

# Operational Update and Q & A

March 11, 2025



# **2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025**

# 2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- ISAC suspended the announcement of 2024-25 MAP grants for all students whose initial 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application was received on or after August 21, 2024
- Fall term claim deadline date was Friday, December 6, 2024
  - Term 1 enrollment and fall claim rates were much higher than expected
- On December 17, ISAC announced a 4% reduction factor to the 2024-25 maximum annual award amount to stay within the FY25 appropriation
  - Reduction only applied to second semester and second/third quarter claims
    - For semester institutions, the maximum eligible award amount for the spring term was reduced by 8%
    - For quarter institutions, the maximum eligible award amount for both second and third quarters was reduced by 6%
  - Fall term award amounts were not reduced

# 2024-25 MAP

- Mid-Year Recompute
  - Reduced the maximum annual award amount of \$8400 by 4%
    - $8400 \times .96 = 8064$
- Reduction was implemented in the MAP system and recalculated awards provided to colleges on December 23
  - Award amounts displaying in the MAP system continue to show the original maximum eligible amount for the fall term
- Payment processing for Term 2 was made available on January 2
  - The claim deadline date for Term 2 (spring semester/winter quarter) is **Friday, April 4**

# 2024-25 MAP

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**Featured**

- FAQs: Reduction in 2024-25 MAP Awards
- 2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP) Suspend

## FAQs: Reduction in 2024-25 MAP Awards

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is the state agency that manages the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant, a need-based scholarship that helps Illinois students pay for school. The state's General Assembly and Governor determine how much funding the program can use in a year, and ISAC operates the program.

### I got a message from my school that my MAP grant is being reduced. What does that mean?

- It means that in the spring semester (or winter and spring terms at quarter schools), your MAP award will be less than originally estimated, because the total amount of financial aid awarded through the MAP for the **2024-2025 academic year** is being reduced.

### Why are you reducing awards mid-year?

- MAP grants come through ISAC, and the amount the agency can award each year is based on the level of funding provided by the state. When you see the MAP award in your financial aid offer, it is an *estimated* award.
- This fall, many more students who are eligible for MAP grants enrolled than was expected.
- Since the *number* of students using a MAP grant is much higher than expected, ISAC needs to reduce the *size* of MAP grants to ensure that the available funding can support all of the eligible students continuing to receive MAP grants for the rest of the academic year.

### How much money will I get from my MAP award?

- Depending on the size of your MAP grant, the reduction could range from as little as \$12 to as much as \$336.

### Am I going to have to pay back money I received for the fall term?

- No! You won't need to pay back any of the MAP grant funds you've already received for the fall term due to the reduction in your annual award amount.
- However, your financial aid for the 2025 spring semester (or winter and spring quarters) will be somewhat less than the estimate that may have been included in your original financial aid package. This means your tuition bill for those terms may be slightly higher than expected.

### Who should I ask or where can I go if I have questions?

- Your school's financial aid office: They can provide specific details about how this change affects you.
- ISAC: Student Engagement and Support Services team members can provide general information about MAP grants and this year's changes. Call 800-899-4722 or e-mail [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov) or contact your [local ISACorps member](#). Learn more about MAP at [isac.org/map-grant](https://isac.org/map-grant).

# MAP Payment Processing Reminders

- Colleges can continue to make adjustments to previously-submitted fall term claims (e.g. to change enrollment hours, adjust amounts, etc).
  - Initial fall term claims and upward adjustment amounts for timely fall claims will be considered a late claim
  - It's important that colleges make downward adjustments after completing fall term reconciliation, rather than waiting until year-end
    - Due to the offset process, actual funds do not have to be returned to ISAC until year-end, however, adjustments should be made in the MAP system throughout the year
      - This assists ISAC with monitoring actual enrollment and claim rates and provides more accurate information for projections
- ISAC does not recommend that schools submit adjustments to change MAP budget codes for the fall term if it will result in a claim being considered late and unable to be paid
  - In order to change MAP codes, the original request must first be cancelled and then a new request submitted
  - Any new fall term requests would now be late
  - Downward adjustments can be made, as needed

