted it on Dec. 28, 2022
- *Volume 1* has not changed since they posted it on Sept. 25, 2023
- *Volume 2* through *Volume 6* remain unchanged
- December 7, Electronic Announcement
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-12-07/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-december-2023-update-1-now-available>

Draft 2024-25 Specifications Guide

December 2023 Update #2

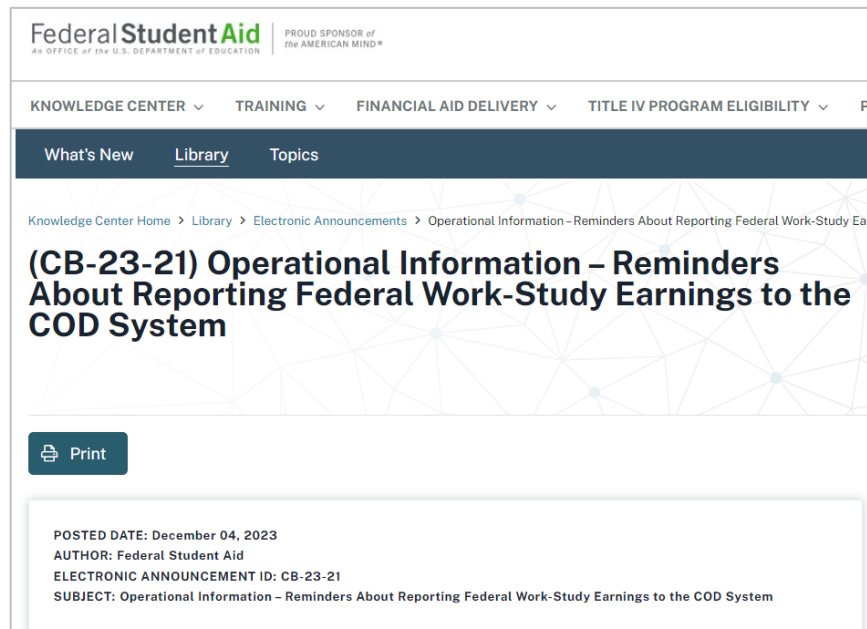
- FSA posted an update to the draft 2024–25 FAFSA Specifications Guide
- The volumes contained in this guide contain FAFSA Processing System (FPS) technical and processing information for the 2024–25 award year
- They updated *Volume 2 – FPS Schedule and Getting Help*, *Volume 3 – Electronic Data Exchange and FAFSA Processing*, and *Volume 6 – ISIR Guide*; these are now final
- They also updated *Volume 5 – Edits and Rejects* that was initially published as final on Dec. 7, 2023; the changes made since Dec. 7th are noted in the volume’s Change History Table
- The *Introduction* and volumes 1, 4, 7, 8, and 9 remain unchanged
- December 14, Electronic Announcement
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-12-14/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-december-2023-update-2-now-available>

Access Removed for Unconfirmed TG Numbers (SAIG Mailboxes) and Electronic Services Users Accounts

- FSA announced on December 13, 2023, they removed access to enrolled services for accounts that had not been actively confirmed
 - Every organization enrolled for a Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) account was required to review and validate its assigned TG numbers and Electronic Services user accounts by December 7, 2023.
 - Failure to accurately complete the process will result in loss of access to FSA data systems, including services such as ISIR deliveries, ISIR requests, FAFSA corrections, and NSLDS enrollment reporting and updates.
 - Requires schools to complete and submit before they can receive Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) for 2024-25.
 - To restore access to these accounts, go to the October 16 Electronic Announcement for step-by-step instructions
 - <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-10-16/active-confirmation-tg-numbers-saig-mailboxes-and-electronic-services-user-accounts-required-dec-7-2023-maintain-access-federal-student-aid-systems>
 - December 13 - Electronic Announcement
 - <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-12-13/access-removed-unconfirmed-tg-numbers-saig-mailboxes-and-electronic-services-user-accounts>

Reminder About Reporting Federal Work-Study Earnings to the COD System

- FSA sent out an Electronic Announcement reminding schools to complete the submission of FWS earnings for the 2022 calendar year by the end of December 2023
- December 4 - Electronic Announcement
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-12-04/operational-information-reminders-about-reporting-federal-work-study-earnings-cod-system>



