

ISAC Operational Update and Program News

February 28, 2024



Webinar Agenda

- 2023-24 Operational Update
- 2024-25 Operational Update
- Federal Update
- Dates and Events to Remember
- Questions
- ISAC Contact Information

2023-24 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- Spring (second-term) payment requests may be submitted in the MAP system
- In order to be considered timely, the payment claim deadline date for the second-term must be submitted on or before **March 22, 2024, no later than 7 p.m. (CT)**
- Fall (first-term) claims may still be submitted even though the deadline date was Friday, December 8, 2023
 - Any initial requests or increases to first-term claims made after the deadline date will be held as late and considered for payment later in the year if funding is available
- Payment requests are processed on a nightly basis and results are provided the next business day
- Reminder: 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

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- Schools may submit payment requests (claims) for the fall, winter and spring terms in the NES system in GAP Access
- Priority claim dates for each term will be announced once they have been determined
- The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC staff to monitor remaining funds and award other students
- By submitting a payment request, schools are certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria
- If an awarded student becomes ineligible, schools will need to provide an ineligible reason from the drop-down menu

NES Payment Process

- Payment requests are submitted for individual students by term
- Students at semester schools may receive two disbursements (fall and spring terms)
- Students at quarter schools may receive three disbursements (fall, winter and spring terms)
- When a student is receiving enough financial aid from other sources to meet a term's cost of attendance, NES funding can be requested in a subsequent term
- For students who are receiving other aid and who may not use their total NES annual award during the fall, winter or spring terms, an option to disburse an award for the summer term will be added to their record in the NES system following the spring term

NES Payment Process

- Revised Ineligibility Reason – “Student is not accepting NES for this term”
- Select this option if a student has enough financial aid assistance from other sources to meet all of their cost of attendance components for the term

The screenshot displays the 'Student Detail: Payments' page in the NESP system. The page includes navigation links (Home, Student, Certification, Payment, Reports) and a 'Payment' button. A 'Current SSN' field with a 'Go' button and an 'Annual Award Amount' of 17813.00 are visible. A table with columns for 'Terms' and '1-Fall' contains fields for School Code, Request, Enrollment Status, Enrollment Hours, Program of Study, Ineligible Reason, Living Allowance, Tuition Fees, and Requested Amount. A dropdown menu is open for the 'Ineligible Reason' field, listing various reasons. The option 'Student is not accepting NES for this term' is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from this option to the 'Ineligible Reason' dropdown in the table. At the bottom, there are 'Save Changes' and 'Discard Changes' buttons.

NESP Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List **Payment**

Current SSN
 Go

Annual Award Amount
17813.00

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

Student is not accepting NES for this term

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 NES for this term
Not US citizen/eligible non-citizen
Not a HS Grad/no GED
Not making satisfactory academic progress
Award Decline
Graduated in a prior term

Save Changes **Discard Changes**

NES Payment Process

- If the student will not be enrolled for the full award year (e.g., the student is graduating at the end of the fall term), the student may receive the full maximum annual award amount up to the student's cost of attendance for the term enrolled
- Or, in cases where a recipient's eligibility may not be determined until later in the award year, multiple disbursements are not required, and the system will allow the college to request up to the maximum annual award amount in a term
- When packaging NES with other financial aid that students may have available to them, keep in mind that the NES program has a nursing employment obligation that must be met after completing their degree or program
 - Which is why this program is intended to be used after other assistance that does not have an obligation associated with it has been applied

NES Payment Process

- A Payment Result Summary and Invoice Detail Report can be viewed or printed by selecting the Report tab in the NES system
- Also, payment results will display on the NES Student Payment List: View screen or the NES Student Detail: Payment screen the day after payment requests are processed
- Payment requests will be disbursed to the college in one lump sum, so that NES funds can be credited to student accounts rather than as individual checks for each student
 - Funds are issued by the State Comptroller directly to the institution
 - They are provided electronically or as a check, depending on how the college is set up
 - Reports for tracking payment vouchers and warrants are available via the NES system
- Payment offset and reconciliation procedures apply to NES program
 - Cancellations/adjustments to payment requests (claims) made throughout the award year will offset additional payments to the college during the year
 - Refund checks should not be sent throughout the award year

NES Payment Process

- Upon receipt of the scholarship funds from the Comptroller, the college should verify the student's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended
- If the recipient is enrolled, the institution may credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable, and if appropriate, any balance is to be returned to the recipient
- If the recipient has withdrawn and funds must be returned, the college should indicate that reason on the NESP Student Detail: Payment screen

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

NOTE: This program is different from the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program, which is no longer funded and for which no new awarding will take place.