# ISAC Scholarship Programs

- Term 2 payment processing is available for the following ISAC programs:
  - Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
  - Golden Apple (GA) Scholars
  - Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  - Nursing Education Scholarships Program
  - Post-Master of Social Work Scholarship Program (SWSP)
- The priority claim date for Term 2 is Monday, March 31, 2025
- To be considered timely, payment requests must be submitted on or before the priority claim date
- Even though the Term 1 (fall) priority claim deadline of December 31, 2024 has passed ISAC continues to accept and pay fall-term claims
- The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC staff to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable
- Term 3 payment processing will be made available at the end of March

# ISAC Military Programs

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant & Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
  - ISAC is accepting spring term benefit usage data
  - To be considered timely, benefit usage data must be submitted on or before Friday, May 30, 2025
  - Although the fall term priority claim date has passed, colleges may still submit fall-term benefit usage data and adjustments as needed
- To be considered timely, payment/benefit usage requests must be submitted on or before the priority claim date
- ISAC received an FY25 appropriation to reimburse public universities for providing IVG/ING benefits.
  - Reimbursements will be made at the end of the award year, based on timely claims submitted by each institution
  - Community colleges will receive reimbursements from ICCB

# ISAC Teacher Programs

- MTI
  - Several additional rounds of awarding have occurred since January
    - As schools complete the payment process, ISAC continues to do additional rounds of awarding as funds become available
- Golden Apple
  - Some students may also now be eligible for MTI
    - Double check and confirm student choices on which scholarship they want to receive
    - Confirm MTI eligibility and the ability to request payment before cancelling the GA award

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

Student Category	Certified Eligible	Certified Date	Academic Level	Award Amount	Award Date	Awarded GA	Awarded SETTW	Bilingual Certification	EFC
ly New	Y	08/22/2023	Freshman	7500	08/24/2023			N	3852
y New	Y	08/22/2023	Senior	7500	08/24/2023			N	15885
ely New	Y	08/22/2023	Freshman					N	18019
y New	Y	08/22/2023	Junior	7500	08/24/2023			N	0
plete						Y			
y New	N	08/22/2023							
y Renewal	Y	07/16/2023	Junior	7500	08/17/2023			N	4858

# Dual-Awarding Reminders

- If a student qualifies for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple in the same award year, the student must choose which program they would like to use.
  - A student cannot receive the benefits of two of these programs in the same award year.
  - ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept.
  - These letters include a deadline date to return the form.
  - The ECACE Scholarship may be used with one of these programs, and ECACE would be last payer
- If a student decides to change which program benefit, he/she wants to receive:
  - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program in GAP Access before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made.
    - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for MTI before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple.
- Program teaching obligations:
  - SETTW requires two-year teaching commitment.
  - Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment.
  - MTI has a one-year teaching commitment for each year that the scholarship is received.
- See ISAC's website for specific program information:
  - [isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html](https://isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html)
  - [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html)
  - [isac.org/gap-access/#guide](https://isac.org/gap-access/#guide)

# Ways to View Students Awarded GA, SETTW & MTI

Administration School Programs

MTI Student List Eligibility: View

Select School and School Code

Go


Home Student Certification Payment Reports File Extraction

List Filter Sort Columns

Entries displayed: 20

#	Student	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	DOB
1	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]
2	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]
3	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]
4	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]
5	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]
6	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

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

Administration School Programs

MTI Student Detail: Eligibility

Home Student Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Eligibility Application Update Student Update School Update Payment

Person Details

Current SSN

Go

Address

Date of Birth

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code		
Enrolled	Y	Y
EFID	38204	38204
Range of Contributions	Y	N
Academic Level	Undergraduate	Undergraduate
Partnership	N	N
Indigible Reason		
Award Amount	0.00	0.00
Term Payment Awarded	1180	1180
Term Units	0	3
Financial Need	0	0

Award Date: 01/16/2023

Annual Award Amount: 0.00

Award Decline Date: 02/01/2023

Eligibility

Application Received Date: 03/07/2022

Application Complete Date: 03/07/2022

Default: N

Male: No

Applicant Category: Timely New

Application Withdrawn Date: ---

Certification Date: 07/18/2022

Last Update: 02/14/2023

Total Units: 0

Bilingual Application: ---

Bilingual educator preparation program: ---

Ethnicity: Asian American

Residence: Y

Citizenship: U.S. Citizen

Alies ID: ---

Awarded GA: Y

Awarded SETTW: ---

# Dual-Awarding Students with MTI & Golden Apple

MTI

Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Eligibility **Payment**

Current SSN  
 **Go**

Annual Award Amount  
7500.00

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code		
Request	<input type="text" value="Paymer"/>	<input type="text" value="Paymer"/>
Enrollment Status	<input type="text" value="Full tm"/>	<input type="text" value="Full tm"/>
Ineligible Reason	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Requested Amount	\$ 3750.00	\$ 3750.00
Award Amount	3750.00	3750.00
Activity Date	10/12/2022	01/09/2023
Status	P	P
Result code	*	*
Expanded Result		
Invoice #		
School Code		
Result code	*	*
Expanded Result		
Amount Paid	3750.00	3750.00
Adjusted Amount	3750.00	3750.00
Result Date	10/12/2022	01/09/2023