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, it features the Federal Student Aid logo and the text 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®'. Below this is a navigation bar with dropdown menus for 'KNOWLEDGE CENTER', 'TRAINING', 'FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY', and 'TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'What's New', 'Library', and 'Topics'. The main content area displays the breadcrumb path: 'Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Operational Information – Reminders About Reporting Federal Work-Study Earnings'. The title of the page is '(CB-23-21) Operational Information – Reminders About Reporting Federal Work-Study Earnings to the COD System'. A 'Print' button is visible below the title. At the bottom, a metadata box contains the following information: 'POSTED DATE: December 04, 2023', 'AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid', 'ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: CB-23-21', and 'SUBJECT: Operational Information – Reminders About Reporting Federal Work-Study Earnings to the COD System'.

2024-25 FAFSA

KNOWLEDGE CENTER ▾ TRAINING ▾ FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY ▾ TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ▾

What's New Library Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA

(GENERAL-23-100) Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA

Print

POSTED DATE: November 15, 2023
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-23-100
SUBJECT: Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA

Today, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released new details on the streamlined *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA[®]) form. The new form will allow more than ever for students to get financial aid for college and help 610,000 more students from diverse backgrounds receive Pell Grants. In total, it will allow 1.5 million more students to receive a Pell Grant award, bringing the total number of students eligible for the Pell Grant to 10 million.

The changes to the FAFSA form represent the most ambitious and significant changes in decades to the processes to apply for federal student aid and the formulas used to determine eligibility. The Common Financial Aid Form — the FAFSA form's predecessor — was introduced in 1992 and was enacted by bipartisan majorities in Congress through the *FUTURE Act*. The improved FAFSA form will be available for students and parents who complete the form will receive a confirmation and see their estimated financial aid information on the implementation of the new FAFSA is provided below.

A Better FAFSA Form

Transition to the new FAFSA

The Department has updated the better FAFSA experience. The Department is issuing

Students and families will be able to complete and submit FAFSA forms online by Dec. 31. We expect applications to peak in late January and February 2024. The new FAFSA will allow students and families to use federal tax data transferred directly and securely from the Internal Revenue Service. Once the application is complete, students will receive a confirmation email including their estimated Student Aid Index and Pell Grant eligibility. Students and families will also be able to complete paper forms by downloading a PDF form and mailing it to the Department.

Schools will begin receiving aid eligibility information, including Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs), by the end of January 2024, with information on paper forms to follow. Additionally, students will also be able to make corrections and updates at this time. Institutions will be able to make corrections in the weeks following. Direct connections to certain state financial aid applications and the ability for unpaid preparers to complete a FAFSA form on behalf of students will return with the 2025-26 FAFSA.

