ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

ISAC Operational Update and Program News

March 27, 2024

Agenda

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

2023-24 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

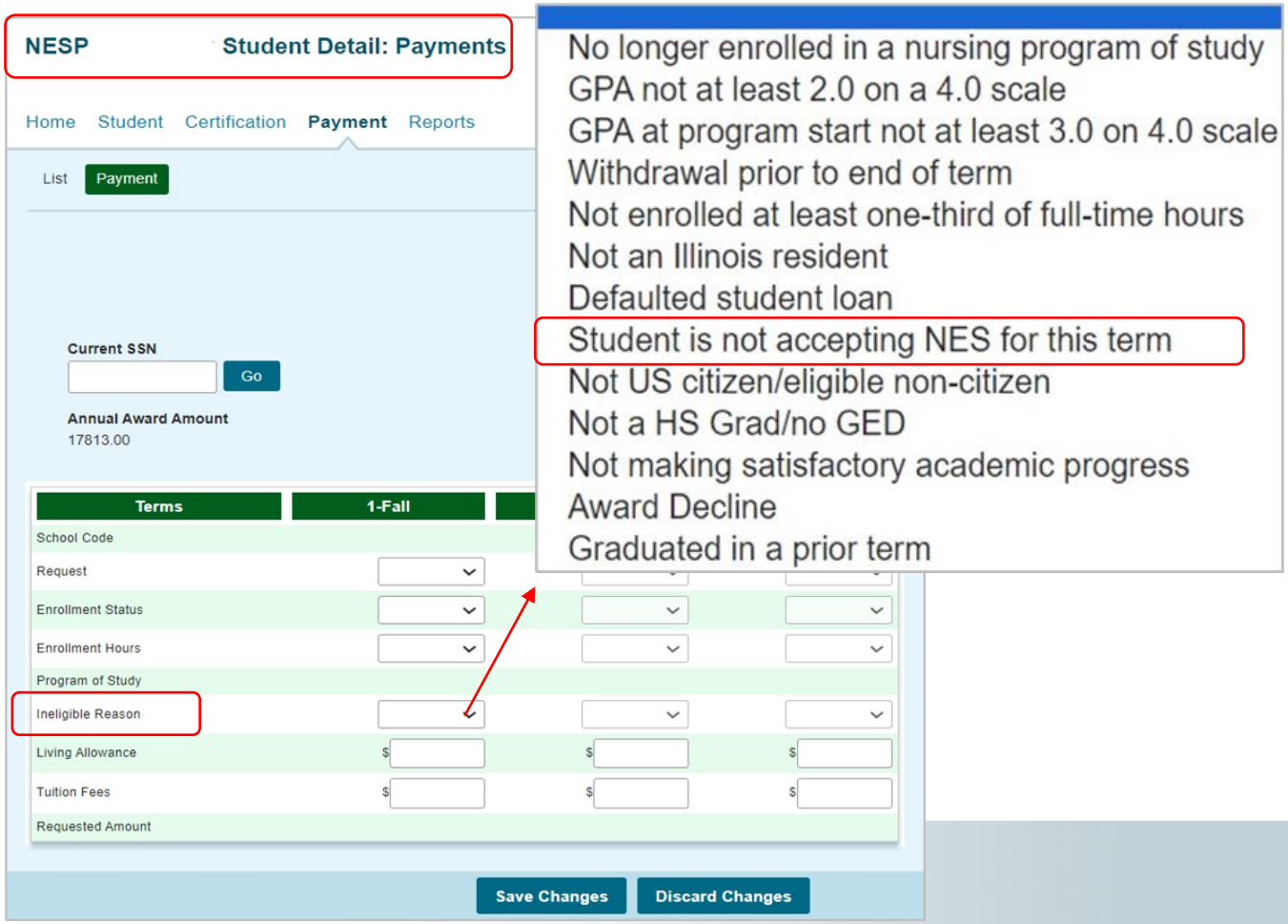
- ISAC is now accepting third term payment claims
  - Claim deadline date will soon be announced
- Deadline date for second-term claims was March 22, to be considered timely
- First-term and second-term initial claims and increases to previously submitted claims are currently being held, however, colleges are encouraged to continue to submit them in the event that late claims are able to be paid
- Colleges are also encouraged to continue reconciling and submitting cancellations and/or adjustments to decrease previously-submitted claims for all terms
  - Cancellation and adjustment data factors into our analysis of whether or not late claims can be paid
- **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 continue to submit claims for the fall, winter and spring terms in the NES system in GAP Access
- Even though priority claim dates have not been set, schools are encouraged to submit claims as soon as possible
- Timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC staff to monitor remaining funds and award other students
- Claims submitted after a term's priority claim date will be paid only if funds remain after all timely claims have been paid
- 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

- 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



NES Payment Process

- Payment requests are submitted for individual students by term
- Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, which involves *generating* the individual requests and then *submitting* the requests
- Payment records that have been saved will display a Status of "U." Payment records that have been submitted will display a Status of “S”.
  - *Only records with a Status of "S" will receive payment results*
- 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

- 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

Home 〉 ISAC Gift Assistance Programs 〉 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) 〉

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 March 1, 2024)

2024-25 Application *(2024-25 applications due April 30)*
2023-24 Program Funding
2023-24 Payment
2023-24 Award Determination
2023-24 Certification
2023-24 Application
GAP Access Registration

2024-25

Application

Students may access the NES application via the Program Applications & Status Checks area of the ISAC Student Portal.

The NES application period each year starts on March 1 and continues through April 30. To be considered for funds during the 2024-25 academic year, the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note – along with either the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or the 2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) – must be submitted on or before Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Further details are provided at the Application Procedures for Nursing Education Scholarships page, and in a March 1 e-Message.

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)
Program Overview
Eligibility Requirements
Application Procedures
Certification
Award Determination
NES Payment
Program Requirements
NES Electronic Processing

isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/NESP/#2324Payment

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship

Application Processing

- As of March 9 ISAC has paused 2023-24 application processing
- Applications submitted through March 8, 2024 will be processed
- Students who apply on or after March 9 will receive a letter indicating that they are not being awarded a scholarship at this time, but that if funding becomes available in the future, additional applications may be considered
- If awarded, a student retains the full scholarship for the full year
  - Funds not used in one term may be used in a subsequent term

ECACE Scholarship

Payment Processing

- ISAC is asking colleges to submit first, second and third term payment claims **as soon as possible** for all awarded students
  - This helps monitor funding levels and determine if we are able to award additional students
  - 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 payment processing has been temporarily paused as of March 13
  - Even though payment results will not be available for requests submitted during the pause, please continue to submit all outstanding requests
- There has also been a delay in getting January and February funds to the colleges due to state processing, which has been resolved
  - Colleges should be receiving those funds soon
- ECACE will be payable in the 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)
- 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 timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable
- An MTI recipient who is also eligible for a MAP grant may use the MAP award first for tuition and mandatory fees

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- Additional rounds of awarding will continue while appropriations remain
  - New award results may be viewed in the Award column on the Student List: Eligibility View screen in the MTI system
  - Colleges should confirm that this does not create a dual-award situation for students who may also be eligible for GA or SETTW before requesting payment
  - ISAC will rely on documentation that a student has submitted regarding their scholarship preference, however, the student can also work with the college and ISAC to change their preference

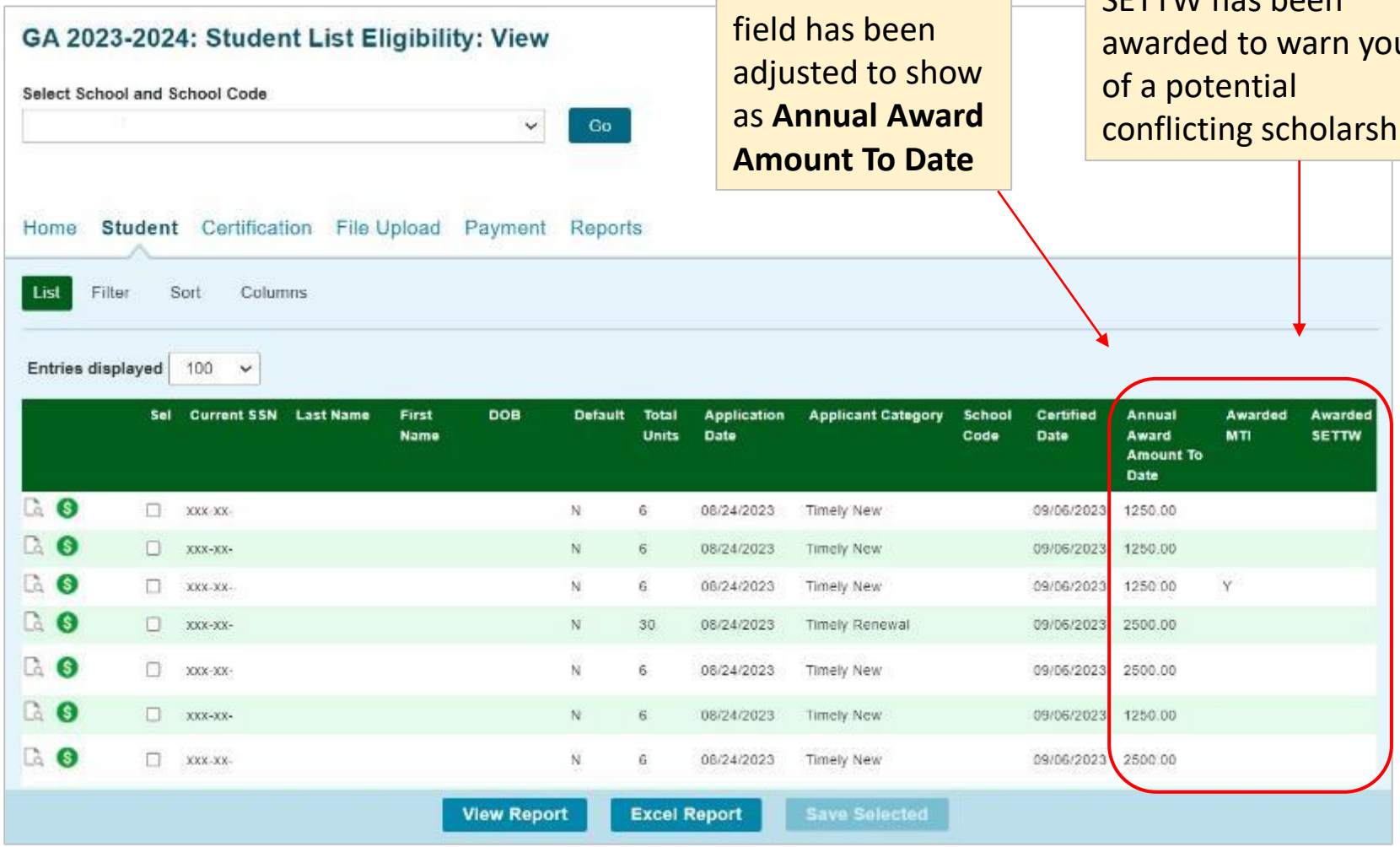
Golden Apple (GA) Scholars Program

- 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

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

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



Other 2023-24 Programs

- **Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program**
  - 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

- **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

- **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

Other 2023-24 Programs

- **Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers**
  - Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters for the spring term will be e-mailed to financial aid directors during the week of April 1, initiating the spring term payment process
  - Colleges that have not submitted the fall roster yet, are encouraged to complete and submit the roster as soon as possible
  - Application remains available for students to download and complete
  - Remaining application deadline date for the award year is June 15, 2024, for summer term consideration
  - Applicants must reapply each year