Program News

(last updated January 19, 2024)

[2023-24 Program Funding](#)

[2023-24 Payment](#)

[2023-24 Award Determination](#)

[2023-24 Certification](#)

[2023-24 Application](#)

[GAP Access Registration](#)

2023-24

Program Funding

The 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) appropriation for Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) is \$4,000,000.

Payment

Important dates and reminders for 2023-24 NES payment processing:

- As part of our ongoing efforts to best leverage appropriated funds to award as many eligible students as possible, priority payment request (i.e., claim) deadline dates are established for each term.
 - ISAC is accepting 2023-24 NES claims for the *fall*, *winter*, and *spring* terms.
 - The priority claim deadline dates for the fall, winter and spring terms will be announced once they have been determined.

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

Program Overview

Eligibility Requirements

Application Procedures

Certification

Award Determination

NES Payment

Program Requirements

NES Electronic Processing

<https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/NESP/#2324Payment>

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship

- Schools may submit claims for the spring semester and winter quarter (second-term) and spring quarter (third-term)
- Priority claim dates will be announced once they have been determined
- Fall (first-term) claims may still be submitted even though the priority claim date was Friday, December 29, 2023
 - ISAC is continuing to accept and pay fall (first-term) claims
- Schools are encouraged to complete and submit payment request data as soon as possible

ECACE Scholarship

- 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 will be payable in a summer term if the student has not used their maximum award amount in previous terms

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- Schools may submit claims for the spring semester and winter quarter (second-term)
- The second-term priority claim date will be announced once it has been determined
- Fall (first-term) claims may still be submitted even though the priority claim date was Friday, December 29, 2023
 - ISAC is continuing to accept and pay fall (first-term) claims
- An MTI recipient who is also eligible for a MAP grant may use the MAP award first for tuition and mandatory fees

Golden Apple (GA) Scholars Program

- Schools may submit claims for the spring semester and winter quarter (second-term)
- The second-term priority claim date will be announced once it has been determined
- Fall (first-term) claims may still be submitted even though the priority claim date was Friday, December 29, 2023
 - ISAC is continuing to accept and pay fall (first-term) claims
- The Golden Apple Foundation awards a student 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		

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

- Schools may submit claims for the spring term
- Spring term priority claim date will be announced once it has been determined
- Fall (first-term) claims may still be submitted even though the priority claim date was Friday, December 29, 2023
 - ISAC is continuing to accept and pay fall (first-term) claims

Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

- Schools may submit benefit usage data for the spring term
- The date by which the spring term benefit usage data must be submitted will be announced once it has been determined
- Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit benefit usage data and adjustments for the fall term
- Starting with the 2023-24 academic year there are no longer term deadline dates by which applications must be submitted each term
 - However, applications must be received by ISAC in time for eligibility to be determined by the end of the term
 - The applicant will need to notify the college about their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which benefits will be requested

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

- Schools may submit benefit usage data for the spring term
- The date by which the spring term benefit usage data must be submitted will be announced once it has been determined
- Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit benefit usage data and adjustments for the summer and fall terms

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
- Even though the deadline date has passed to return the rosters for the fall term to ISAC, colleges that have not done so are encouraged to complete and submit the roster as soon as possible
 - 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


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
- Even though the deadline date has passed to return the rosters for the fall term to ISAC, colleges that have not done so are encouraged to complete and submit the roster as soon as possible
 - 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

2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

2024-25 MAP Processing Cycle

- The 2024-25 MAP processing cycle will begin in the MAP system in GAP Access shortly after ISIRs are released to colleges and state agencies (anticipated mid-March)
- MAP records and student eligibility information will be available once the MAP processing cycle begins
 - This will include students who have submitted a 2024-25 FAFSA or a 2024-25 Alternative Application
- Visit our website for more information:
 - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/



The screenshot shows the ISAC website page for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). The breadcrumb trail at the top reads: Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Monetary Award Program (MAP). The main heading is "Monetary Award Program (MAP)". Below this, there is a "Program News" section with a sub-heading "(last updated February 21, 2024)". The news items listed are: "2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing", "2024-25 Start-up Update (priority deadline date for returning MAP recipients extended to April 1)", "2024-25 Award Announcements", "2024-25 Start-up Formula", and "2024-25 File Layout Specifications". On the right side, there is a blue sidebar menu with the following items: "Monetary Award Program (MAP)", "Program Overview", "Applying", "Suspense", "Eligibility", "Award Announcements", "Formula", "MAP Paid Credit Hours", and "Special Enrollment Circumstances".