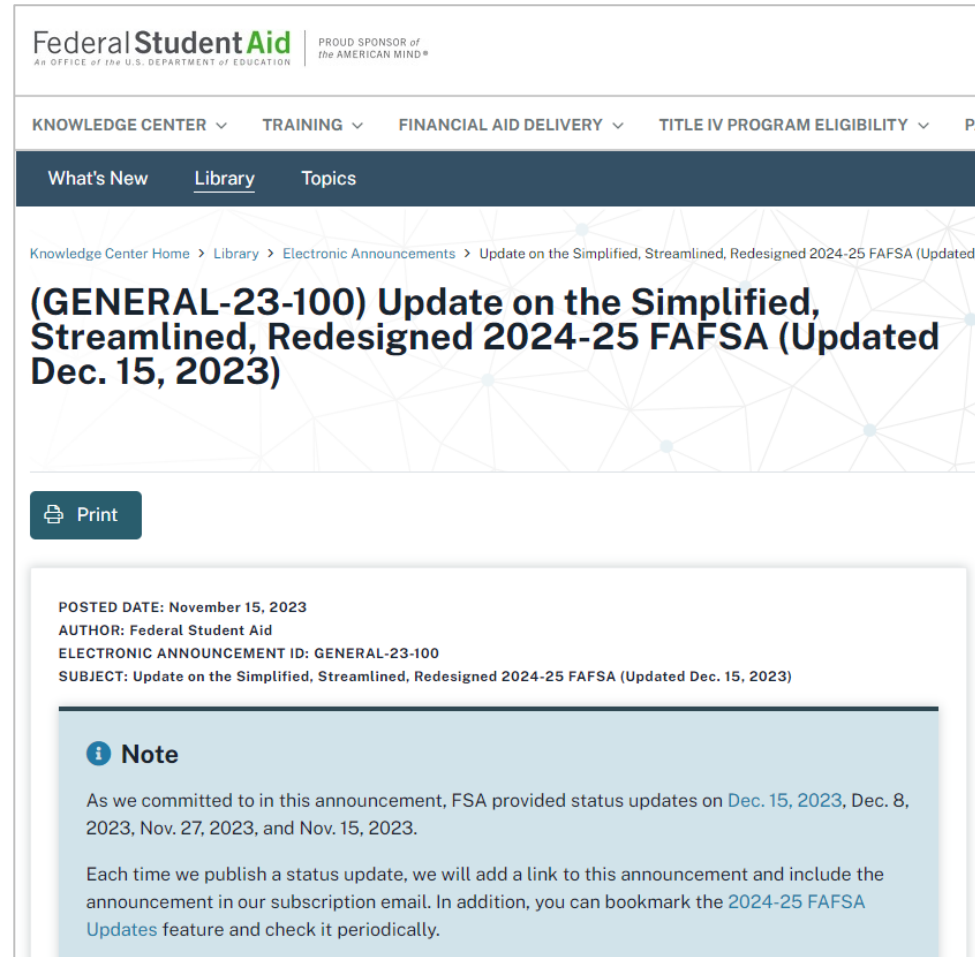
The new FAFSA is not only a major transition for the Department; it will also bring many changes for students, families, schools, and software vendors. In March 2023, we published the [Better FAFSA Better Future Roadmap \(FAFSA Roadmap\)](#), an implementation timeline of resources, guidance, and training materials for students and parents, schools and institutions, and other stakeholders about the redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA form. The Department has updated the FAFSA Roadmap with additional resources for our stakeholders, including students and families. We remain committed to continuing our support with regular outreach, including webinars, guidance, tool tips, and communications directly to our stakeholders.

Electronic Announcement - November 15
2024-25 FAFSA will be available by December 31, 2023, and schools will begin receiving ISIR data by the end of January 2024.

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-15/update-simplified-streamlined-redesigned-2024-25-fafsa>

Update of the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA

- December 15, Electronic Announcement
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-15/update-simplified-streamlined-redesigned-2024-25-fafsa-updated-dec-15-2023>



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, it says "Federal Student Aid" and "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND". Below that are navigation tabs: "KNOWLEDGE CENTER", "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", and "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY". A dark blue navigation bar contains "What's New", "Library" (which is underlined), and "Topics". The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA (Updated Dec. 15, 2023)". The main heading is "(GENERAL-23-100) Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA (Updated Dec. 15, 2023)". Below the heading is a "Print" button. The announcement details are: "POSTED DATE: November 15, 2023", "AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid", "ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-23-100", and "SUBJECT: Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA (Updated Dec. 15, 2023)". A "Note" section follows, stating that FSA provided status updates on Dec. 15, 2023, Dec. 8, 2023, Nov. 27, 2023, and Nov. 15, 2023. It also mentions that future updates will be linked to this announcement and included in subscription emails, with a link to the "2024-25 FAFSA Updates" feature.

FSA Resources

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KNOWLEDGE CENTER ▾ TRAINING ▾ FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY ▾ TITLE IV PF

What's New Library Topics

[Knowledge Center Home](#) > [Topics](#) > [FAFSA Simplification Information](#) > [2024-25 FAFSA Updates](#)

2024-25 FAFSA Updates

The 2024-25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form will be available to submit by Dec. 31, 2023. Stakeholders should bookmark this page for regular status related to the 2024-25 FAFSA launch.