Reconciliation Processing Reminder

- After receiving funds, colleges are required to reconcile the payment for accuracy
- Payment and reconciliation is an offset process so no refund checks should be sent to ISAC for adjustments until final reconciliation of the award year
- As part of this process, new payment requests are compared to outstanding amounts owed to ISAC, and payment is made accordingly
- Review your payment results reports in GAP Access after submitting your program claims to ensure everything processed as expected
  - Link to User Guides for Result Codes: isac.org/gap-access/index.html#guide
- Cancellations of prior payments will be deducted from any future payments until the end of the academic year, when refunds must be identified and returned to ISAC no later than 60 days after the term ends
- Link to Payment Offset and Reconciliation: isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/payment-offset-and-reconciliation-map.html

Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

- **MAP Award Adjustments**
  - To provide some administrative relief for colleges at this time, ISAC is:
    - Temporarily suspending the expectation to submit enrollment hours adjustment for students at 15 hours or above if their award amount remains unchanged
    - Temporarily suspending the expectation to edit a student's MAP code if a student changes programs during the term if their award amount remains unchanged
      - It will also be acceptable to adjust the award amount in the same budget code and not have to cancel the initial claim and submit a new one

- **MAP Advising Data Collection**
  - ISAC will delay data collection until late Fall 2024 and will plan to leave it open through the end of the calendar year

Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

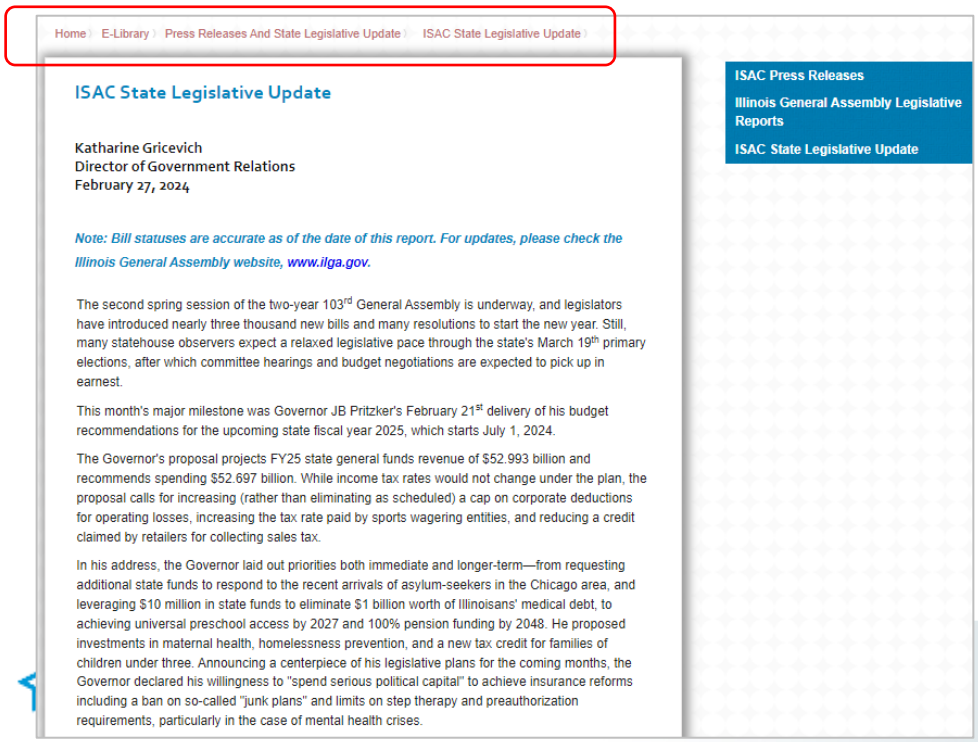
- **Program Reviews – NEW Reviews**
  - ISAC will suspend announcing all NEW program reviews through June 2024

- **Program Review Extensions – CURRENT Reviews**
  - ISAC will work with the institutions currently undergoing a review to provide extensions for responses, reports or requests for additional documentation

2024-25 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

FY25 Legislative Update

- Under the Governor's FY25 proposal, about $2.55 billion in general funds would go towards higher education
  - This is about 4.8% of the overall $52.697 billion spending proposal for general funds
- Proposal of $10 million increase for MAP
- Katharine's State Legislative Update highlights the proposals and Bill statuses of new upcoming ISAC programs and Bills that will make changes to existing ISAC programs… and much more



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ISAC State Legislative Update

Katharine Gricevich
Director of Government Relations
February 27, 2024

Note: Bill statuses are accurate as of the date of this report. For updates, please check the Illinois General Assembly website, www.ilga.gov.

The second spring session of the two-year 103rd General Assembly is underway, and legislators have introduced nearly three thousand new bills and many resolutions to start the new year. Still, many statehouse observers expect a relaxed legislative pace through the state's March 19th primary elections, after which committee hearings and budget negotiations are expected to pick up in earnest.

This month's major milestone was Governor JB Pritzker's February 21st delivery of his budget recommendations for the upcoming state fiscal year 2025, which starts July 1, 2024.

The Governor's proposal projects FY25 state general funds revenue of $52.993 billion and recommends spending $52.697 billion. While income tax rates would not change under the plan, the proposal calls for increasing (rather than eliminating as scheduled) a cap on corporate deductions for operating losses, increasing the tax rate paid by sports wagering entities, and reducing a credit claimed by retailers for collecting sales tax.

In his address, the Governor laid out priorities both immediate and longer-term—from requesting additional state funds to respond to the recent arrivals of asylum-seekers in the Chicago area, and leveraging $10 million in state funds to eliminate $1 billion worth of Illinoisans' medical debt, to achieving universal preschool access by 2027 and 100% pension funding by 2048. He proposed investments in maternal health, homelessness prevention, and a new tax credit for families of children under three. Announcing a centerpiece of his legislative plans for the coming months, the Governor declared his willingness to "spend serious political capital" to achieve insurance reforms including a ban on so-called "junk plans" and limits on step therapy and preauthorization requirements, particularly in the case of mental health crises.

ISAC Press Releases
Illinois General Assembly Legislative Reports
ISAC State Legislative Update

isac.org/e-library/prs-rls-st-leg/isac-state-legislative-updates/index.html

New-to-ISAC Programs

SB 102 (Fowler) would create a **workforce industry shortage scholarship**, administered by ISAC. The program would provide scholarships of up to $5,000 to qualified students who, in order to meet regional or statewide workforce needs, are pursuing a professional certificate, credential, diploma, or degree from a public institution of higher learning. ISAC would annually identify, and could prioritize scholarships for, industry sectors with significant regional or statewide workforce needs. The program would require annual review and updates of programs approved for the scholarship, which could affect students' aid eligibility mid-program. Effective immediately.

- Status: Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee

SB 3703 (Faraci) would direct ISAC, subject to appropriation, to establish a **nursing student stipend program** beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year. The program would reimburse eligible applicants for the pre-licensure nursing program cost incurred during the previous academic year from a baccalaureate degree nursing program. Effective July 1, 2025.

- Status: Senate Assignments Committee (not yet assigned)

SB 3714 (L. Collins) would **create the Community Hospice and Palliative Care Professional Loan Repayment Program Act.** It would require ISAC, by January 1, 2025, to create program to provide loan repayment assistance, subject to appropriation, to eligible hospice and palliative professionals practicing in a hospice program that provides services in the State. The Act would

Proposed Rule Amendments for 2024-25 Award Year

- **Part 2700 – General Provisions**
  - Delete “Expected Family Contribution” definition
  - Revise “Resident of Illinois” definition to provide a residency override for dependent students negatively impacted by 2024-25 FAFSA changes
  - Add “Student Aid Index” definition
  - Clarify circumstances under which a residency override can be granted and provide verification documentation requirements

- **Part 2749 – Nursing Education Scholarships**
  - Revise several sections to better align the rules with ISAC’s automated processes and provide consistency with other ISAC programs following transfer of the program from IDPH

Proposed Rule Amendments for 2024-25 Award Year

- **Part 2750 – Illinois Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Support Program**
  - Clarify that FAFSA is required
  - Add information about awarding methodology
  - Add other awarding guidance
  - Add possible special circumstances that would warrant extension of repayment obligation

- **Part 2753 – Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program**
  - Add other qualifying mental health centers (P.A. 103-0056)
  - Add that 30% of funding shall be reserved for minority applicants (P.A. 103-0056)
  - Update repayment amounts and add additional professions (P.A. 103-0056)

Timeline -- Preparing for 2024-25 MAP

- **January – May 2024**
  - Spring legislative session of the 103rd General Assembly
  - Scheduled to adjourn by May 24
  - ISAC analysis of budget proposals, as well as other legislative proposals
- **February 2024**
  - Governor's State of the State and Budget Address, delivered on February 21
  - Proposed $10 million increase for MAP
- **April 2024**
  - Collection of 2024-25 budget data from MAP-approved colleges begins
- **May 2024**
  - ILASFAA MAP Formula Committee Meeting to discuss recommendations for the Recompute Formula, as needed
  - Expect to have a finalized state budget (approved by the General Assembly and the Governor)
- **June 2024**
  - Budget data collection process completed
  - Propose MAP Recompute Formula to ISAC Commissioners for approval on June 20
  - Approved maximum award amount for the 2024-25 award year announced
    - Cannot exceed maximum in statute
  - Recompute Formula implemented and new award amounts announced, if applicable

2024-25 MAP Processing Cycle

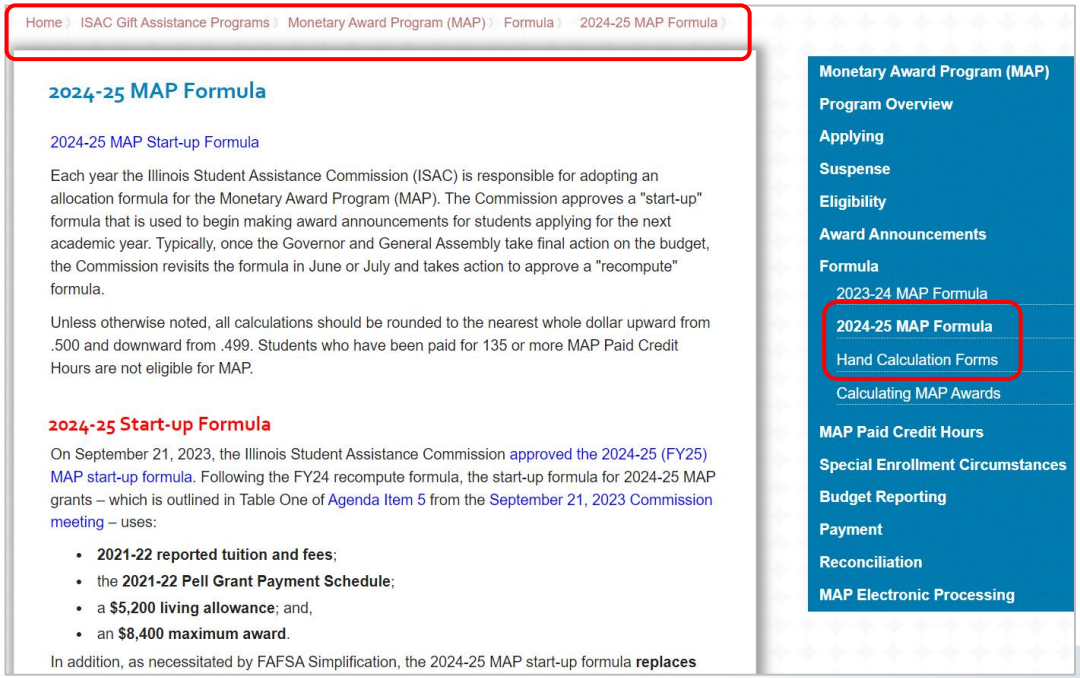
- The 2024-25 MAP processing cycle will soon begin in the MAP system in GAP Access

- 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/

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)



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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.