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**

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- Program Overview
- Applying
- Suspense
- Eligibility
- Award Announcements
- Formula
 - 2023-24 MAP Formula
 - 2024-25 MAP Formula**
 - Hand Calculation Forms
 - Calculating MAP Awards
- MAP Paid Credit Hours
- Special Enrollment Circumstances
- Budget Reporting
- Payment
- Reconciliation
- MAP Electronic Processing

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

- 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
 - Link to Alt App User Guide <https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/documents/2425AltAppUserGuide.pdf>
- A 2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing is available to assist schools with issues such as:
 - Resolving MAP eligibility questions
 - Dealing with conflicting information
 - Correcting data
 - Managing Alternative Application student records in GAP
 - Link to Operational Guide <https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2425-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Jan24.pdf>

Home › Students & Parents › Before College - Planning › Financial Aid Planning › RISE Act/Alternative Application ›

Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act and
Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

En Español

Access the
application here

ALTERNATIVE
APPLICATION
FOR ILLINOIS
FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying
undocumented students

Alternative Applications for 2024-2025

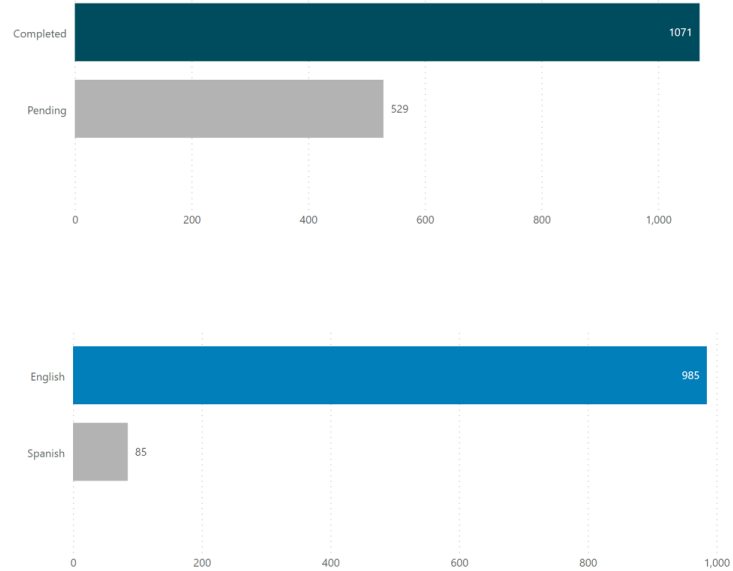
As of 02/26/2024

Total Number of Applications Started

1600

Total Number of Applications Completed

1071



Alternative Applications for 2023-2024

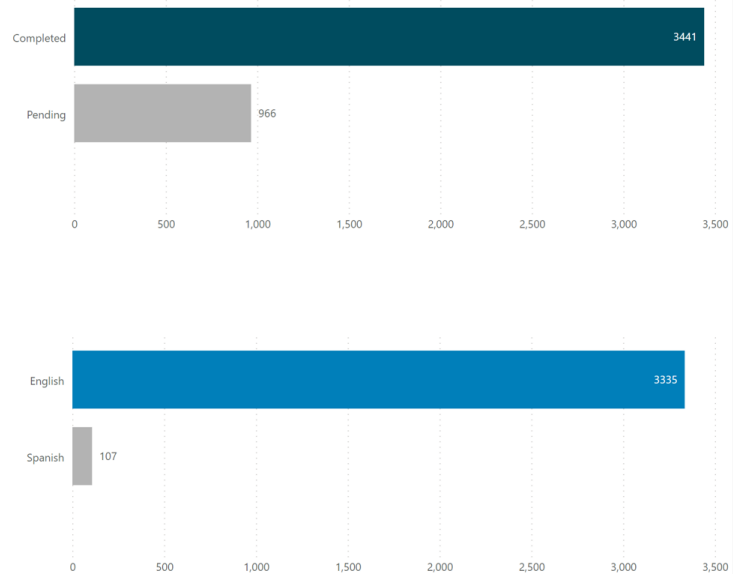
As of 02/26/2024

Total Number of Applications Started

4407

Total Number of Applications Completed

3441



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
- www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425MAPRqrdAwdNotifLang.pdf

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

2024-25 MAP File Layouts

2024-25 MAP 160 Byte File Layout Specifications

F) The following 160 byte record layout will be used for transmitting data between schools and ISAC.