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-updates>

Quick Links

- [2024-25 FAFSA Roadmap](#)
- [FAFSA Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements](#)
- [FAFSA Simplification Information](#)

Federal Student Aid Information Center

Late December Schedule

- Dec. 26 – Open
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET
- Dec. 27 – Open
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET
- Dec. 28 – Open
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET
- Dec. 29 – Open
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET
- Dec. 30 – Open
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET
- Dec. 31 – Closed
- Jan. 1 – Open
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET

Webinars

- [Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series – List of Topics](#)

To access recorded webinars, log in to the [FSA Training Center](#) and select FAFSA Simplification.

Resources

- [2024-25 FAFSA form videos on the FSA YouTube Channel](#)
- [Outreach resources and references for use in messaging to students and families](#)

FAQs

- [FAFSA Simplification](#)

Have Questions?

To submit a question about the 2024-25 FAFSA launch, complete the [Customer Support form](#) in the FSA Partner Connect Help Center and select “2024-25 FAFSA” as the topic.

FSA Resources

The Department has provided and encourages partners to use these key resources of up-to-date digital and social media content to use and share with students and parents.

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-10-30/federal-student-aid-resources-financial-aid-administrators-school-counselors-college-access-professionals-and-mentors>

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KNOWLEDGE CENTER ▾ TRAINING ▾ FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY ▾ TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ▾ PA

What's New Library Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Federal Student Aid Resources for Financial Aid Administrators, School Couns

(GENERAL-23-91) Federal Student Aid Resources for Financial Aid Administrators, School Counselors, College Access Professionals, and Mentors

Print

POSTED DATE: October 30, 2023
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-23-91
SUBJECT: Federal Student Aid Resources for Financial Aid Administrators, School Counselors, College Access Professionals, and Mentors

Financial aid administrators, school counselors, college access professionals, and mentors are key partners in the federal student aid process and, as such, key customers to whom we provide digital and social media content to use and share with students and parents. We encourage you to avail themselves of the following turn-key resources:

Toolkits

- FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov provides financial aid information along with tools and resources for school counselors, college access professionals, and mentors.
- Better FAFSA Better Future Toolkit is a digital toolkit to help you as you support student families with the 2024-25 FAFSA process. It includes videos, presentations, sample email content, and webinars.
- Resources to Support Return to Repayment is a digital toolkit with resources you can use to help students and borrowers return to repayment status. It includes videos, webinars, and articles.

Important: The Financial Aid Toolkit website is not intended for students, parents, or borrowers. Refer them to StudentAid.gov.

Social Media

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Financial Aid Toolkit for COUNSELORS


Learn About Financial Aid ▾ Conduct Outreach ▾ Get Training ▾ Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources

Help students and parents prepare for college or career school.
The Financial Aid Toolkit provides federal student aid information and outreach tools for counselors, college access professionals, nonprofit mentors, and other advisors.

<h3>LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID</h3> <p>Understand the basics of federal student aid, the FAFSA® process, and loan repayment.</p>	<h3>CONDUCT OUTREACH</h3> <p>Get tips on hosting events; sample financial aid night PowerPoint presentations; and suggested messages for social media, emails, or newsletters.</p>	<h3>GET TRAINING</h3> <p>Find training or conference opportunities or curriculum materials for counselors' professional development.</p>	<h3>SEARCH TOOLS AND RESOURCES</h3> <p>Search our resource library by content, audience, and topic.</p>
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FSA Resources

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2009/fafsa-q-and-a.html>



U.S. Department of Education

Q

[Student Loans](#) | [Grants](#) | [Laws](#) | [Data](#)

FAFSA Simplification Questions and Answers

Other than statutory and regulatory requirements included in the document, the contents of this guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public. This guidance is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Questions on this topic are divided into the following categories:

- [Student Aid Index \(SAI\)](#)
- [Awarding Other Financial Assistance \(OFA\)](#)
- [Pell Grant Calculation \(PEL\)](#)

You may refer additional questions to the Department using the Contact Customer Support form in [FSA's Partner Connect Help Center](#). To submit a question, please enter your name, email address, topic, and question. When submitting a question related to DCL GEN-23-11, please select the topic "FSA Ask-A-FED/Policy."

Student Aid Index (SAI)

SAI-Q1: Can an institution adjust the SAI of an applicant to below –1500 using professional judgment?