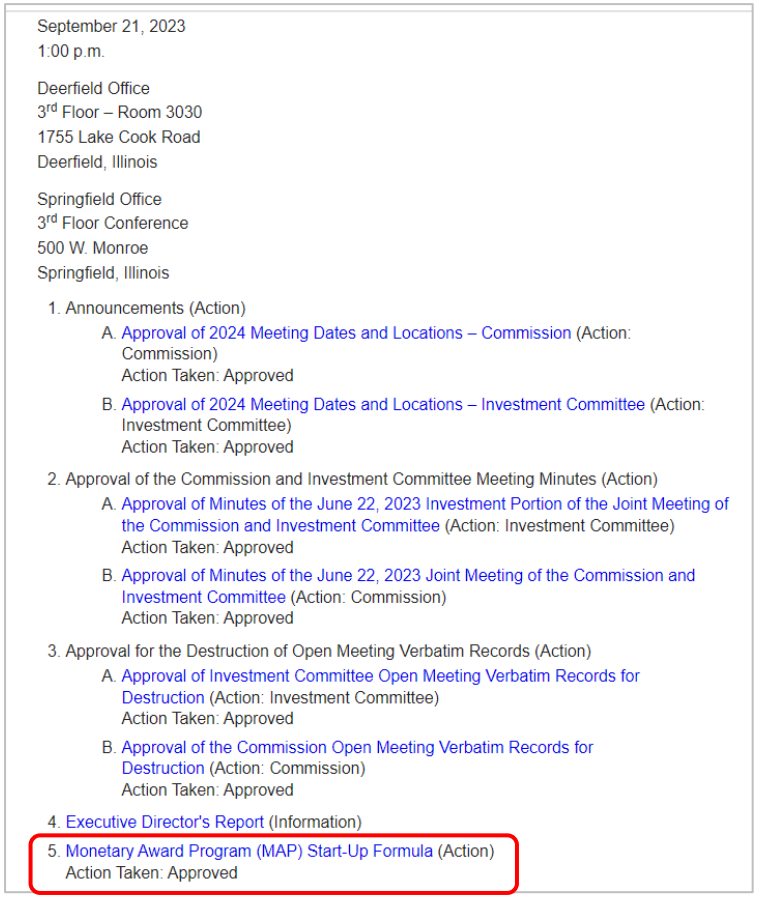
2024-25 Start-up Formula

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

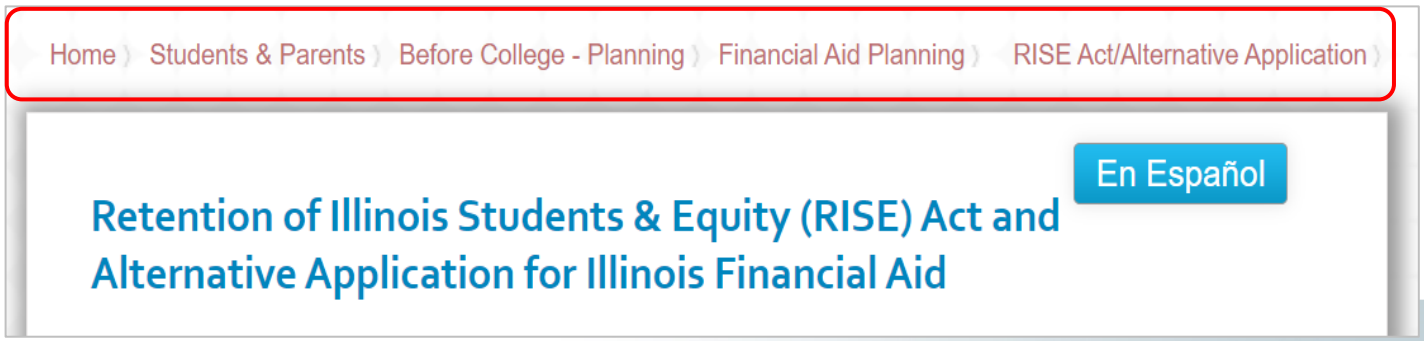
Springfield Office
3rd Floor Conference
500 W. Monroe
Springfield, Illinois

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 - 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 - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2425-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Jan24.pdf



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
- 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	School to ISAC	ISAC to School	
				(Length)	Payment or Cancellation Request	Elig File	Payment Results
Start	End				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
ISACPXPGkpacsIF8iOROjPDzjjvzYN6N2wTN
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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)

- 2024-25 NES application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - Application period is **March 1 through April 30, 2024**
  - Final date is a deadline date, not a priority date
  - Applicants must re-apply each year, along with submitting a FAFSA or Alternative Application
  - The application process is not considered complete until the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note and FAFSA or Alternative Application have been submitted to ISAC on or before April 30, 2024
  - Due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be provided for applicants who are having problems submitting the FAFSA by April 30
  - However, the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note should be still be submitted by April 30 to be considered a timely applicant

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 the 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 was **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
  - Applications continue to be accepted, but will be considered only if available waivers remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded
    - 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

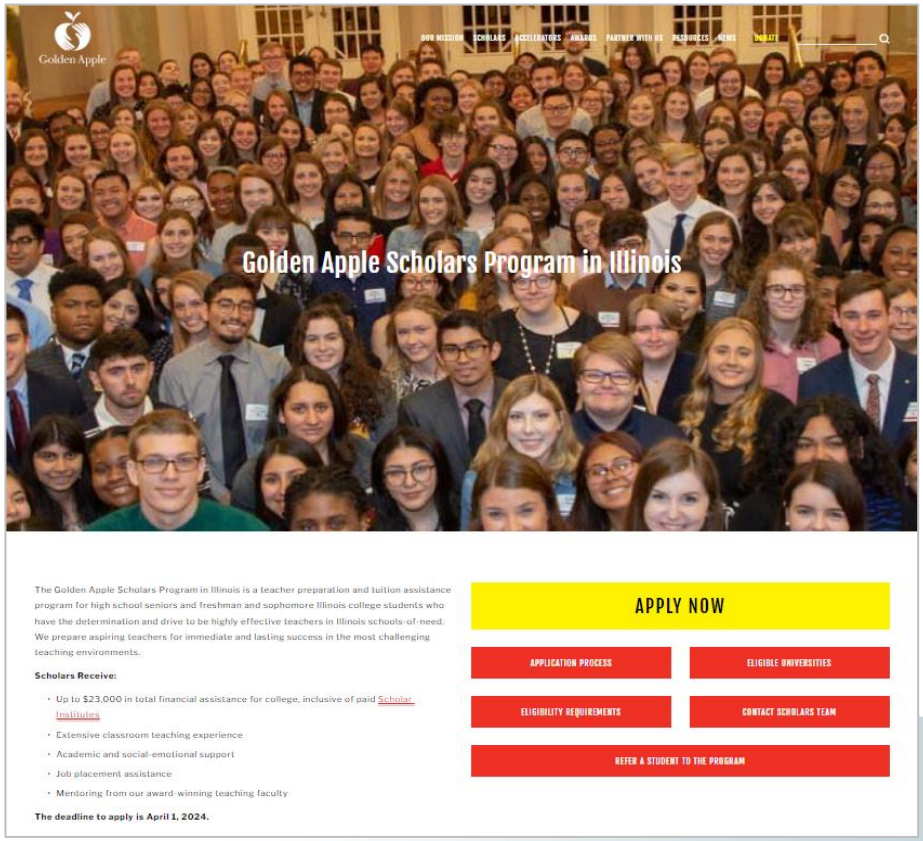
Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- 2024-25 MTI 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 provided for applicants who are having problems submitting their FAFSA by March 31
  - However, the MTI application should be submitted by March 31 to be considered a timely applicant

- **Program Reminder for Institutions:** 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



ISAC Budget Reporting

- Pursuant to ISAC Rules [Section 2700.30 (e)], postsecondary institutions participating in gift assistance programs with ISAC shall annually report tuition and fee charges to ISAC on or before June 1 preceding each academic year

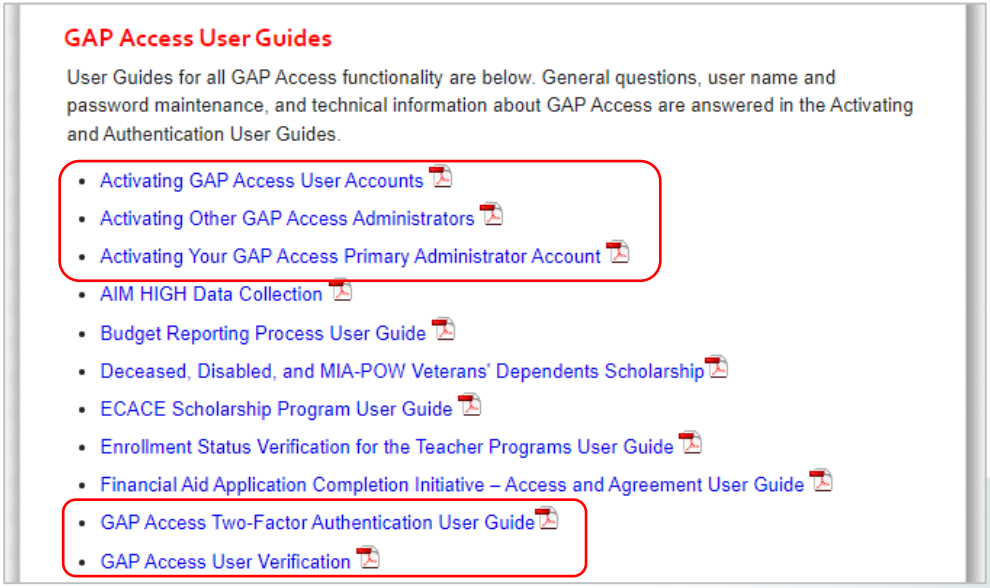
- The process to collect 2024-25 budget data for MAP, IVG & ING will open on April 1, 2024
  - Colleges will continue to report main tuition and fee rates, and can report differential rates as needed

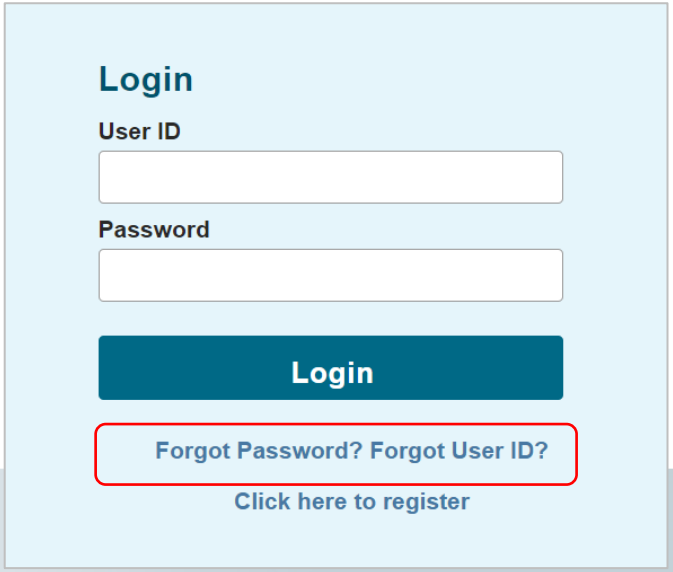
- The due date to submit budget data is June 1, 2024
  - If school budgets won't be final by then, estimated data may be submitted and updated during the summer

- ISAC will offer webinars on the Budget Reporting process on:
  - Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m.
  - Tuesday, May 14 at 10 a.m.