Position		Field #	Data Element	Type (Length)	School to ISAC	ISAC to School	
Start	End				Payment or Cancellation Request	Elig File	Payment Results
					MAP Only	MAP	MAP
160 Byte Format							
1	3	1	Applicable MAP School Code	9(03)	X	X	X
4	4	2	Record Type	X(01)	4	7	5 / 6
5	5	3	Term Enrolled	9(01)	=1, 2, or 3		=1, 2, or 3
6	7	4	College Year	9(02)	25	25	25
8	8	5	Payment Request Code (valid values = P or C)	X(01)	X		X
9	14	6	Title IV School Code	X(06)	X	X	X
15	50	7	Person UUID	X(36)	X	X	X

160-byte file layout specifications

```
ISACPLL3YyRh5E8EohuN58wgGndxcXdQPgKM
ISACPwHoPtRKMQxELuxwUCON0grXZKdeJjT6
ISACXPgkpacSIF8iOR0jPDzjjvzYN6N2wTN
```

Sample ISAC UUIDs

2024–25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
As of 2/20/2024

Field #	Start Position	End Position	Length	Field Name	Populated when Applicable	Data Format (same values and formatting as ISIR unless otherwise noted)
1	1	1	1	Year Indicator	Yes	
2	2	37	36	FAFSA UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
3	38	73	36	Transaction UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
4	74	109	36	Person UUID	Yes	Will always start with ISAC
5	110	111	2	Transaction Number	Yes	
6	112	112	1	Dependency Model	Yes	

Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications

2024-25 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- Application period will be **March 1 through April 30, 2024**
 - 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 also be submitted to ISAC on or before April 30, 2024
 - Applicant must submit a 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application and have a valid Student Aid Index (SAI) calculated

2024-25 Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

- ECACE program has been federally-funded for the last three academic years, however, federal dollars will be unavailable after this current 2023-24 academic year
- Proposed Illinois legislation – [House Bill \(HB\) 5024](#) -- would amend the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to include a state-funded program
 - Here is part of the bill's synopsis:
 - ... Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall implement and administer an early childhood educator scholarship program, to be known as the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program. Provides that under the Program, the Commission shall annually award scholarships to early childhood education students enrolled in the institutions of higher education participating in the Consortium. Provides for rulemaking and consultation. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to provide for emergency rulemaking for the Program. Effective immediately.
- The Governor delivered his State of the State address on Feb. 21 and included in his budget recommendations a proposal of \$5 million to continue the ECACE Scholarship Program
- ISAC will provide more information as it becomes available

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)

- 2024-25 SETTW application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
 - The priority consideration application date is **March 1, 2024**
 - A complete application must be received by that date to be considered timely
 - Does not require a FAFSA or Alternative Application to complete the application process
 - The application may remain available after March 1, but those submitted after that date will not be considered timely
 - Students are encouraged to apply as long as the application remains available
 - This program is not subject to appropriation
 - The next step in the process will be to award the program's 250 waivers
 - Students who are awarded will be notified by ISAC by July 1

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- 2024-25 MTI Scholarship Program application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
 - The priority consideration application date is **March 31, 2024**
 - Applicants must also submit a 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application
 - The application process is not considered complete until both applications have been submitted
 - Due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be made for applicants who are having problems submitting the FAFSA by March 31
 - Additional time will be provided for the FAFSA to be submitted
 - However, the MTI application should be submitted by March 31 in order to be considered a timely applicant
 - Reminder: participating colleges must host an annual information session about MTI for teacher candidates of color and require that each program recipient meet with an academic advisor at least once per academic year

Golden Apple (GA) Scholars Program

- 2024-25 GA application and eligibility requirements are available at the Golden Apple Foundation website: goldenapple.org/scholars
 - The deadline application date is **April 1, 2024**
 - Applications for the program are accepted and processed by the Golden Apple Foundation



The Golden Apple Scholars Program in Illinois is a teacher preparation and tuition assistance program for high school seniors and freshman and sophomore Illinois college students who have the determination and drive to be highly effective teachers in Illinois schools-of-need. We prepare aspiring teachers for immediate and lasting success in the most challenging teaching environments.