GA

Student Detail: Payment

Home Student Certification File Upload Payment Reports

List Eligibility **Payment**

Annual Award Amount  
0.00

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code		
Request	<input type="text" value="Paymer"/>	<input type="text"/>
Academic Level	<input type="text" value="Freshm"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Status	<input type="text" value="Full tm"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ineligible Reason	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Requested Amount	\$ 1250.00	\$
Award Amount	1250.00	
Activity Date	09/19/2022	
Status	P	
Result code	*	
Expanded Result		
Invoice #		
School Code		
Result code	*	
Expanded Result		
Amount Paid	1250.00	
Adjusted Amount	1250.00	
Result Date	09/19/2022	

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

# 2024-25 Illinois Graduate and Retain our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship Program

- The program was designed to recruit and retain individuals to work in technology jobs that have a high demand for new employees
- Scholarships will pay up to \$7,500 for tuition and fees, and room and board costs for each continuous academic year recipients meet eligibility requirements at Illinois public universities
- The online application is still available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - The priority application consideration date was November 30, 2024
- FY25 appropriation is \$2 million
- Continue to certify new applicants that may appear on your school lists throughout the year

# 2024-25 iGROW Tech Scholarship Program

- To be eligible:
  - be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act
  - be an Illinois resident
  - have graduated from high school or have received a State of Illinois High School Diploma (or equivalent) and have maintained a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
  - pursue or intend to pursue a qualifying degree;
    - computer information sciences
    - information technology
    - information science
    - computer science
    - computer systems networking and telecommunications
    - computer and information systems security or information assurance, including cybersecurity; or management information systems
  - be enrolled at least a half-time basis, in a course of study necessary to secure a qualifying associate or bachelor's degree
  - maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the college

# 2024-25 Illinois Graduate and Retain our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship Program

- By receiving this scholarship, the recipient agrees to work in Illinois in a qualifying job for a period of not less than one year for each year of scholarship assistance the student is awarded, and not for a period of less than two years
- The recipient must begin employment with an employer in Illinois that is directly related to the field of study that qualified them for assistance under this program within one year following completion of the program
- If the commitment is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan, plus interest, and the entire amount received must be repaid

# iGROW Certification Process

**IGROW 2024-2025: Certification List: View**

Select School and School Code

[Home](#) [Student](#) [Certification](#)

Entries displayed

#	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	School Code	Applicant Category	Eligible	Transfer
1								
2								

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Colleges should continue to check for and complete outstanding certifications in the iGROW system so that students can be considered in future rounds of awarding that may occur after the payment process begins.

**Certification Details**

Eligible:

Academic Level:

Program of Study:

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month and Year, must be future):

SAI from most recent valid ISIR:

Student's GPA:

Ineligible Reason:

# iGROW Certification Process

**Certification Details**

**Student Name**

Eligible:

Academic Level:

Program of Study:

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month and Year, must be future):

SAI from most recent valid ISIR:

Student's GPA:

Ineligible Reason:

—Select Academic Level—

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

—Select Program of Study—

Computer Information Sciences

Information Technology

Information Science

Computer Science

Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications

CIS Security or Information Assurance

Management IS

—Select Ineligible Reason—

Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen student

Non-Resident

Not an HS grad/recipient of HS diploma

GPA less than 2.50

Graduate student

No qualifying degree

Not at qualifying institution

Not making satisfactory academic progress

No remaining unmet cost

Not accepting iGROW Tech Scholarship

Defaulted student loan

Not enrolled

Enrolled less than half-time

No qualifying degree

# iGROW Awarding

- The first round of awarding for students who have been certified as eligible took place on January 21 and few small rounds of awarding have also taken place since then
  - Award information is available in the iGROW system and letters have been sent to awarded students

Certified Date	Award Date	Award Amount
11/13/2024	01/21/2025	7500.00
12/02/2024	01/21/2025	7500.00

- The payment process is expected to be available the week of March 17

January 22, 2025

Student Name iGROW-200  
Address  
City, State, Zip Code

**ILLINIOS GRADUATE AND RETAIN OUR WORKFORCE (iGROW)  
TECH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is pleased to announce that you have been awarded a 2024-25 Illinois Graduate and Retain our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship.