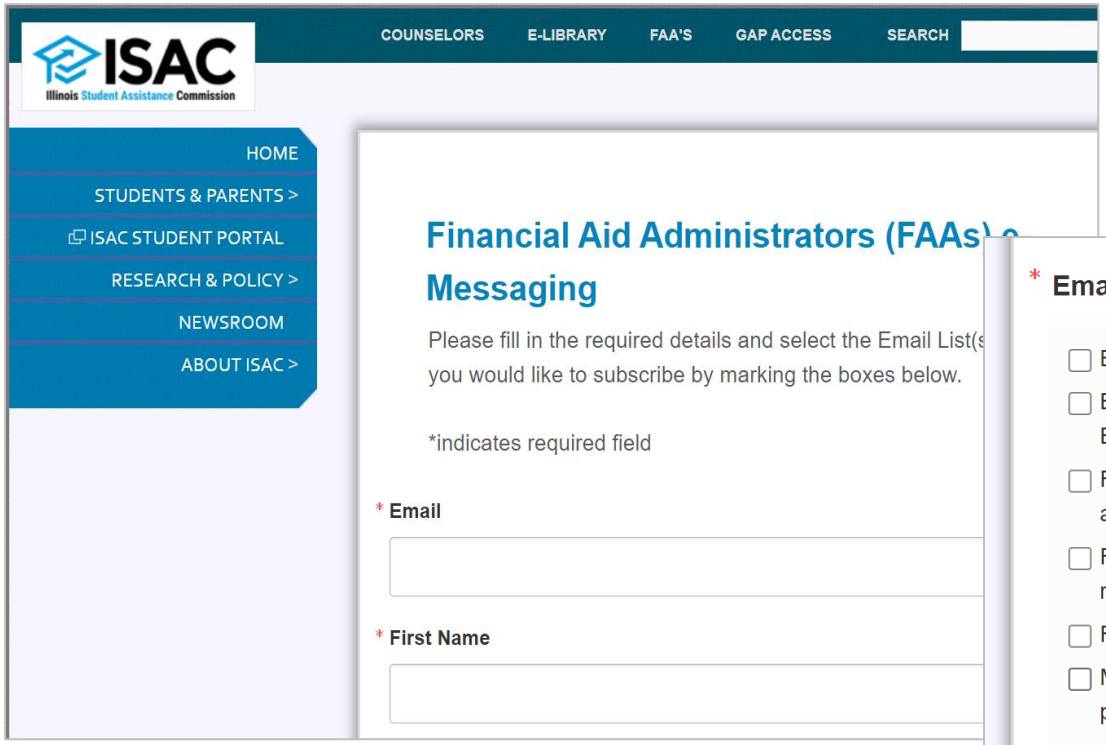
Enhancements to the GAP Access Registration Process

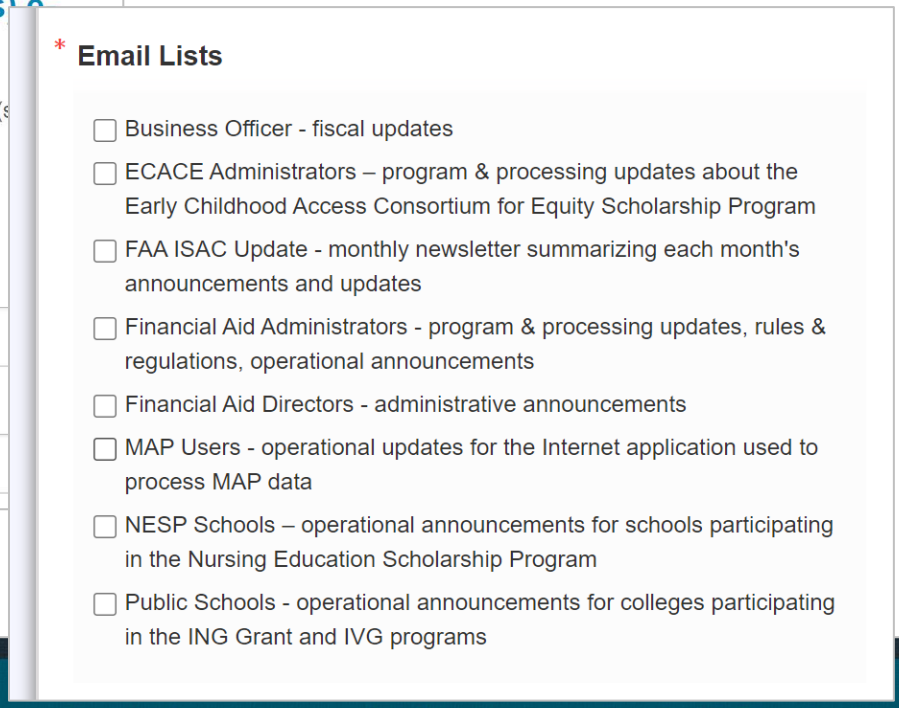
- Primary Administrators will be able to easily provide access to new Administrators
- User Guides are being updated
- Reminder -- Password resets can be done by the school
  - please see the prompt under the GAP Access Login Box





Sign-Up for e-Messaging





- Subscription groups for specific programs are available

Federal Updates

Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center

fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-03-22/keeping-you-informed-updates-2024-25-fafsa-simplification-information-area-knowledge-center-updated-march-25-2024

Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing

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What's New | Library | Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing

(GENERAL-24-27) Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing

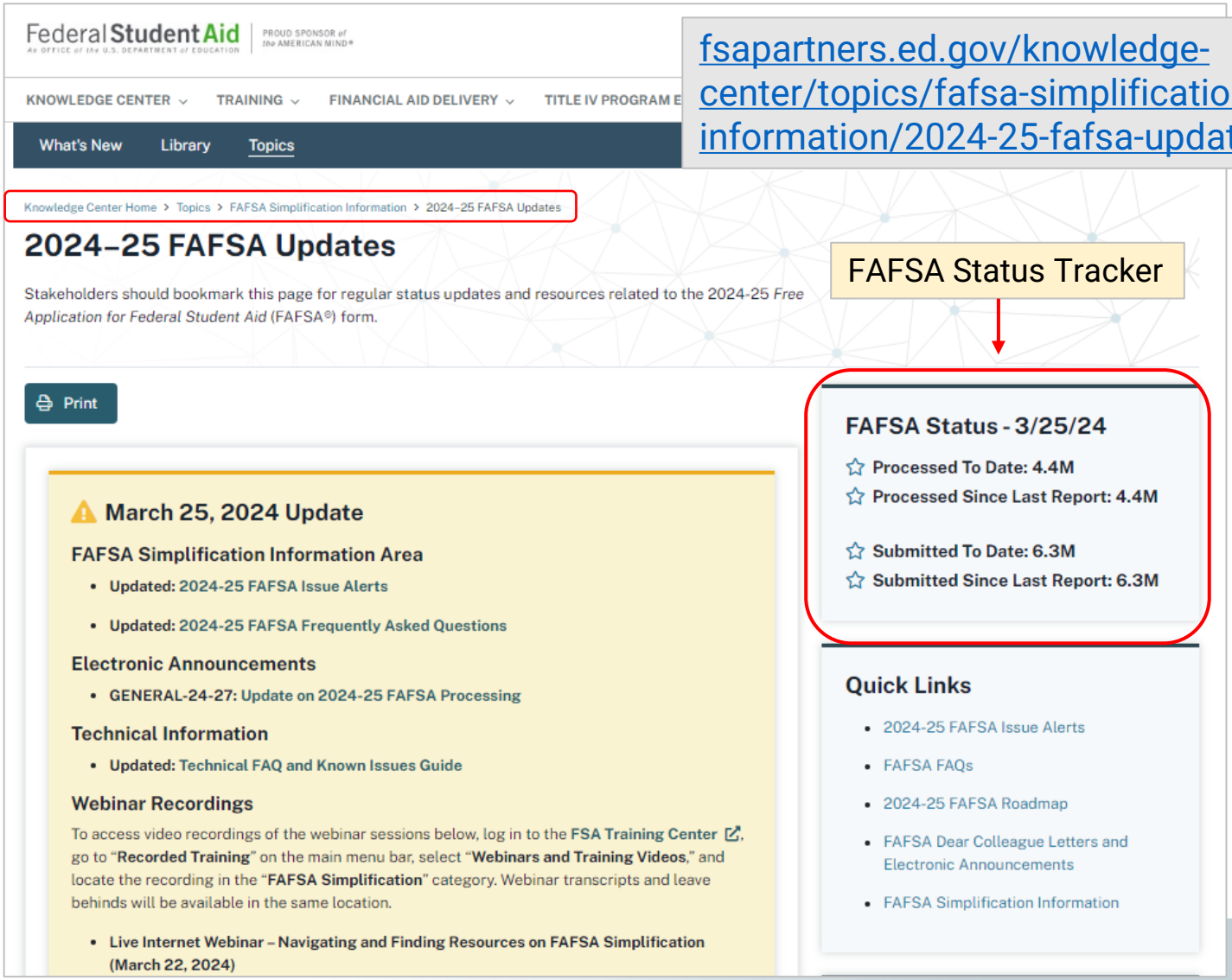
Print

POSTED DATE: March 25, 2024
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-24-27
SUBJECT: Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing

This electronic announcement provides an update for institutions, states, and vendors on processing 2024-25 FAFSA forms as they continue to receive *Institutional Student Information Records* (ISIRs) and package financial aid offers for students. **To date, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) has processed more than 4.3 million FAFSA forms and delivered ISIRs to the majority of schools, states, and designated scholarship organizations.** The Department is on track to complete processing roughly 6 million FAFSA forms and transmitting the resulting ISIRs to schools, states, and scholarship agencies by the end of March.