SAI-A1: No. An institution may use professional judgment to adjust FAFSA data elements, but the Department's Federal Processing System (FPS) will never assign an SAI of less than –1500. [Guidance issued 08/04/2023]

SAI-Q2: Certain income items have been excluded from the FAFSA form. Can institutions add those items back in by professional judgment?

SAI-A2: Institutions have broad flexibility in exercising professional judgment (PJ). However, institutions may not request additional information or require additional forms beyond the FAFSA form unless the Department or the school selects the student for verification, or the student has requested either a review of their dependency status or special circumstances adjustment. [Guidance issued 08/04/2023]

SAI-Q3: Now that the number of family members in college is not considered in the need analysis, may financial aid administrators (FAAs) use their PJ authority to account for the cost of other family members who are enrolled in college?

SAI-A3: Yes, the law permits FAAs to exercise PJ to adjust the elements in the cost of attendance or the values of data used on the FAFSA form to calculate the SAI (e.g., AGI, taxes paid) when special circumstances exist. The Simplification Act revised the HEA to include any family members enrolled in postsecondary education in the list of circumstances that an FAA might consider when deciding whether to use PJ. FAAs are also reminded to indicate they are using their PJ authority by setting the FAA Adjustment flag in the FAFSA Partner Portal (formerly FAA Access) or via Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) if the values of data used on the FAFSA form are

How Do I Find...

- Student loans, forgiveness
- Higher Education Rulemaking
- College accreditation
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- FERPA
- FAFSA
- 1098, tax forms

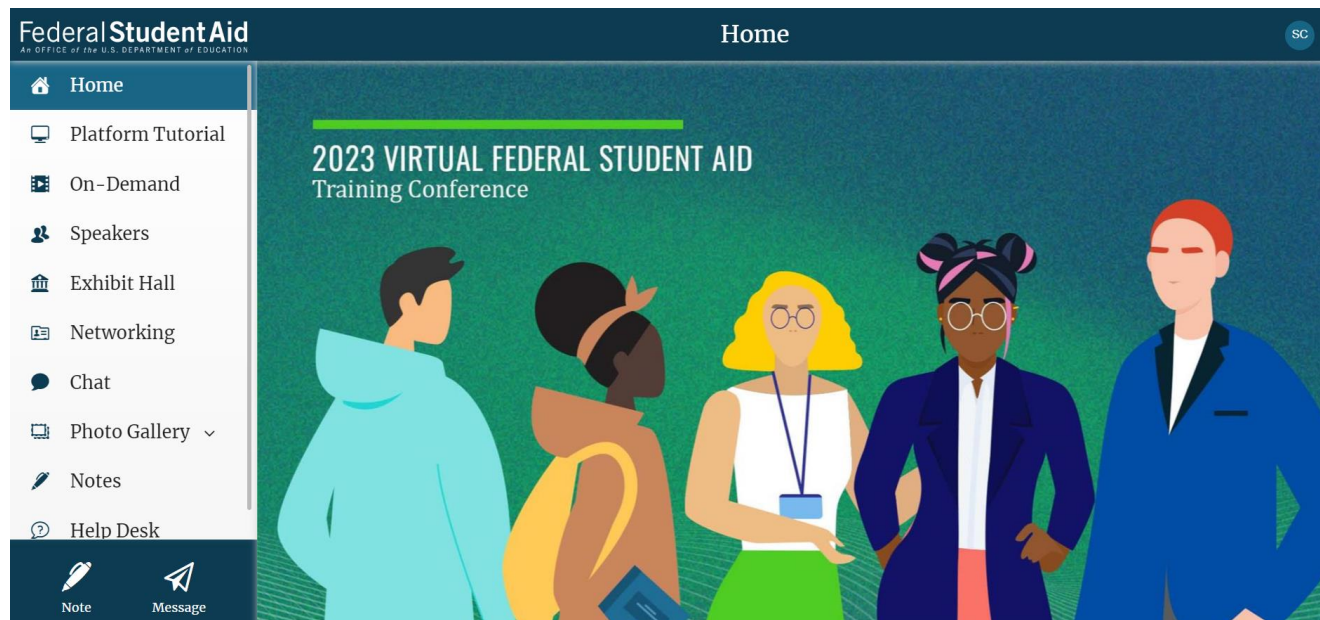
[More >](#)

Information About...