College Attending: College listed on the student's application

Estimated Award Amount: \$7,500

**Important Information – Next Steps**

- This award will be paid directly to the above-named college. Please review the information for accuracy and immediately notify our office, in writing, of any corrections needed.
- Your college will determine the final award amount and the number of disbursements. The amount of the scholarship plus other financial aid you receive cannot exceed the total cost of education at your college.
- If you fail to meet any of the eligibility requirements during the academic year, the entire scholarship or a portion of the scholarship funds may be forfeited.
- You are required to notify our office of any changes to your personal information (address, phone number, email address) as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days after the change. Failure to notify ISAC will result in delays in the processing of your benefits.
- By receiving any or all of this scholarship, you agree to fulfill the teaching commitment that is outlined on the application/work agreement/promissory note. If this work agreement is not fulfilled within the required time for this program, the amount awarded converts to a loan that must be repaid with interest.

ISAC administers other scholarship and grant programs that can provide financial assistance to help you pay for college. To learn more about the financial aid process and available programs or if you have any questions about this program and its benefits, visit us at [isac.org](http://isac.org), call an ISAC Student Engagement Representative at 800.899.ISAC (4722) or e-mail us at [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov).

# MAP Advising Data Collection

- The collection period for 2024 MAP Advising data is open, and colleges may submit the required information in GAP Access
- MAP Advising data to be reported for the 2024 collection period is as follows:
  - Available advising and support programs (for the 2023-24 academic year), and
  - Course completion data (for the 2022-23 academic year)
- 2024 MAP Advising data is due **April 1, 2025**
- There have been no changes from past years to the submission process
- Further details, including tips for submitting MAP Advising data, access to the MAP Advising Support Programs Search Tool and the MAP Advising Data Collection User Guide are provided in a January 7 e-Message
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0107.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0107.html)

# **2025-26 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2026**

# 2025-26 MAP Start-Up

- The 2025-26 MAP Start-Up Formula was approved at the September 19, 2024, Commission Meeting
  - FY26 Start-up formula remains the same as FY25 Recompute formula:
    - 2021-22 reported tuition and fees
    - the 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule
    - a \$5,200 living allowance
    - an \$8,400 maximum award
  - Commission Meeting Agenda Book: [isac.org/about-isac/commissioners/2024-agenda-books/agenda-book-09-19-24.html](https://isac.org/about-isac/commissioners/2024-agenda-books/agenda-book-09-19-24.html)
- The 2025-26 FAFSA became available at the end of November, and the 2025-26 Alternative Application was launched on December 6
- MAP eligibility information was made available to schools in the MAP system on December 30
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230.html)

# 2025-26 Alternative Application

- The questions on the 2025-26 Alternative Application are consistent with the 2025-26 FAFSA and it collects all data elements needed to calculate an SAI
- Similar to an ISIR, the Alternative Application Student Record includes all application data elements
  - The order of the data in the file layout follows the order of the ISIR and the values are the same, unless otherwise noted
  - Available as a text file in Notepad
    - Using free Notepad++ app provides more user-friendly viewing
  - The Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout document provides details about field names, length of data fields, and start and end positions

# Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security

- [isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/](https://isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/)

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En Español

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

(last updated December 6, 2024)

### Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security Disclosure:

*The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has strict security and confidentiality policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity of student records. ISAC does not share applicant or recipient addresses or names with third parties unless the third party is your school or an authorized agent of ISAC's and information will only be used in furtherance of your student aid request or for research purposes. Such third parties are subject to restrictions regarding data confidentiality, use and security. [(110 ILCS 947/70(g)) (23 IL.Admin.Code 2700.55)] Non-identified financial aid applicant and recipient information is shared publicly in the aggregate to support research that, for example, identifies how program funds benefit students. ISAC is required to share your individual data pursuant to a valid subpoena or to investigate fraud (110 ILCS 947/20).*

# Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security

## ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented students

### Alternative Application to apply for Illinois MAP Grants

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid allows qualifying undocumented students who are not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid to apply for Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants to attend eligible Illinois colleges, universities, and career education programs.

