

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

The screenshot shows the 'Student Detail: Payments' page in the NESP system. The page includes a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Student', 'Certification', 'Payment', and 'Reports'. A 'List' button is set to 'Payment'. There is a 'Current SSN' field with a 'Go' button and an 'Annual Award Amount' of 17813.00. 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 for ineligibility. 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
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

- 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

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

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 | | |

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

Home | E-Library | Press Releases And State Legislative Update | ISAC State Legislative Update

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/



The screenshot shows a web 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 the text "(last updated February 21, 2024)". A list of links follows: "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 - 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

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

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 (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)

- 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)

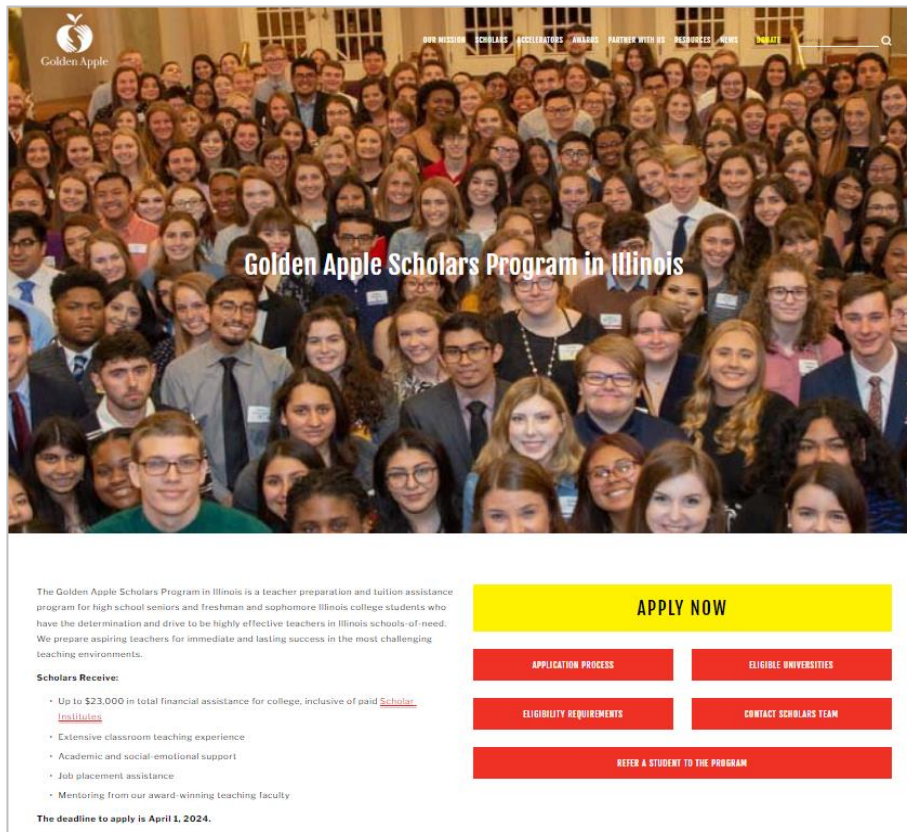
- 2024-25 SETTW application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
 - The priority consideration application date was **March 1, 2024**
 - A complete application must be received by that date to be considered timely
 - Does not require a FAFSA or Alternative Application to complete the application process
 - 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



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 [Scholarship](#) [Institute](#)
- Extensive classroom teaching experience
- Academic and social-emotional support
- Job placement assistance
- Mentoring from our award-winning teaching faculty

The deadline to apply is April 1, 2024.

APPLY NOW

APPLICATION PROCESS ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITIES

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS CONTACT SCHOLARS TEAM

REFER A STUDENT TO THE PROGRAM

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

GAP Access User Guides

User Guides for all GAP Access functionality are below. General questions, user name and password maintenance, and technical information about GAP Access are answered in the Activating and Authentication User Guides.