Scholars Receive:

- Up to \$23,000 in total financial assistance for college, inclusive of paid [Scholar Institutes](#)

APPLY NOW

APPLICATION PROCESS

ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITIES

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

CONTACT SCHOLARS TEAM

HOME

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

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

About ISAC

- Contact ISAC
- Employment
- Executive Director
- The Commission
- FOIA

Social Networks



800.899.ISAC (4722)

e-Messaging

Get the latest news & updates from ISAC

Order ISAC Materials

Applications

Federal Updates

2024-25 FAFSA® Updates

- The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is expected to:
 - Begin transmitting batches of FAFSA information (ISIRs) to schools and state agencies in the “First Half of March”
 - Provide additional personnel, funding, resources, and technology to help schools, students, and colleges with the FAFSA process and financial aid packages
- For more information regarding 2024-25 FAFSA Updates:
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-updates#mostcurrentupdate
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-01-30/2024-25-fafsa-student-aid-index-update-and-timeline

2024-25 Award Year Flexibilities

- ED announced steps to help colleges prepare to package students' financial aid as quickly and accurately as possible:
 - Reduction in verifications
 - Suspend all new program reviews through June 2024
 - Waive the “no later than 90-day” requirement for schools whose Program Participation Agreement (PPA) expires in March, June or September 2024
 - Schools will have until the expiration day to submit a recertification application
 - Deploy teams of federal experts to under-resourced colleges
 - Allocating \$50 million in federal funding to be provided to non-profit groups specializing in financial aid support and services
- For more information about this electronic announcement:
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-02-13/2024-25-award-year-flexibilities-and-department-letters-presidents

2024-25 Specifications Guide

February 2024 Update

- ED posted an Electronic Announcement on February 16 regarding updates
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/handbooks-manuals-or-guides/2023-05-31/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-february-2024-update-updated-feb-16-2024
- The volumes contained in this guide contain FAFSA Processing System (FPS) technical and processing information for the 2024–25 award year
- Updated *Volume 4 – Record Layouts and Processing Codes* and the 2024-25 Final ISIR Record Layout in Excel Format; these are now final
 - This version includes revisions to the ISIR record layout and revisions to the Correction Data Entry Specifications
- *Volume 9 - Testing and Web Demo System*: added an Additional 2024-25 Test ISIR Data File under Attachments
- The *Introduction* and volumes 1 through 9 remain unchanged

Additional 2024-25 Test ISIR Data File & Other Tools Available

- ED posted an Electronic Announcement on February 16 regarding Test ISIR Data Files
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-02-16/additional-2024-25-test-isir-data-file-and-other-tools-available
- The test ISIRs reflect the current ISIR format & include several different scenarios
- Additional test ISIRs will be added as they become available
- Schools and software vendors will be able to upload test ISIRs by submitting a “pull request”, a common method of delivering code and content for review in the software engineering community

Electronic Announcement (EA)-General-24-13: Additional 2024–25 FAFSA Partner Preparation Support

- EA General-24-13, published February 27, 2024, provides information about additional support for school partners to help prepare for the launch of 2024-25 ISIRs
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-02-27/additional-2024-25-fafsa-partner-preparation-support
- Includes information on the release of additional ISIR test files and open-source tools in a public U.S. Department of Education GitHub repository
 - <https://github.com/usedgov/fafsa-test-isirs-2024-25>
- Also provides information on transmitting test files to active FTI-SAIG mailboxes

Submit SAIG Enrollment Agreement to Receive 2024-25 ISIRs

- Institutions must take action to ensure their new FTI-SAIG mailbox is ready to receive 2024-25 ISIRs.
- If the SAIG Enrollment Agreement is not submitted immediately, you will not receive 2024-25 ISIRs once the Department begins transmitting them in the first half of March.
- For more information regarding SAIG agreements:
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-09-22/updated-saig-enrollment-agreement-available-oct-23-2023-required-steps-receive-2024-25-isirs-updated-feb-9-2024
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-02-09/additional-information-fafsa-college-support-strategy

SAIG Software Upgrade for FTI Data Transmission is Available

- EA GENERAL-24-14 was published February 27, 2024 announcing the availability of an updated version of the EDconnect software
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-02-27/saig-software-upgrade-fti-data-transmission-availability-edconnect-861-updated-documentation-and-password-guidance
- As ED has communicated in several Electronic Announcements, upgraded software will be required to receive ISIRs in a new FTI-SAIG mailbox for the 2024–25 award year and beyond.
- The EDconnect software (version 8.6.1) is available on the [Software and Other Tools](#) page of the Knowledge Center website, along with an updated *EDconnect Installation and User Guide*.
 - Additionally, ED has provided a new resource about SAIG passwords and updated user documentation for the FTI-TDCommunity Manager (FTI-TDCM).