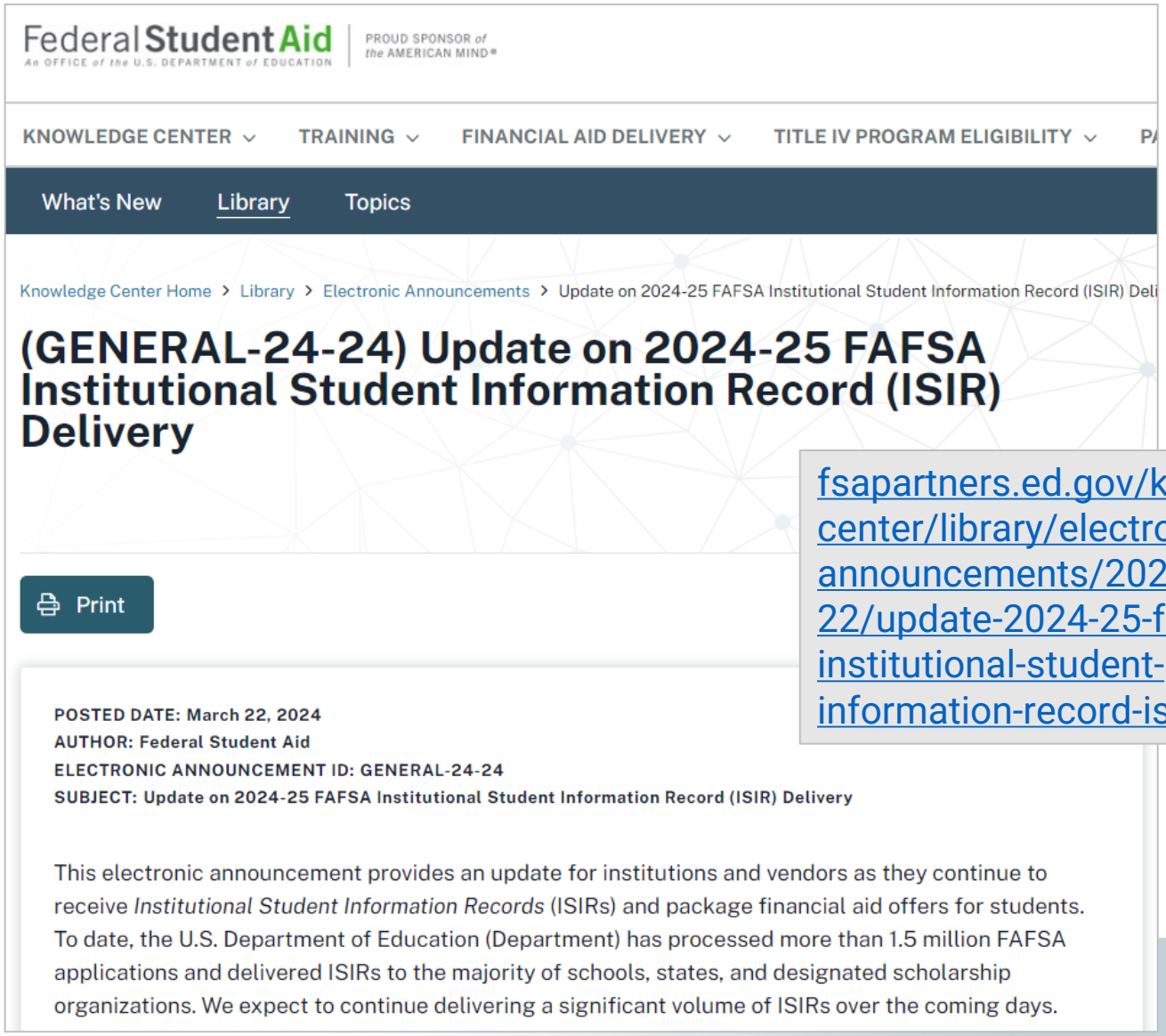
fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-03-25/update-2024-25-fafsa-processing

2024-25 FAFSA Updates



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

Update on 2024-25 FAFSA ISIR Delivery



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What's New Library Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) Deli

(GENERAL-24-24) Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) Delivery

Print

POSTED DATE: March 22, 2024
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-24-24
SUBJECT: Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) Delivery

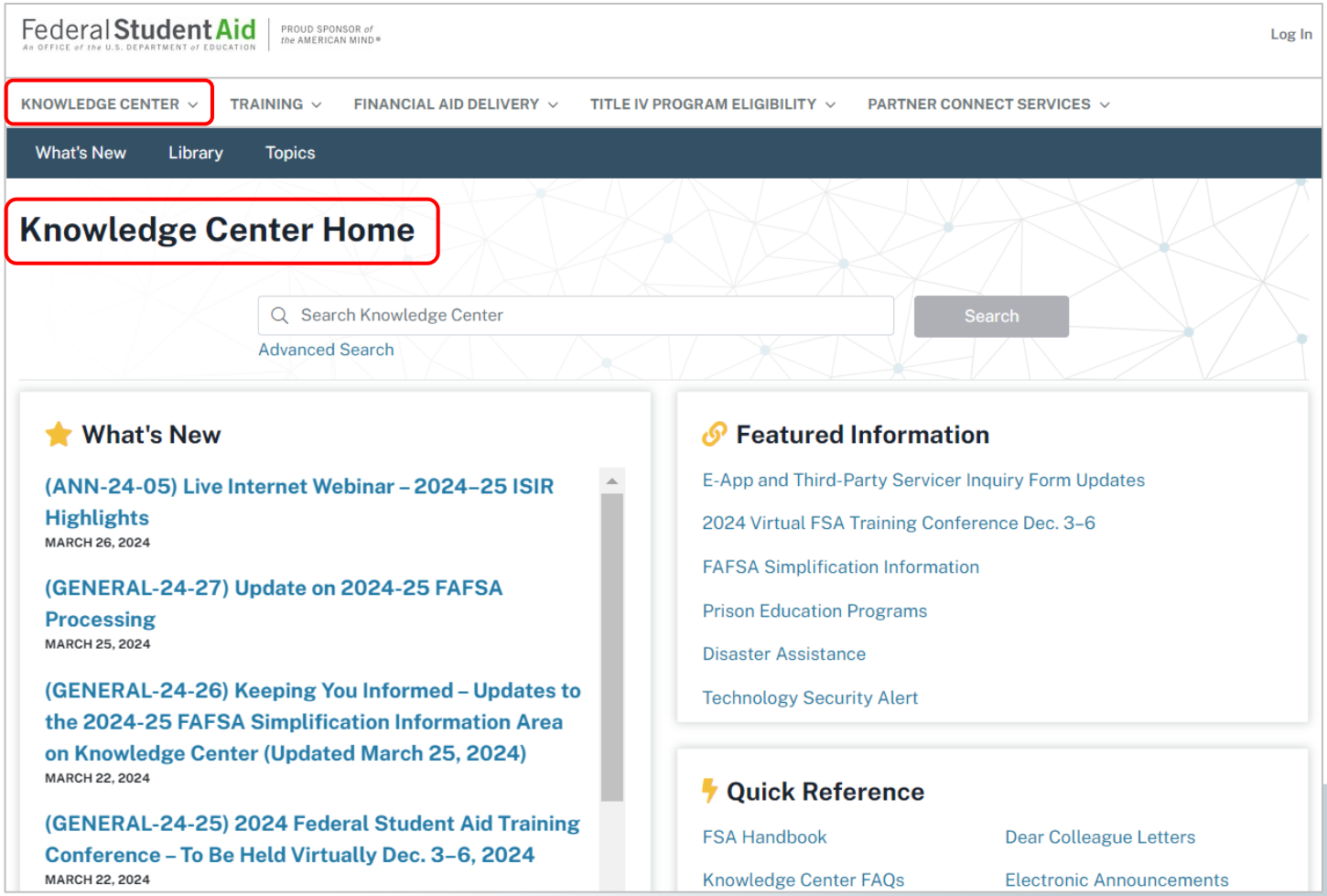
This electronic announcement provides an update for institutions and vendors as they continue to receive *Institutional Student Information Records* (ISIRs) and package financial aid offers for students. To date, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) has processed more than 1.5 million FAFSA applications and delivered ISIRs to the majority of schools, states, and designated scholarship organizations. We expect to continue delivering a significant volume of ISIRs over the coming days.

fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-03-22/update-2024-25-fafsa-institutional-student-information-record-isir-delivery

ISAC

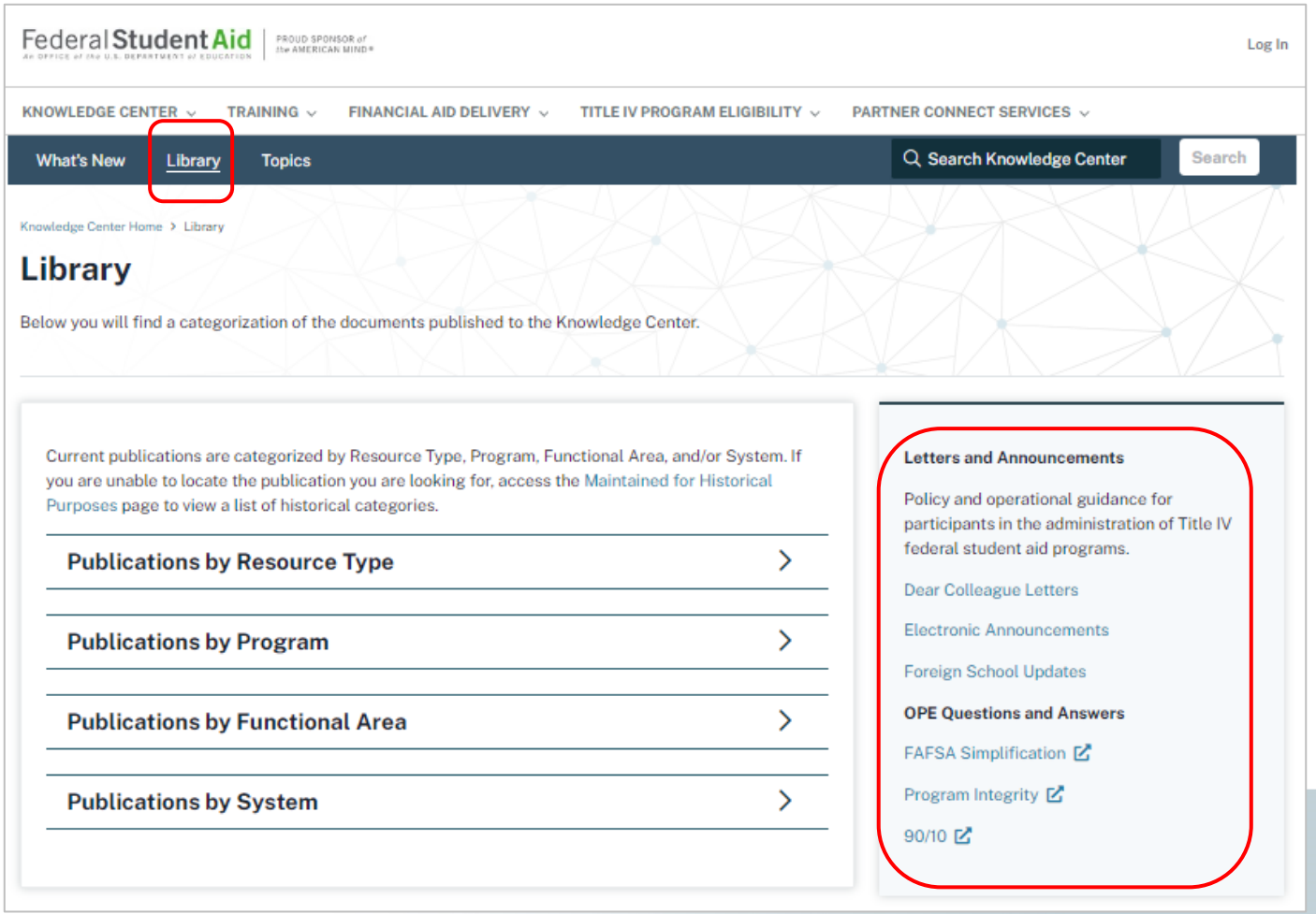
Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

- How to navigate to the latest announcements from FSA
- Hover over Knowledge Center and click on Knowledge Center Home
- fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center