- [Activating GAP Access User Accounts](#)
- [Activating Other GAP Access Administrators](#)
- [Activating Your GAP Access Primary Administrator Account](#)
- [AIM HIGH Data Collection](#)
- [Budget Reporting Process User Guide](#)
- [Deceased, Disabled, and MIA-POW Veterans' Dependents Scholarship](#)
- [ECACE Scholarship Program User Guide](#)
- [Enrollment Status Verification for the Teacher Programs User Guide](#)
- [Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative – Access and Agreement User Guide](#)
- [GAP Access Two-Factor Authentication User Guide](#)
- [GAP Access User Verification](#)

Login

User ID

Password

Login

[Forgot Password? Forgot User ID?](#)

[Click here to register](#)

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

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

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid Knowledge Center website. At the top, it says "Federal Student Aid" and "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®". Below that are navigation tabs: "KNOWLEDGE CENTER", "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY", and "PA". A dark blue bar contains "What's New", "Library", and "Topics". The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Keeping You Informed - Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area". The title of the announcement is "(GENERAL-24-26) Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center (Updated March 25, 2024)". There is a "Print" button. Below that, the announcement details are listed: "POSTED DATE: March 22, 2024", "AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid", "ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-24-26", and "SUBJECT: Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center (Updated March 25, 2024)". A "Note" section follows, stating that the announcement was updated on March 25, 2024, and that it will be re-pushed to subscribers and bookmarked for periodic checks.

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

What's New Library Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Keeping You Informed - Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area

(GENERAL-24-26) Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center (Updated March 25, 2024)

Print

POSTED DATE: March 22, 2024
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-24-26
SUBJECT: Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center (Updated March 25, 2024)

Note

Update on March 25, 2024: We updated the [2024-25 FAFSA Updates](#) page, [2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts](#) page, and [2024-25 FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Each time we update one or more pages, we will update this announcement and re-push it to our subscription email. In addition, you can bookmark each page and check it periodically.

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

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

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 2024-25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form.

Print

March 25, 2024 Update

FAFSA Simplification Information Area

- Updated: 2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts
- Updated: 2024-25 FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions

Electronic Announcements

- GENERAL-24-27: Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing

Technical Information

- Updated: Technical FAQ and Known Issues Guide

Webinar Recordings

To access video recordings of the webinar sessions below, log in to the [FSA Training Center](#), go to "Recorded Training" on the main menu bar, select "Webinars and Training Videos," and locate the recording in the "FAFSA Simplification" category. Webinar transcripts and leave behinds will be available in the same location.

- Live Internet Webinar – Navigating and Finding Resources on FAFSA Simplification (March 22, 2024)

FAFSA Status Tracker

FAFSA Status - 3/25/24

- ☆ Processed To Date: 4.4M
- ☆ Processed Since Last Report: 4.4M
- ☆ Submitted To Date: 6.3M
- ☆ Submitted Since Last Report: 6.3M

Quick Links

- 2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts
- FAFSA FAQs
- 2024-25 FAFSA Roadmap
- FAFSA Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements
- FAFSA Simplification Information

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) Delivery

(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

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

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid Knowledge Center website. At the top left, the logo for Federal Student Aid is displayed, along with the text "PROUD SPONSOR of THE AMERICAN MIND®" and "An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION". A "Log In" link is located in the top right corner. Below the logo, a navigation bar contains several dropdown menus: "KNOWLEDGE CENTER" (highlighted with a red box), "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY", and "PARTNER CONNECT SERVICES". Underneath the navigation bar, there are links for "What's New", "Library", and "Topics". A large banner area features the text "Knowledge Center Home" (highlighted with a red box) and a search bar with the placeholder text "Search Knowledge Center" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there is a link for "Advanced Search". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "What's New" and features a list of recent announcements, including: "(ANN-24-05) Live Internet Webinar – 2024–25 ISIR Highlights" (dated MARCH 26, 2024), "(GENERAL-24-27) Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing" (dated MARCH 25, 2024), "(GENERAL-24-26) Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center (Updated March 25, 2024)" (dated MARCH 22, 2024), and "(GENERAL-24-25) 2024 Federal Student Aid Training Conference – To Be Held Virtually Dec. 3–6, 2024" (dated MARCH 22, 2024). The right column is titled "Featured Information" and lists several topics: "E-App and Third-Party Servicer Inquiry Form Updates", "2024 Virtual FSA Training Conference Dec. 3–6", "FAFSA Simplification Information", "Prison Education Programs", "Disaster Assistance", and "Technology Security Alert". Below the "Featured Information" section, there is a "Quick Reference" section with links to "FSA Handbook", "Knowledge Center FAQs", "Dear Colleague Letters", and "Electronic Announcements".

Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

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

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What's New **Library** Topics

Q Search Knowledge Center Search

Knowledge Center Home > Library

Library

Below you will find a categorization of the documents published to the Knowledge Center.

Current publications are categorized by Resource Type, Program, Functional Area, and/or System. If you are unable to locate the publication you are looking for, access the [Maintained for Historical Purposes](#) page to view a list of historical categories.

- Publications by Resource Type >
- Publications by Program >
- Publications by Functional Area >
- Publications by System >

Letters and Announcements

Policy and operational guidance for participants in the administration of Title IV federal student aid programs.

- Dear Colleague Letters
- Electronic Announcements
- Foreign School Updates

OPE Questions and Answers

- FAFSA Simplification [↗](#)
- Program Integrity [↗](#)
- 90/10 [↗](#)

Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

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

The screenshot displays the Federal Student Aid Knowledge Center website. At the top, the logo for Federal Student Aid is visible, along with the text "PROUD SPONSOR of THE AMERICAN MIND" and "AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION". A "Log In" link is located in the top right corner. Below the logo, a navigation bar contains several menu items: "KNOWLEDGE CENTER", "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY", and "PARTNER CONNECT SERVICES". A dark blue search bar is positioned to the right of these menus, with the text "Search Knowledge Center" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, a breadcrumb trail is highlighted with a red box: "Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements". The main heading of the page is "Electronic Announcements". Below this heading, a paragraph explains that these resources are used to convey guidance regarding Title IV federal student aid programs. A filter section at the bottom of the page includes tabs for "Current" (selected) and "Historical", and a "Filter by Publication Year" dropdown menu set to "All years". A list of announcements follows, each with a title and a date:

- (GENERAL-24-27) Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing**
2024-03-25
- (GENERAL-24-26) Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center (Updated March 25, 2024)**
2024-03-22
- (GENERAL-24-25) 2024 Federal Student Aid Training Conference – To Be Held Virtually Dec. 3–6, 2024**
2024-03-22
- (GENERAL-24-24) Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) Delivery**
2024-03-22
- (APP-24-04) DHS-SAVE Instructions for U.S. Department of Education (School) Users Version 4.0 Available**
2024-03-19
- (GRANTS-24-03) PACT Act Impacts to Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants (IASG) Eligibility and Processing for 2023-24 Award Year; Updated Pell Grant Eligibility for Dependents of Certain Deceased Servicemembers and Public Safety Officers for 2024-25**
2024-03-15
- (GENERAL-24-23) Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona Letter to Presidents, Chancellors, and CEOs on 2024-25 FAFSA Processing Updates**
2024-03-15

Federal Student Aid – Knowledge Center

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

The screenshot displays the Federal Student Aid Knowledge Center website. At the top, the logo for Federal Student Aid is visible, along with the text 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®' and 'An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION'. A navigation bar includes links for 'KNOWLEDGE CENTER', 'TRAINING', 'FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY', 'TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY', and 'PARTNER CONNECT SERVICES'. Below this, a dark blue navigation bar contains 'What's New', 'Library', and 'Topics', with a search bar on the right. The breadcrumb trail 'Knowledge Center Home > Library > Dear Colleague Letters' is highlighted with a red box. The main heading is 'Dear Colleague Letters', followed by a paragraph explaining that these resources are used to convey guidance regarding Title IV federal student aid programs. Below this, there are filter options for 'Current' and 'Historical' (with a help icon), and a 'Filter by Publication Year' dropdown set to 'All years'. A list of four recent webinar announcements is shown, each with a date:

- (ANN-24-05) Live Internet Webinar – 2024–25 ISIR Highlights**
2024-03-26
- (ANN-24-04) Live Internet Webinar – Navigating and Finding Resources on FAFSA Simplification**
2024-03-20
- (ANN-24-03) Live Internet Webinar - EDEXpress 2024–25 Modernization Part 2**
2024-03-15
- (ANN-24-02) Live Internet Webinar – 2024–25 ISIRs: Transmission Support and Delivery Ramp Up**
2024-03-14