The pre-screening questions in this application will help you determine if you are a qualifying undocumented student who is not eligible for federal financial aid.

[See our User Guide & Resources for this program >>](#)

### Information Privacy and Security Disclosure:

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has strict security and confidentiality policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity of student records. ISAC does not share applicant or recipient addresses or names with third parties unless the third party is your school or an authorized agent of ISAC's and information will only be used in furtherance of your student aid request or for research purposes. Such third parties are subject to restrictions regarding data confidentiality, use and security. [(110 ILCS 947/70(g)) (23 ILAdmin.Code 2700.55)] Non-identified financial aid applicant and recipient information is shared publicly in the aggregate to support research that, for example, identifies how program funds benefit students. ISAC is required to share your individual data pursuant to a valid subpoena or to investigate fraud (110 ILCS 947/20).

is Financial Aid Student Profile and  
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d Program (MAP). You must use the  
unless you changed your e-mail

<https://www.isac.org/home/privacy-policy.html>

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### Privacy Policy

(last updated on January 4, 2025)

#### General Information

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) respects your right to privacy. ISAC is committed to ensuring that your personal, professional and financial information is secure. We have taken several steps to safeguard the integrity of our communications and computing infrastructure, including but not limited to authentication, monitoring, auditing, and encryption. Security measures have been integrated into the design, implementation and deployment processes of the online ISAC operating environment as part of our continuing commitment to risk management.

Please read the following policy to understand how your personal information will be used as you make full use of our online services. "Personal information" means any information by which you can be personally identified. Personal information includes your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, driver's license, Social Security number and the like. A domain name or internet Protocol address is not considered personal information.

This policy applies to the following ISAC sites:

- isac.org
- college-links.org
- ldop.com
- edfinancia.com/ldopp
- ifmscan.org
- collegedigitalconnect.org

### First-Time Applicants

- Click on the "Start" button to start a new Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- Do not submit multiple applications for the same academic year

START

### Returning Applicants

Complete or correct a Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

Forgot Username?  
Forgot Password?

LOGIN

### Submit Parent Signature

Click on the "Parent Signature" button to provide your parent's signature (required for dependent students)

PARENT SIGNATURE

### Information Privacy and Security Disclosure:

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has strict security and confidentiality policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity of student records. ISAC does not share applicant or recipient addresses or names with third parties unless the third party is your school or an authorized agent of ISAC's and information will only be used in furtherance of your student aid request or for research purposes. Such third parties are subject to restrictions regarding data confidentiality, use and security. [(110 ILCS 947/70(g)) (23 ILAdmin.Code 2700.55)] Non-identified financial aid applicant and recipient information is shared publicly in the aggregate to support research that, for example, identifies how program funds benefit students. ISAC is required to share your individual data pursuant to a valid subpoena or to investigate fraud (110 ILCS 947/20).

Privacy Policy

# New Disclosure Screen Added to Beginning of the Application Process



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

[Update Profile](#)

[TEST TEST  
\(Logout\)](#)

To ensure your data is secure be sure to logout and close your browser when completed.

## Student Information

### Important Notice About Your Personal Information

To determine your eligibility for Illinois financial aid, ISAC collects information on the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (called the Alt App for short) and shares it with **every college** you list on the form. The information ISAC shares with schools includes information that can personally identify you, including **your name, address, email address and personal financial information**. If you provide information about **your parents** (or your spouse if you are married), this information will also be shared with the colleges you list. ISAC is required to keep your information for at least seven years.

ISAC takes data security very seriously and collects, stores, and shares your data in a secure manner. However, it is important to understand that even though there are currently laws in place in Illinois to protect your privacy, **new and changing federal policies** may impact the privacy of your data. It is very important for students and their families to understand the **risks** of sharing your personal information on this application.

I have reviewed the information on this page. For the 2025-2026 Alternative Application:

Yes, I WILL proceed with completing the application.

**YES**

No, I WILL NOT proceed with completing the application.