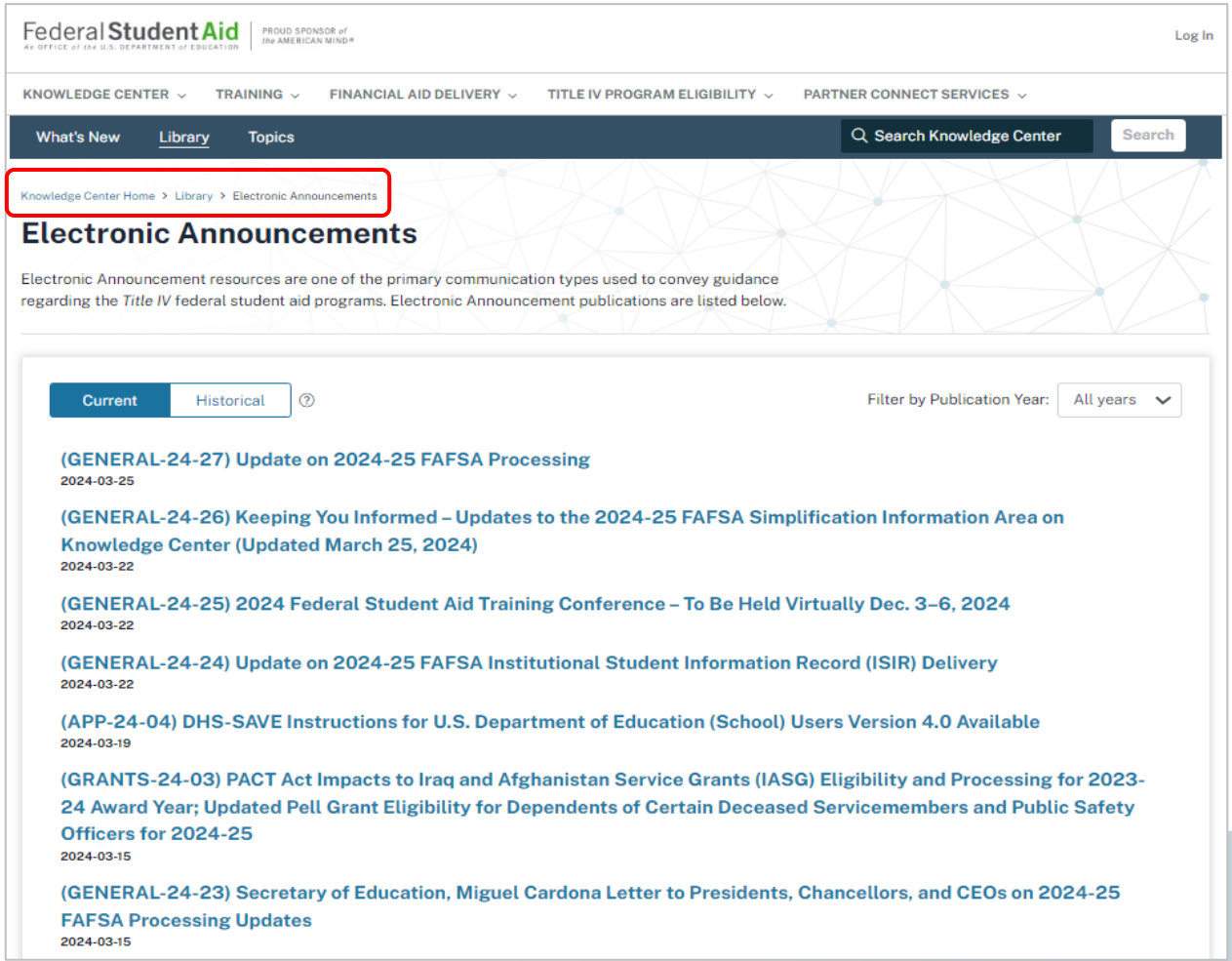
Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

- Letters and Announcements regarding FAFSA Simplification, ISIR process & more…
- fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library



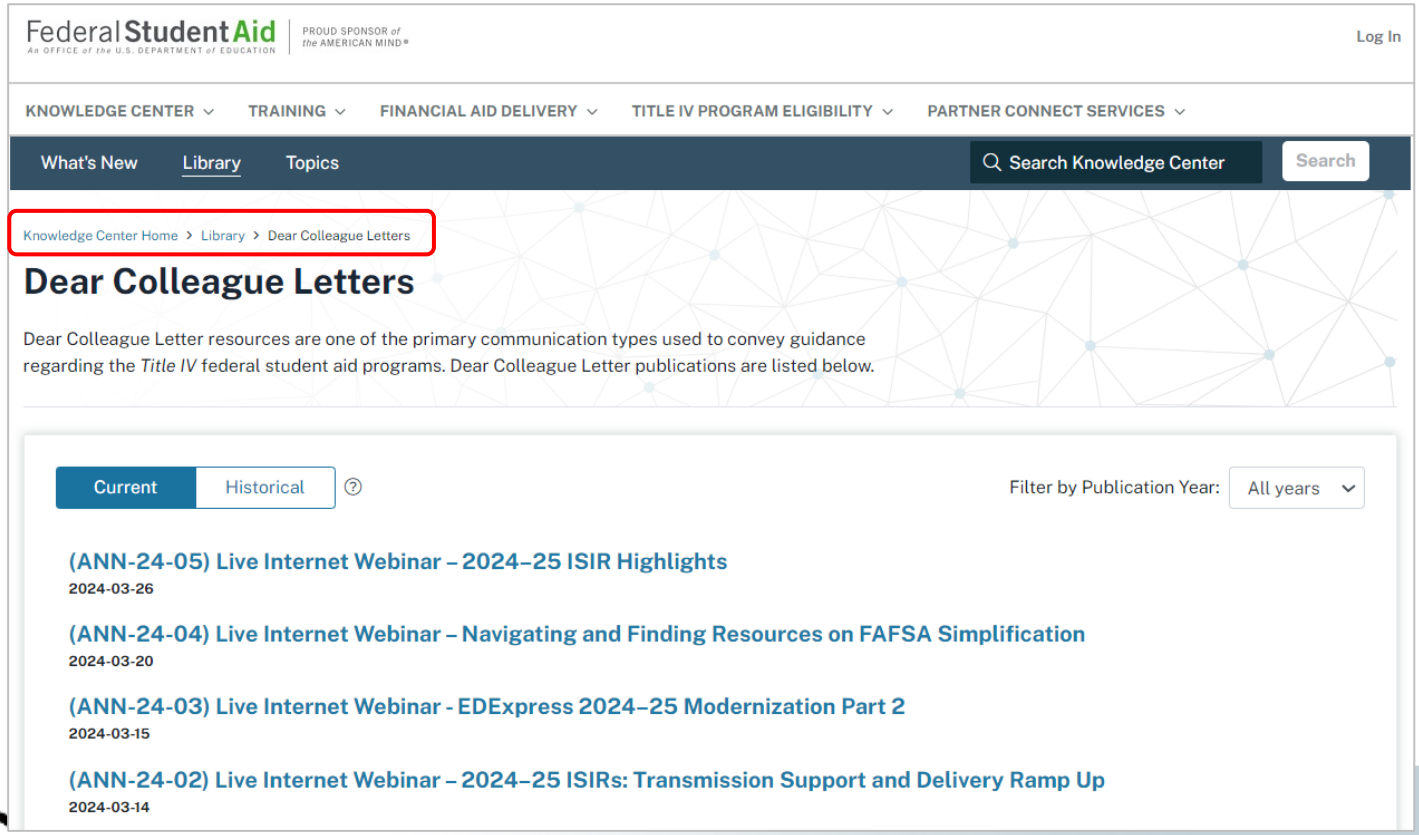
Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

- Electronic Announcements
- fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/resource-type/Electronic%20Announcements

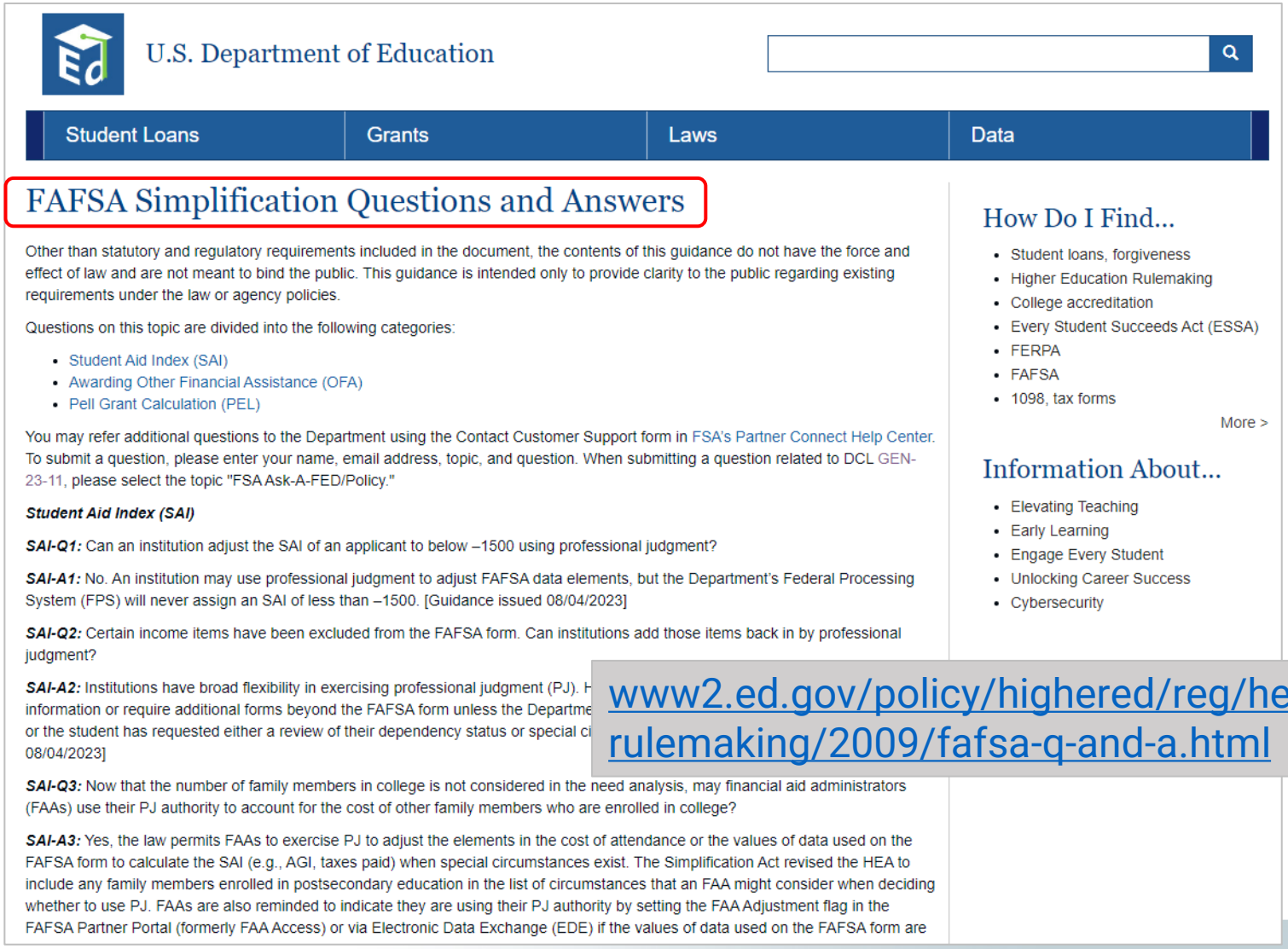


Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

- Dear Colleague Letters
- fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/resource-type/Dear%20Colleague%20Letters



FAFSA Simplification Q&As



U.S. Department of Education

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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). H
information or require additional forms beyond the FAFSA form unless the Departme
or the student has requested either a review of their dependency status or special ci
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
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- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- FERPA
- FAFSA
- 1098, tax forms