FSA Resources

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What's New Library Topics

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

2024-25 FAFSA Updates

Stakeholders should bookmark this page for regular status updates and resources related to the *Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form.



Print

Feb. 20, 2024 Update


Flexibility on Recertification for PPAs Expiring March, June, or September 2024

fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-updates

Quick Links

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

Need Support?

Email us  if your school needs personnel, funding, resources, and technology to help students complete the 2024-25 FAFSA form and/or to package students' financial aid as quickly and accurately as possible.

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.

Federal Student Aid Information Center


January – April Schedule

- Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 10 p.m. ET
- Saturday
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET
- Sunday
Closed
- Federal Holidays
Closed

Webinars



Ask your questions about the recent launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA:

- [Better FAFSA Better Future Q&A Sessions – January – February 2024](#)


To access recorded webinars, log in to the FSA Training Center  and select FAFSA Simplification. More information about previous webinar topics:

- [Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series – June – November 2023](#)

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](#) 

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.

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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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.

LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

Understand the basics of federal student aid, the FAFSA® process, and loan repayment.

CONDUCT OUTREACH

Get tips on hosting events; sample financial aid night PowerPoint presentations; and suggested messages for social media, emails, or newsletters.

GET TRAINING


Find training or conference opportunities or curriculum materials for counselors' professional development.

SEARCH TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Search our resource library by content, audience, and topic.

FSA Resources

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



U.S. Department of Education

[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 >](#)

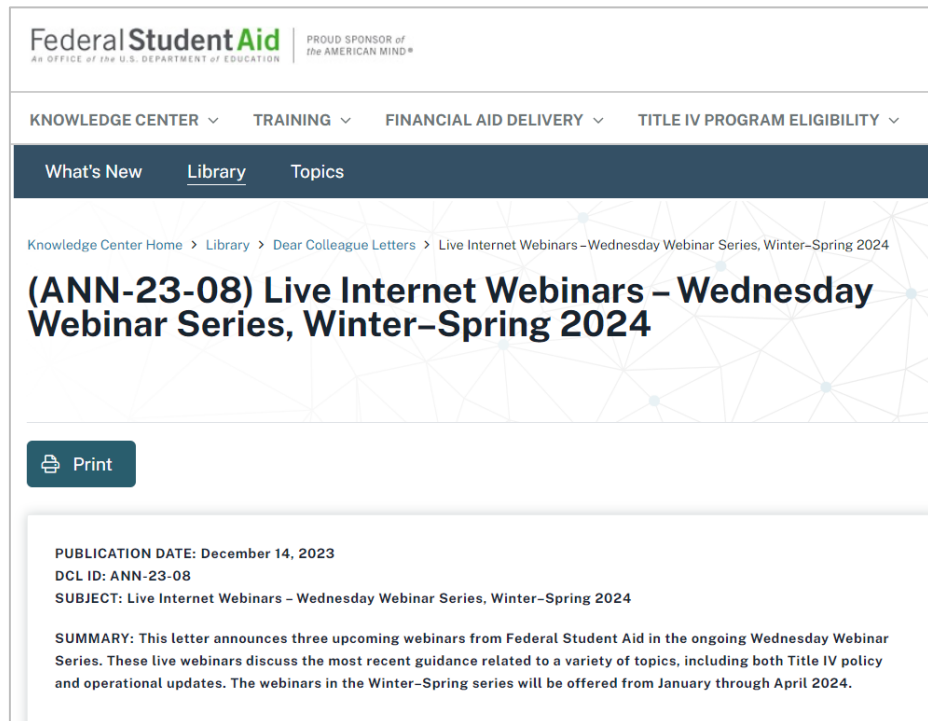
Information About...