**NO**



[Privacy Policy](#)

# 2025-26 Alternative Application

- The file layout for the 2025-26 Alternative Application Student Record has been posted
  - A revised document has also been posted for the 2024-25 award year
  - [isac.org/e-library/electronic-tools.html](https://isac.org/e-library/electronic-tools.html)
- ISAC has made the following adjustments to the file format
  - Certain data elements are no longer viewable on the file:
    - Applicant street address
    - High School Name
    - High School City
    - Parent street address
  - The ability to request/download files is limited to GAP Access users who are either a Primary Administrator or an Administrator

# 2025-26 ISAC Teacher Programs

- Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program.
  - Online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - March 1, 2025 was the priority application consideration date
  - Complete applications received after March 1 will be considered only if available tuition waivers remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  - Online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - March 31, 2025 is the priority application consideration date
  - A 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) must also be submitted by March 31 for the application to be considered complete and timely
  - Complete applications received after March 31 will be considered only if MTI funding remains after all timely complete applicants have been awarded.

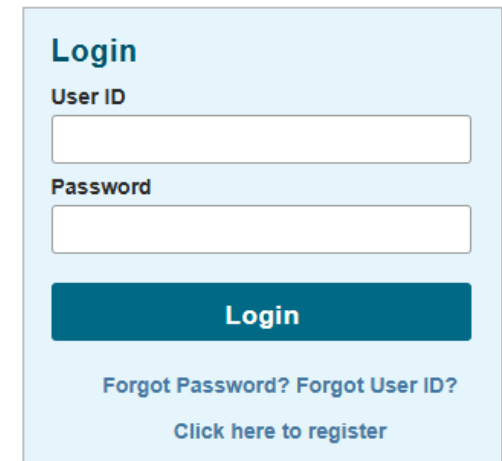
# 2025-26 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- 2025-26 NES application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
- Application period is **March 1 through April 30, 2025**
  - Final date is a deadline date, not a priority date
- Applicants must re-apply each year, along with submitting a FAFSA or Alternative Application for the same award year
- The application process is not considered complete until the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note and a FAFSA or Alternative Application have been submitted to ISAC on or before April 30, 2025
  - When the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note is submitted on or before April 30, applicants have until Saturday, May 31, 2025 to submit the FAFSA or the Alternative Application
- If an applicant does not provide an electronic signature at the time the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note is submitted online, the applicant will have until Saturday, May 31, 2025 to print, sign and submit this document via the "NES Print & Sign your Application" option in the ISAC Student Portal

# GAP Access Security Enhancements

## Password Resets

- As of February 26, 2025, all GAP Access passwords for Users, Administrators, and Primary Administrators must be changed every 30 days
- Passwords must be a minimum of eight characters, and include at least one upper-case letter, one lower-case letter, one numeric digit, and one special character {!@#\$%^&+=}
- GAP Access password resets can be completed via the GAP Access login
- by using the *Forgot Password/Forgot User ID* link on the Login page
  - If an account is in Active status and the user last changed their password over 30 days ago, they will be prompted to change their password upon logging in and will not be allowed to access data before it is changed.
  - To change a password, the user will need to provide the security question responses that were entered when first creating the GAP Access account.
  - Users that do not know their security question responses should contact School Services assistance.

A screenshot of the GAP Access Login page. The page has a light blue background. At the top, the word "Login" is written in a bold, dark blue font. Below it, there are two input fields: "User ID" and "Password", both with white text labels and white input boxes. Below the input fields is a dark blue button with the word "Login" in white. At the bottom of the form, there are two links: "Forgot Password? Forgot User ID?" and "Click here to register", both in a smaller, dark blue font.

# GAP Access Security Enhancements

## Password Resets





- If a GAP Access user is locked out of their account and unable to reset their password, Primary Administrators and Administrators can provide a temporary password that allows the user to update their password
  - This function can be found on the *User Administration, Users View* screen in GAP Access
- To unlock a user, the Primary Administrators or Administrators would select the Key icon next to the user's name which will send a temporary password to the user that is locked out
  - After receiving the temporary password, the user can then set a new password upon logging into the GAP Access system
  - The user will be prompted to change their password as soon as they sign in and will not be allowed to access data before it is changed

**User Administration**

**- Users View**

Verify Users ☐ **Submit** School Setup Code A22c16633

Entries displayed 10 **Filter**

User ID	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Name	Admin	Active	Primary	
					N	C		   

# GAP Access Security Enhancements

## **GAP Access User Accounts Will Be Locked after 60 Days of Inactivity**

- Also effective as of February 26, 2025, any GAP Access account that is not accessed for a period of 60 consecutive days will be locked.
- Primary Administrators days are able to reactivate accounts that have been locked due to inactivity for 60 days by following the same steps taken to activate new accounts
- If the Primary Administrator has been locked out of their account, they will need to contact ISAC's School Services for assistance.