FAFSA Simplification Q&As



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 should not request additional information or require additional forms beyond the FAFSA form unless the Department has requested a review of their dependency status or special circumstances. [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

www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hea_rulemaking/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
- Enter your e-mail address
- Choose whether you would like to receive Weekly or Daily Updates

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid Knowledge Center Home page. At the top, there is a header with the Federal Student Aid logo and the text "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "KNOWLEDGE CENTER", "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY", and "PARTNER CONNECT SERVICES". A dark blue bar contains "What's New", "Library", and "Topics". The main content area is titled "Knowledge Center Home" and features a search bar with the text "Search Knowledge Center" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar are two columns of content. The left column is titled "What's New" and features a star icon and a link to "(GENERAL-24-26) Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center" dated MARCH 22, 2024. The right column is titled "Featured Information" and features a link icon and three items: "E-App and Third-Party Servicer Inquiry Form Updates", "2024 Virtual FSA Training Conference Dec. 3-6", and "FAFSA Simplification Information". At the bottom of the page, there are two more sections. The left section is titled "Laws and Regulations" and features links to "Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR", "Federal Registers", and "US Code (GPO Compilation)". The right section is titled "Knowledge Center Subscription" and features a "Subscribe" button. This section is highlighted with a red box.

New Knowledge Center Subscription

Please enter your email address and select one or more Subscription Options in order to complete your Knowledge Center Subscription.

Email Address *

This field is required.

Subscription Options

Weekly Knowledge Center Update

The weekly email summary will include all the updates to the Knowledge Center from that week. If there are no updates, FSA Partner Connect will send an email stating that there are no updates.

Daily Knowledge Center Update

The daily email summary will include all updates to the Knowledge Center from that day. If there are no updates, no email will be sent.

Cancel

Submit

Federal Student Aid – Training Center

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

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Welcome to the FSA Training Center

Training for Financial Aid Professionals

FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION
Training - Resources

START YOUR TRAINING HERE
Fundamentals vs Basics - Training Center Orientation

UPCOMING WEBINARS
Calendar - Links - Descriptions

Need to update your password, email or school? It's easy, just do the following:

- 1) Click on your name in the upper-right corner
- 2) Choose Preferences/Edit Profile
- 3) Scroll to the field you want to update and make your changes
- 4) Scroll to the bottom of the page and click Update Profile.

Thanks for keeping your info up to date!

Federal Student Aid – Training Center

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

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid Training Center website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, NEW! ROADMAP, TRAINING TRACKS, TRAINING COURSES, BROADCAST TRAINING, SPECIAL TRAINING, STAFF, and HELP CENTERS. Below the navigation bar, there is a header for "Upcoming Webinars" featuring a photo of a woman working on a laptop. The main content area is titled "Upcoming Live Webinars" and includes a registration notice: "Registration is not required to participate. On the day of the event, select the link from the table to join the webinar on the Microsoft Teams platform. The presentation materials will be available to download the day before each webinar." Below this, there are instructions on how to add a reminder to a calendar and a link to contact helpdesk@fsatraining.ed.gov. At the bottom, there is a table listing upcoming webinars.

| Webinar Title and Description | Date | Time | Calendar Reminder | Link to Join Webinar | Presentation Materials |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <p><i>EDExpress 2024-25 Modernization Part 2</i></p> <p>The EDExpress for Windows 2024-25 software has a modernized user interface. In this webinar, we will cover updates to the software's Release 2.0 functionality, including the Pell Grant and Direct Loan modules. This webinar will include a demonstration of additional user interface enhancements and updates for the new Student Aid Index (SAI) and Enrollment Incentive data elements.</p> | Thursday, March 28, 2024 | 1-2:30 p.m. ET | Add to Calendar | Join Webinar | Available March 27 |
| <p><i>2024-25 ISIR Highlights</i></p> <p>This session covers highlights from the new 2024-25 ISIR, including changes to the way data is organized within ISIR blocks, new identifiers, and new codes. We will also cover what to do when more than one</p> | Friday, March 29, 2024 | 3-4 p.m. ET | Add to Calendar | Join Webinar | Available after webinar |

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
- Click on Email Options
- Checkboxes from the Opt-In Selections
- Click Save Changes