- Elevating Teaching
- Early Learning
- Engage Every Student
- Unlocking Career Success
- Cybersecurity

2023 Virtual FSA Training Conference

- On-Demand Access Available Until March 2024
- If you were unable to attend a session or would like to review a session, the opportunity to continue learning is available
- December 5, Electronic Announcement
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-12-05/2023-virtual-federal-student-aid-training-conference-demand-access-available-until-march-2024>



FSA Partner Connect Training Webinar Series, December 2023 – January 2024

- The webinars in this series will be offered on four consecutive days, on three separate occasions. The only difference between each week of training is the webinar starting time.
 - FSA Partner Connect Overview
 - Title IV Eligibility Applications
 - Administrative Overview
 - TPS (Third-Party Servicer) Inquiry Form From A-Z
- Week of Dec. 18, 2023: Webinars begin at 9 a.m.
- Week of Jan. 16, 2024: Webinars begin at 12 p.m.
- Week of Jan. 29, 2024: Webinars begin at 1 p.m.
- December 4, Electronic Announcement <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-12-04/live-internet-webinars-fsa-partner-connect-training-updated-dec-11-2023>

FSA Wednesday Webinar Series

All sessions are scheduled for 12-1:30 p.m.

- Consumer Information and FSA Assessments – January 31, 2024
- EDEXpress: Your Solution for Accessing FTI – February 28, 2024
- Federal Update – April 10, 2024
- <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-12-14/live-internet-webinars-wednesday-webinar-series-winter-spring-2024>

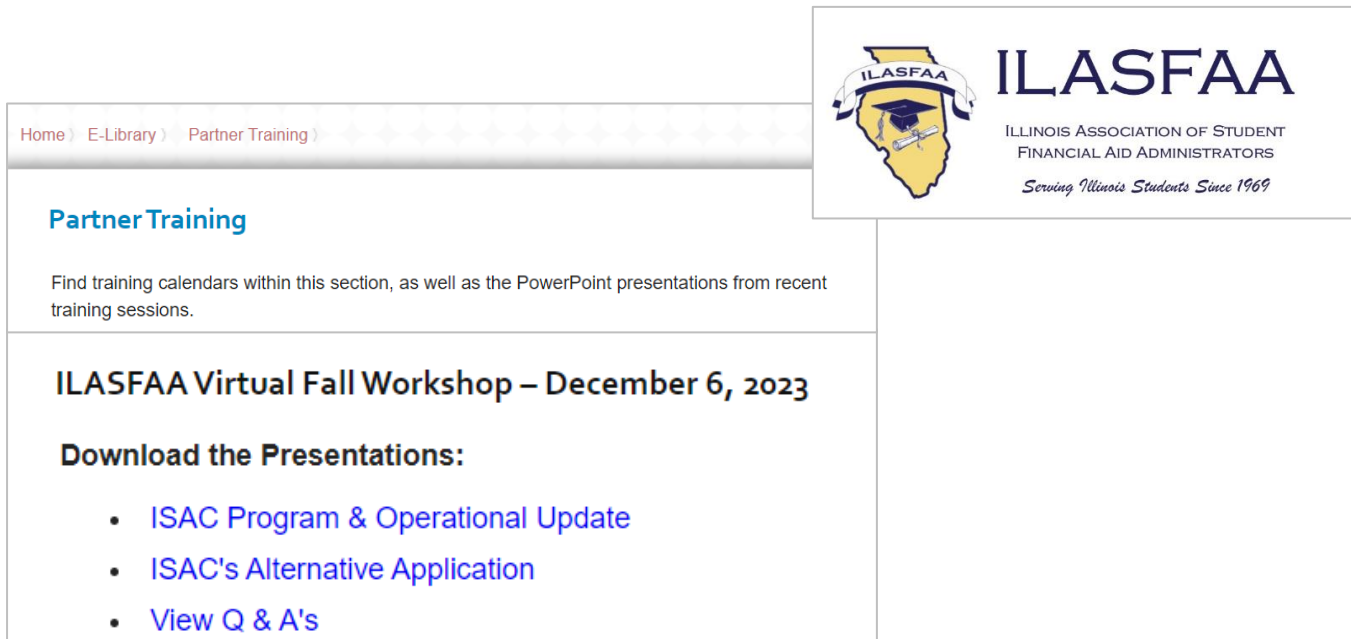
The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it says "Federal Student Aid" and "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND". Below that, there are navigation tabs: "KNOWLEDGE CENTER", "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", and "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY". Underneath, there are sub-tabs: "What's New", "Library", and "Topics". The main heading is "(ANN-23-08) Live Internet Webinars – Wednesday Webinar Series, Winter–Spring 2024". Below the heading is a "Print" button. At the bottom, there is a summary box with the following text: "PUBLICATION DATE: December 14, 2023", "DCL ID: ANN-23-08", "SUBJECT: Live Internet Webinars – Wednesday Webinar Series, Winter–Spring 2024", and "SUMMARY: This letter announces three upcoming webinars from Federal Student Aid in the ongoing Wednesday Webinar Series. These live webinars discuss the most recent guidance related to a variety of topics, including both Title IV policy and operational updates. The webinars in the Winter–Spring series will be offered from January through April 2024."