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

Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

How to subscribe to receive the latest news and updates by e-mail

- Go to the Knowledge Center Home page
- Scroll all the way to the bottom of the webpage
- Click on the Subscribe button
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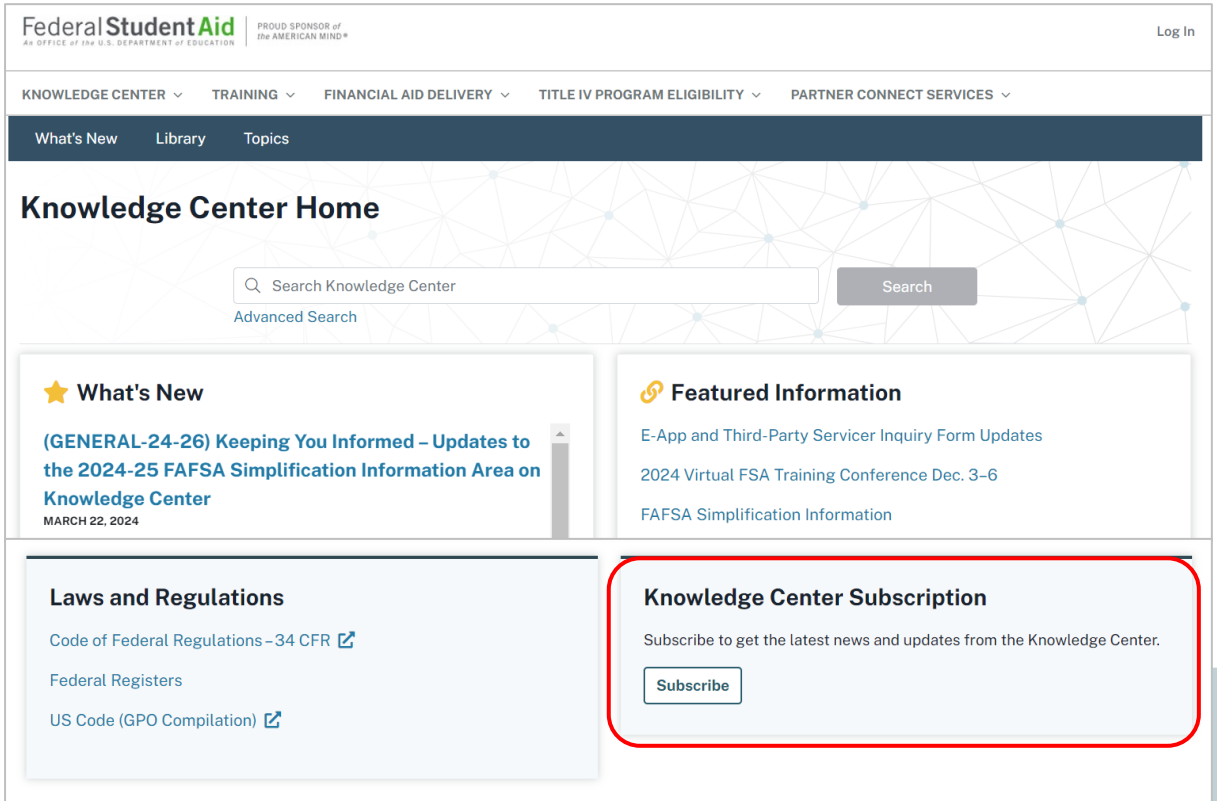

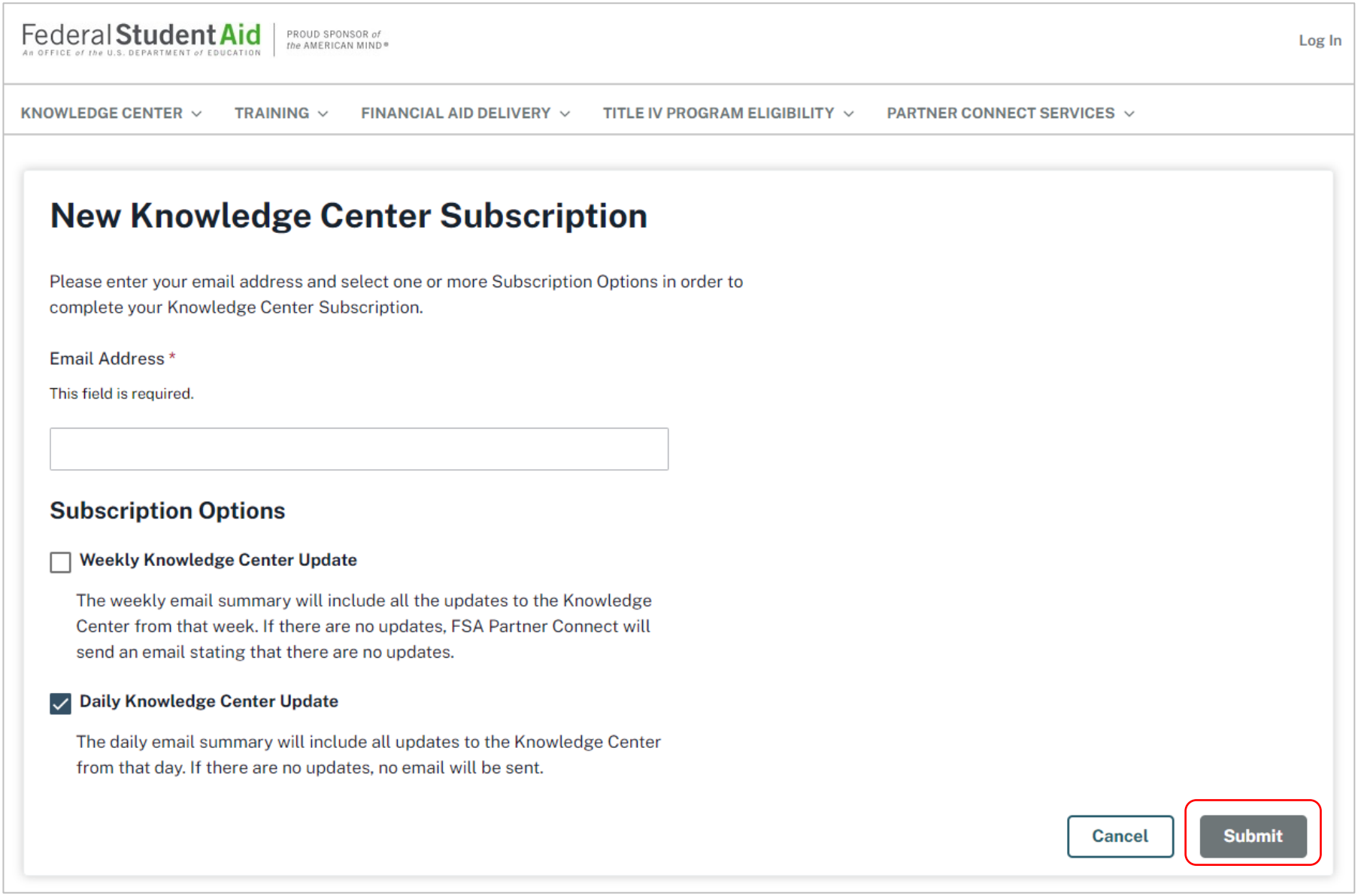
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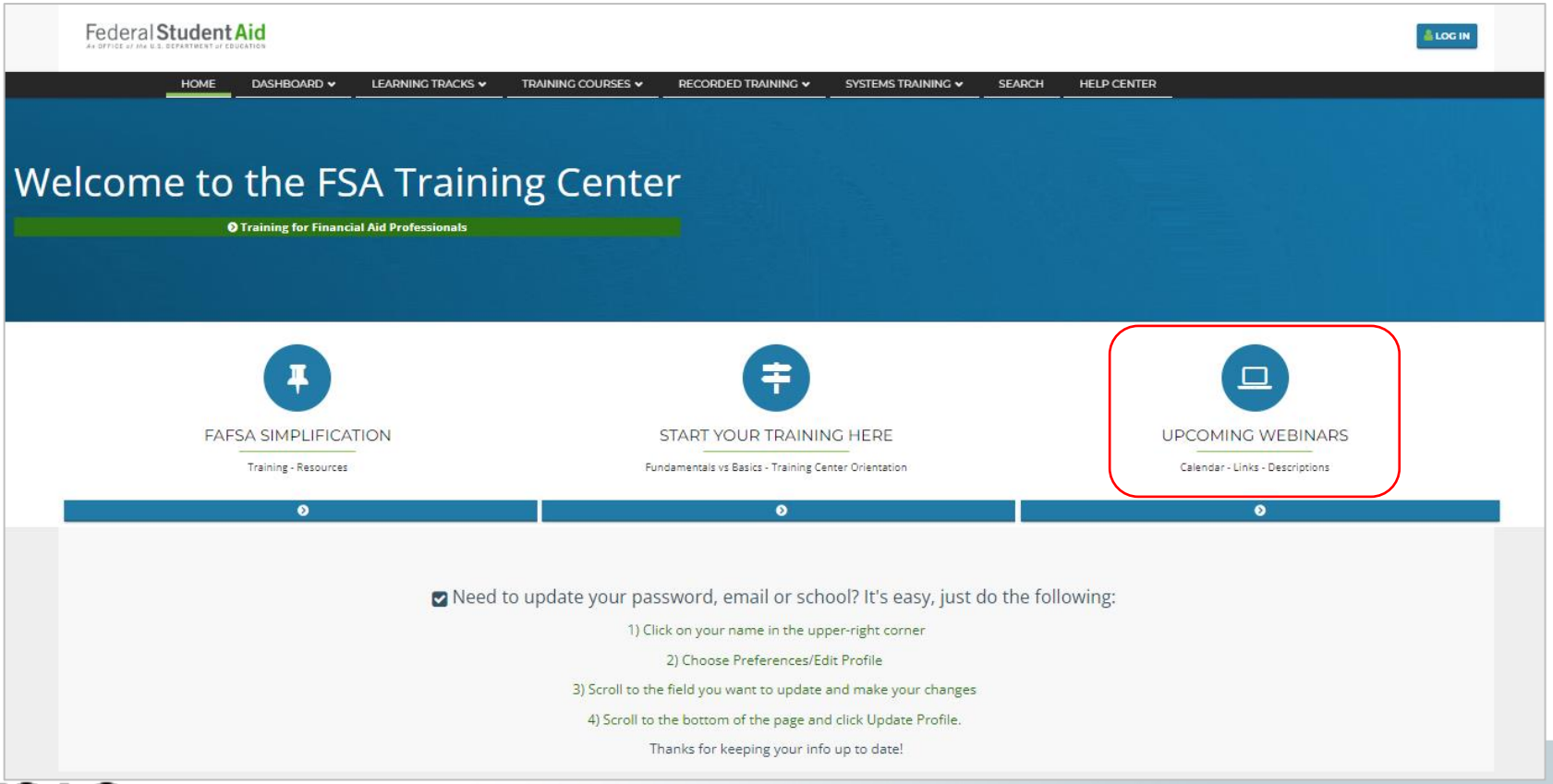
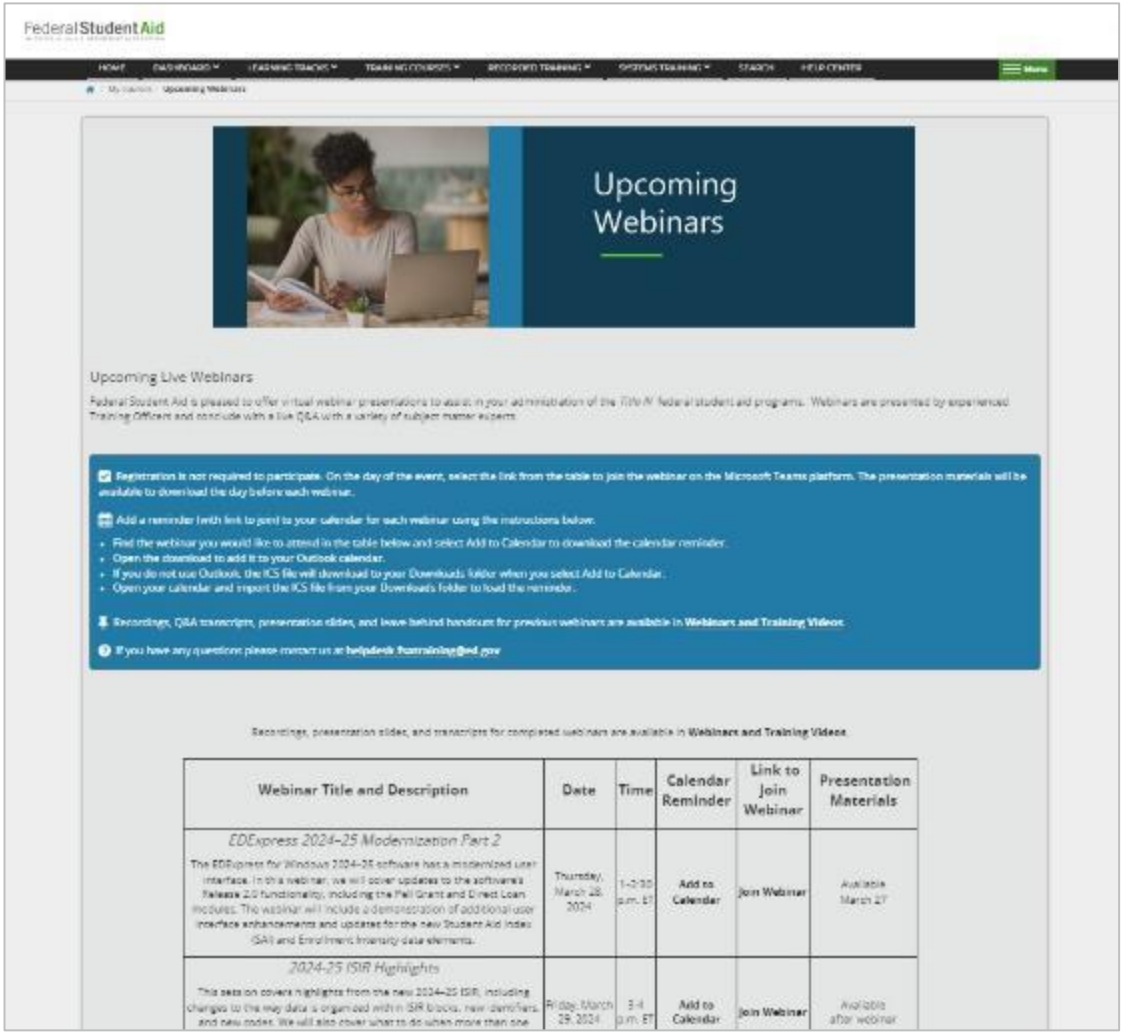
Federal Student Aid – Training Center