The screenshot shows the myNASFAA user interface. At the top, the NASFAA logo is on the left, and a navigation bar contains 'myNASFAA', 'LOG OUT', a search box, and a shopping cart icon. Below this is a main navigation menu with categories: NEWS, TRAINING & EVENTS, TOOLS & RESOURCES, ADVOCACY, POLICY & RESEARCH, MEMBERSHIP, and ABOUT NASFAA. A user greeting bar says 'Welcome, Stephanie' and 'NASFAA Membership: Active'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > myNASFAA'. The main content area is titled 'myNASFAA: Contact Information' and features a sub-menu with 'CONTACT INFORMATION', 'DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION', 'EMAIL OPTIONS' (highlighted with a red box), 'DIRECTORIES & SETTINGS', and 'TRANSACTIONS & INVOLVEMENT'. A text block explains that users can toggle to edit mode with a green button. Below this, the user's name 'Ms. Stephanie Claudio' is displayed with a green checkmark, along with her role 'Partner Services' and email 'stephanie.claudio@illinois.gov'. A 'Need Photo' button is visible next to a placeholder image. At the bottom, the 'Primary Institution/Organization Address' is listed as 'Illinois Student Assistance Commission' with a green checkmark. On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar with links for 'Favorites', 'myNASFAA >>', 'File Access Center', 'Suggested Content', 'Manage My Membership', and 'Manage Institution or Organization'. The ISAC logo is in the bottom left corner.

Home » myNASFAA

Favorites


myNASFAA »


File Access Center


Suggested Content

Manage My Membership

Manage Institution or Organization

Certification 

AskRegs 

NASFAA U 

myNASFAA: Email Options

[CONTACT INFORMATION](#) [DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION](#) **[EMAIL OPTIONS](#)** [DIRECTORIES & SETTINGS](#) [TRANSACTIONS & INVOLVEMENT](#)

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.

Not all users can modify their *Today's News* subscription. Please contact Member Services using the field above the Save button for assistance.

Opt-In Selections

- Today's News*, daily email, members only
 - Temporarily stop sending *Today's News* to me; Resume sending on
- NASFAA Weekly Update*, weekly, members only
- Calls to Action on Federal Issues, as needed, members only
- Compliance Issues, as needed, members only
- Compliance Engine Updates, as needed, members only
- Graduate/Professional Listserv, as needed, members and non-members
- Canadian Members Only** - I want to receive emails from NASFAA.

As of July 1, 2014, the Canadian Anti-Spam Law states that all email senders (such as NASFAA) sending to and from Canada must obtain express consent from its members and subscribers.

Save Changes

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

The screenshot shows the NASFAA website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the NASFAA logo and navigation links for 'JOIN', 'LOG IN', and a search bar. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with links for 'NEWS', 'TRAINING & EVENTS', 'TOOLS & RESOURCES', 'ADVOCACY, POLICY & RESEARCH', 'MEMBERSHIP', and 'ABOUT NASFAA'. A 'LOG IN' link is also present. The main content area is titled 'Webinars' and includes a description of the service, a 'Watch a preview' link, and a list of webinar details. A green button labeled 'PROCEED TO WEBINAR REGISTRATION' is visible at the bottom right.

Home » Training & Events » Webinars - Live and On-Demand

Webinars

NASFAA brings continuing education to you via livestreamed webinars and recorded sessions that you can view on-demand. You can invite an unlimited number of people from your organization to participate with just one site license. Learn at your desk, huddle up with others around a computer, or watch with a large group in a conference room. [Watch a preview.](#)

- Presentations usually range from 60 to 90 minutes, with live Q&A.
- Webinars are recorded and made available on-demand shortly after the live event.

PROCEED TO WEBINAR REGISTRATION

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

Join Now | Become A Sponsor | Member Login

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Search

HOME ABOUT- MEMBERSHIP- LEADERSHIP- **EVENTS-** RESOURCES-

2024 ILASFAA Annual Conference

Conference Registration | Conference Scholarship
Hotel Accommodations | Meals | Conference Agenda

--CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE HERE--

Conference Dates:
March 4th - March 6th, 2024

Conference Location:
Double Tree by Hilton
10 Brickyard Dr.
Bloomington, IL

ILASFAA 2024
BACK TO THE FUTURE
THE 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.
 - ❖ 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!