NASFAA Webinars

- **2024 Upcoming Webinars for NASFAA members:**
 - FAFSA Update: 2024-25 – January 24 at 1 p.m.
 - Deep Dive Into the Student Aid Index (SAI) – February 21 at 1 p.m.
- Link to webinars:
https://www.nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand

2023 ILASFAA Fall Workshop

- Virtual WebEx Event was December 6, 2023
- Presentations and Q & A's available to download at ISAC's Partner Training page <https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html>



The screenshot displays the ILASFAA website's Partner Training section. At the top right is the ILASFAA logo, which includes a map of Illinois with a graduation cap and the text 'ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS' and 'Serving Illinois Students Since 1969'. The breadcrumb navigation shows 'Home > E-Library > Partner Training'. The main heading is 'Partner Training', followed by a sub-heading 'ILASFAA Virtual Fall Workshop – December 6, 2023'. Below this, a section titled 'Download the Presentations:' lists three items: 'ISAC Program & Operational Update', 'ISAC's Alternative Application', and 'View Q & A's'.

Home > E-Library > Partner Training >

Partner Training

Find training calendars within this section, as well as the PowerPoint presentations from recent training sessions.

ILASFAA Virtual Fall Workshop – December 6, 2023

Download the Presentations:

- [ISAC Program & Operational Update](#)
- [ISAC's Alternative Application](#)
- [View Q & A's](#)

2024 ILASFAA Conference

- **Save the Dates!**
- 2024 ILASFAA Conference will be March 4-6, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in Bloomington, IL.
- This year's theme is '**Back to the Future**'



ISAC's Webinars for FAAs

Monthly Operational Update & Program News

- These webinars will cover overview updates of ISAC programs along with any federal or state updates and announcements
 - All webinars are scheduled for 2 p.m.
 - ❖ January 31
 - ❖ February 28
 - ❖ March 27
-

Tuesday Training - Policies & Procedures

- We will present a monthly webinar on the second Tuesday of the month that will focus on important policies and procedures for ISAC programs
 - All webinars are scheduled for 10 a.m.
 - ❖ January 9 - Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
 - ❖ February 13 - TBD
 - ❖ March 12 - TBD

To participate in these webinars, visit the Partner Training page in the e-Library or click on this link the day of the webinar

<https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html>

ISAC Policies & Procedures Webinars

- If you missed these presentations, you could find the Power Point presentations in the e-library at:
<https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html>
 - December 12 – Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
 - November 14 - Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant & Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Programs
 - October 10 – Monetary Award Program (MAP)


Home › E-Library › Partner Training ›

Partner Training

Find training calendars within this section, as well as the PowerPoint presentations from recent training sessions.

Webinar: Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program – Policies & Procedures

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 10 a.m.

[Download the Presentation](#) 

Partners' Training Calendar
Recorded Webinars
Manuals And Handbooks

Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!

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