# GAP Access Security Enhancements

## Annual User Agreement

- Once a user has successfully completed the two-factor authentication and has logged into GAP Access, they will be presented with the GAP Access Data Security and Data Protections Annual Review agreement
- The user must review and select that they agree with the terms to proceed
- Following the submission of the user agreement, the user will receive e-mail verification that they have reviewed and agreed to the policies, and a copy of the policies will be provided for the user's records
- Once this process is completed, the user will not see this screen again until it is time to endorse the agreement again the next year
- Note: ISAC will soon be asking Primary Administrators to complete the annual User Verification process to certify that all users listed for their institutions are valid, active users

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has strict security and confidentiality policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity of student records. ISAC will share and receive applicant or recipient information with approved partner educational institutions for the purposes of administering student financial aid, subject to restrictions regarding data confidentiality, use and security. [(110 ILCS 947/70(g)) (23 IL Admin Code 2700.55)].

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs Access (GAP Access) is the portal through which online interactions for the purpose of data inquiries and submissions, eligibility announcements and payment requests for ISAC-administered programs are conducted. ISAC File Transfer System is used by participating institutions to send and receive files. GAP Access portal and ISAC File Transfer System contains personally identifiable information and care must be taken by partner institutions to protect the access and use of this information.

**Annually, ISAC will require all GAP users to review and endorse ISAC's data security and protection policies and procedures, as outlined in ISAC Administrative Rules, PART 2700 – General Provisions: Section 2700.55 Use, Security and Confidentiality of Information, as well as Further GAP Access Guidance to protect access to the portal.**  
**23 IL Admin Code 2700.55**

The personally identifiable information of an ISAC program applicant, participant or anyone named in any materials related to program participation, or personally identifiable information of an individual that ISAC accesses, receives or maintains in relation to its research or other activities, is considered confidential personal information and shall be governed by applicable State and federal privacy laws.

All educational institutions, lenders, holders, servicers and other entities participating in ISAC-administered programs or activities shall be expected to know and comply with all applicable federal and State laws that govern the privacy, use, access and security of the confidential information. (See, e.g., the Data Processing Confidentiality Act [30 ILCS 585], the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 USC 1232g), the Identity Protection Act [5 ILCS 179] and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 USC 6801-6809).

*The confidential information shall not be sold or used, shared or accessed for any purpose other than that which is directly related to the purpose for which the confidential information was provided to the participating entity.* Participating entities shall be responsible for implementing appropriate security procedures to protect the integrity of the confidential information when accessed, stored, transmitted or received.

#### **FURTHER GAP ACCESS GUIDANCE**

ISAC requires that a Primary Administrator (FA Director, High School Principal, or authorized facility staff member) is named for each institution to review and authorize GAP Access users

# GAP Access Annual User Agreement

and determine user privileges. The GAP Access Administrator will ultimately be responsible for monitoring passwords, staff access, and security for a variety of ISAC programs. All GAP Access users need a valid GAP Access ID and password, and all will be required to use a 2-factor authentication security measure to gain access to the portal.

If you have any questions regarding these GAP Access Data Security and Data Protections 2025 Annual Agreement, **please contact**.

School Services Representative  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
website: <http://www.isac.org>  
e-mail: [isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov)  
866.247.2172  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., CST

# ISAC Calendar

- March Webinars for FAAs
  - We will not offer the Monthly Update on the last Wednesday of the month
- Several staff members will be attending the ILASFAA Conference
  - March 26 – 28, 2025
  - An e-message will be going out next week listing all the ISAC sessions
- April Webinars for FAAs
  - Tuesday Training, April 8 at 10 a.m.
    - Topic: Annual Budget Reporting Process
  - Monthly Program & Operational Update, April 30 at 2 p.m.

# Questions?



# ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: **800-899-ISAC** (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov)

Spanish-speaking counselors are available  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

# ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information, policy guidance 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](mailto:isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov)

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## Partner Services Staff

Kim Eck, [Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov)

Daniela Rios, [Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov](mailto:Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov)

Sherry Schonauer, [Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov](mailto:Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov)

Thank you for attending today!