- FAFSA Simplification – Training & Resources
- Fundamentals vs Basics Training
- Upcoming Webinars – Calendar, Links & Descriptions
- fsatraining.ed.gov/



Federal Student Aid – Training Center

- Upcoming Webinars – Calendar, Links & Descriptions
- Login with your Username & Password
- fsatraining.ed.gov/login/index.php



FSA Upcoming Webinars

- EDExpress 2024-25 Modernization Part 2 – March 28 at 12 p.m.
- 2024-25 ISIR Highlights – March 29 at 2 p.m.
- Federal Update – April 10 at 12 p.m.
- Better FAFSA Better Future Q&A Session 3 – April 18 at 12 p.m.
- Link to webinars: fsatraining.ed.gov

Recordings, presentation slides, and transcripts for completed webinars are available in Webinars and Training Videos area on the FSA Training website

- Login into FSA Training (fsatraining.ed.gov)
- Click on Recorded Training tab
- Click on Webinars and Training Videos
- Click on FAFSA Simplification - Better FAFSA Better Future
- Click on webinar you would like to view and/or download material

NASFAA

How to subscribe to receive the latest news and updates by e-mail

- Login with your username and password
- Click on myNASFAA
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- Checkboxes from the Opt-In Selections
- Click Save Changes

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Review the information below and use the checkboxes to update your email preferences. If you select the Unsubscribe option at the bottom, you will not be able to make individual opt-out choices. NASFAA recommends using the individual subject boxes to tailor your email preferences.
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NASFAA Weekly Update, weekly, members only
Calls to Action on Federal Issues, as needed, members only
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Compliance Engine Updates, as needed, members only
Graduate/Professional Listserv, as needed, members and non-members
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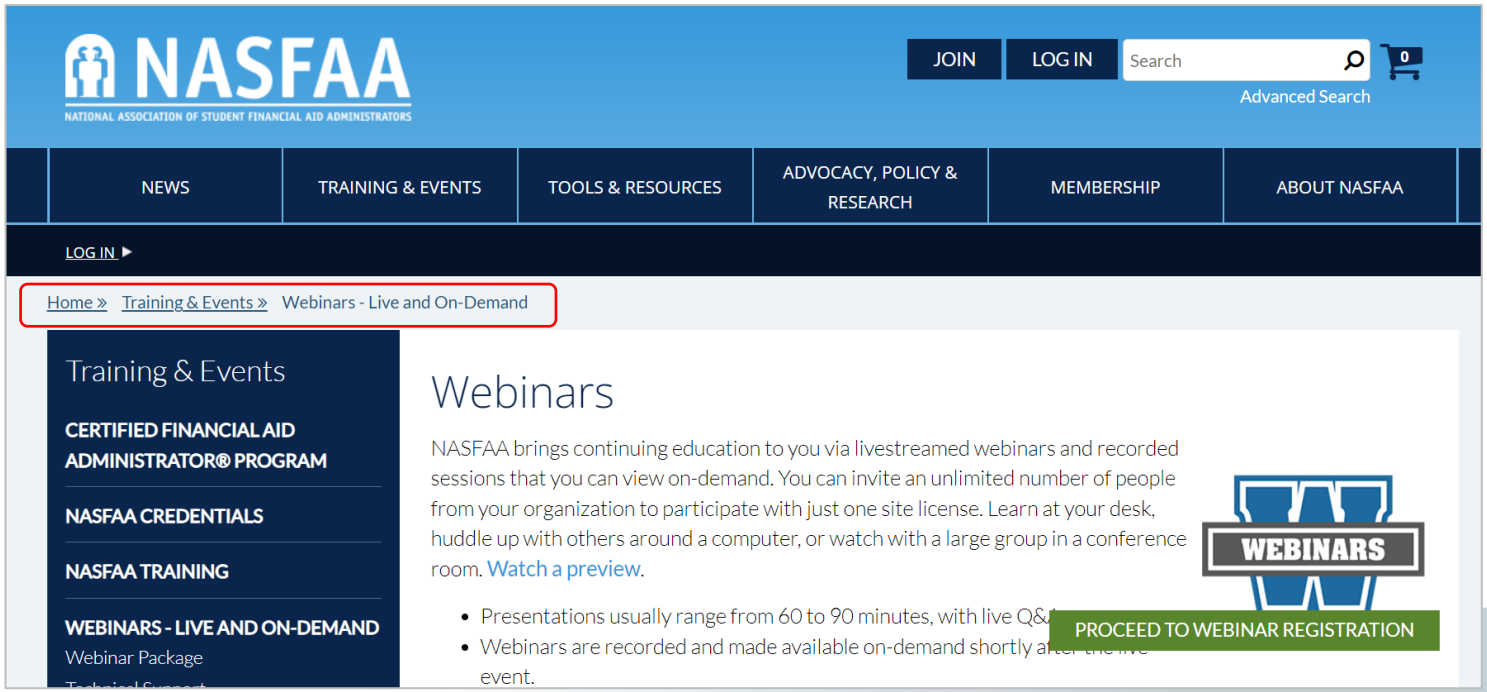
Choose to opt out of NASFAA emails using the options below.

NASFAA Upcoming Webinars

Sessions are scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m.

- The Financials of Prison Education Programs – March 27
- NASFAA Business Services: The Impact of the Enrollment Cliff: What is financial aid's role in achieving enrollment goals? – April 3

Link to webinars - nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand



ISAC

2024 ILASFAA Conference

- This year's conference was a huge success filled with a couple hundred attendees, great speakers & presentations, amazing food & hospitality, as well as electrifying activities… including a basket raffle, trivia, and an 80's dance off!

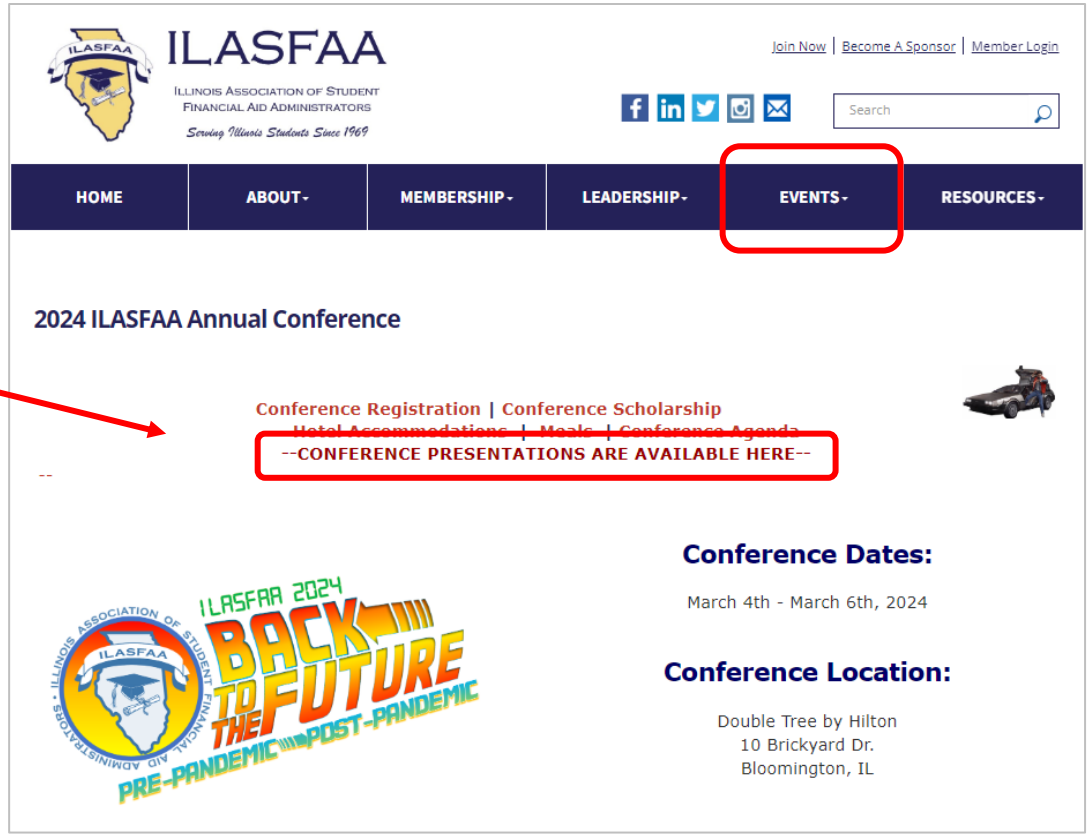
- Conference presentations are now available on the ILASFAA website to download

- Hover over the Events tab and then click on Conferences

- And then click on Conference Presentations Are Available Here

- Or click on this link: ilasfaa.org/2024_ilasfaa_annual_conference.php

- If you are interested in serving on an ILASFAA committee -- log in to the member area and update your interests in your profile



ISAC

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.
    - April 24
    - May 29
    - June 26

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.
    - April 9 – Budget Reporting
    - May 14 – Budget Reporting (repeat)

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 Student Services Department

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

Call Center Reps
Bertha Esquivel
Ghouse Farooqi
Vanessa Guzman
Matt Setnicar
Larry Thompson

ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information, and support to schools and other ISAC partners
- Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations
- Responds to 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

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

Questions/Comments

Thank you for attending today!