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

FSA Wednesday Webinar Series

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

- EDEXpress: Your Solution for Accessing FTI – February 28
- Federal Update – April 10
- 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 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 menu with options: KNOWLEDGE CENTER, TRAINING, FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY, and TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY. A secondary menu includes "What's New", "Library", and "Topics". The main content area displays a breadcrumb trail: "Knowledge Center Home > Library > Dear Colleague Letters > Live Internet Webinars – Wednesday Webinar Series, Winter–Spring 2024". The title of the announcement is "(ANN-23-08) Live Internet Webinars – Wednesday Webinar Series, Winter–Spring 2024". A "Print" button is visible. Below the title, the following information is provided: PUBLICATION DATE: December 14, 2023; DCL ID: ANN-23-08; SUBJECT: Live Internet Webinars – Wednesday Webinar Series, Winter–Spring 2024. A summary follows: "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."

FSA Webinars

- Live Internet Webinars-Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series
 - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2024-01-05/live-internet-webinars-better-fafsa-better-future-webinar-series-january-february-2024-new-webinar-added-april-18-2024

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What's New Library Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Dear Colleague Letters > Live Internet Webinars - Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series, January-February 2024

(ANN-24-01) Live Internet Webinars - Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series, January-February 2024 (New Webinar Added for April 18, 2024)

Print

PUBLICATION DATE: January 05, 2024
DCL ID: ANN-24-01
SUBJECT: Live Internet Webinars - Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series, January-February 2024 (New Webinar Added for April 18, 2024)

SUMMARY: This letter announces two upcoming webinars from Federal Student Aid for our school partners. These live webinars, to be offered in January-February 2024, will provide an opportunity to ask questions about the recent launch of the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Better FAFSA® Better Future Webinar Series Schedule and Links, January-February 2024

Both sessions are scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Eastern time (ET). There may be a difference between your local time and Eastern time. To determine local time and its Eastern time zone equivalent, go to time.gov.

See below for complete details about each webinar, including the link to join on the day of the event.

Better FAFSA® Better Future Q&A - Session 1	>
Better FAFSA® Better Future Q&A - Session 2	>
Better FAFSA® Better Future Q&A - Session 3 New	∨

Date/Time: Thursday, April 18, 2024, 1-2 p.m. ET

This will be another opportunity to ask questions of Federal Student Aid staff about the 2024-25 FAFSA form.

Link to Join Webinar:

Microsoft Teams Link for Better FAFSA® Better Future Q&A - Session 3 Webinar April 18, 2024

NASFAA Webinars

- **Upcoming webinars...**

- NASFAA Business Affiliate Webinar: Streamlining Your Scholarship Management Process: How to Use Scholarship Magic to Maximize Your Impact – February 29 at 1 p.m.
- Graduate and Professional Community Update – March 13 at 1 p.m.

- **If you missed these webinars...**

- Verification: 2024-25 (Extended Edition) – December 12
- Policy Update & Final FAFSA Countdown – December 13
- FAFSA Update: 2024-25 – January 24
- Prison Education Program: Completing the Paper 2024-25 FAFSA with Students Who Are Incarcerated Workshop – January 31
- Deep Dive Into the Student Aid Index (SAI) – February 21

- Link to webinars -- nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand

2024 ILASFAA Conference

- **Great Scott! 2024 ILASFAA Conference is fast approaching...**
 - March 4-6, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, IL.
 - Registration is open at ilasfaa.org/2024_ilasfaa_annual_conference.php
 - This year's theme is **Back to the Future, Pre-Pandemic vs. Post-Pandemic**



ISAC's Webinars for FAAs

Monthly Operational Update & Program News

- These webinars will provide operational updates about ISAC programs along with any federal or state updates and announcements
 - Last Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.
 - ❖ March 27
 - ❖ April 24
 - ❖ May 29
-

Tuesday Training - Policies & Procedures

- These webinars focus on policies and procedures for ISAC programs and processes
 - Second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.
 - ❖ March 12 – Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) & Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
 - ❖ April 9 – Budget Reporting

To participate in these webinars, visit the Partner Training page in the e-Library on the day of the training for the webinar link and presentation materials

Link to the Partner Training page: isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information, and support to schools and other ISAC partners
- Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations
- Will soon be fully assuming the responsibilities of the School Services Department
 - Watch for more information about the transition after the ILASFAA Conference
 - You may continue to use the School Services contact information for questions and assistance

Partner Services Staff

Stephanie Claudio, Stephanie.Claudio@illinois.gov

Kim Eck, Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov

Daniela Rios, Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov

Sherry Schonauer, Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov

ISAC Contact Information

For school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: 800-899-ISAC (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

Spanish-speaking counselors are available

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!