ISAC Operational Update and Program News

May 29, 2024

Agenda

- 2023-24 Operational Update

- 2024-25 Operational Update

- Federal Update

- Dates and Events to Remember

- ISAC Contact Information

- Questions

ISAC

2023-24 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

ISAC

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- ISAC continues to accept MAP claims for all terms

- The third quarter claim deadline date was Friday, May 3, 2024

- At this time initial claims and increases to previously-submitted claims continue to be held as late

- ISAC is in the process of making a determination on paying late claims
  - Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit all claims and adjustments in the event that late claims are able to be paid

- **Reminder when submitting claims:** 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

ISAC

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- Summer term (term 4) claims are now being accepted

- Priority claim deadline date for the summer term will be announced once it has been determined

- Schools are encouraged to submit any outstanding claims for all terms as soon as possible, as the end of the fiscal year approaches

- Timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC staff to monitor remaining funds and award other students

ISAC

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship

- Payment requests for the summer term are now being **accepted and held**

- To be considered timely, claims for the summer term must be submitted on or before **Friday, June 7, 2024**
  - Claims will be held and processed only once all claims are submitted and analysis of claim data has taken place

- Although the fall, winter, and spring term payment request deadline dates have passed, ISAC is continuing to accept and pay claims for these terms through **Wednesday, May 29, 2024**
  - Claims for these terms submitted after the May 29 due date will be held as late and are unlikely to be paid

- Details were provided in an e-Message on May 20
  - e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0520.html

ISAC

ISAC Military Programs

- Benefit usage data priority claim date is **Friday, May 31, 2024**, for:

  - **Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant**
    - Schools may submit benefit usage data for the 2nd term (spring)
    - 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 3rd term (spring)
    - Colleges are encouraged to continue to submit benefit usage data and adjustments for the summer and fall terms

- Although ISAC is not able to reimburse institutions for 2023-24 ING Grant or IVG awards, reporting of benefits used must still take place so that usage can be accurately reflected on students' accounts

ISAC

Other Gift Assistance Programs

- ISAC continues to accept and pay claims for these programs:

  - **Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship**
  - **Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois**
    - Submit claims for 2nd term (spring semester & winter quarter) and 3rd term (spring quarter)

  - **Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License (SWSP) Scholarship**
    - Submit claims for fall and spring terms

  - **Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers (PFC)**
    - Summer term applications must be received on or before **June 15, 2024**
    - Application is available on isac.org to download and print to complete
    - Colleges that have not submitted their Certification of Enrollment for Payment Rosters yet are encouraged to complete and submit as soon as possible

  - **Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship**
    - Summer term applications must be received on or before **June 15, 2024**
    - Application is available through the ISAC Student Portal

ISAC

Payment Processing

- The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable

- 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

- All payment records should be completed/submitted regardless of whether the student is eligible or ineligible

- Use the Filter, Sort and Report functions in GAP Access to help identify outstanding payment records that may still need to be submitted

ISAC

Payment Offset & Reconciliation Processing Reminder

- The Payment Offset and Reconciliation procedures apply to the:
  - Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
  - Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program
  - Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Program
  - Monetary Award Program (MAP)
  - Nursing Education Scholarships (NES), and
  - Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program.

- Institutions are required to reconcile payments and submit all necessary corrections to student records on a timely basis

- Any funds determined to be owed to ISAC as a result, are to be held until the end of the regular school year

ISAC

Payment Offset & Reconciliation Processing Reminder

- 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

- For more information about Payment Offset and Reconciliation, visit: isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/payment-offset-and-reconciliation-map.html

ISAC

2023-24 Close Out

- Due to the payment offset process, only data reconciliation activities should take place at this time

- After ISAC determines that all payment processing is final, colleges with an outstanding amount owed to ISAC will receive an e-mail notice indicating the total amount to be returned
  - Until then, *no funds should be sent to ISAC*

- Specific details regarding close-out of 2023-24 ISAC gift assistance programs will be provided via a separate e-Message as we move closer to July 1

- In the meantime, continue to visit the Program News sections for individual gift assistance programs for status updates and operational details

Home › ISAC Gift Assistance Programs › Monetary Award Program (MAP) ›

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Program News
(last updated May 6, 2024)

2024-25 Start-up Implementation
2024-25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
2024-25 Award Announcements
2024-25 Start-up Formula
2024-25 File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Program Funding
Suspension of 2023-24 Award Announcements
2023-24 Payment *(late claims for all terms being held)*
2023-24 Recompute Formula
2023-24 Award Announcements
2023-24 File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
2023-24 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
2023-24 Start-up Implementation
Additional MAP References

Program Processing Reminders

- Be sure to review your payment results reports in GAP Access after submitting your program claims to ensure everything processed as expected

- Result codes can be found in the User Guides and in the FAA area of isac.org
  - Link to User Guides: isac.org/gap-access/index.html

Returning Program Funds to ISAC

- As previously noted, funds should be returned to ISAC only after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular school year.

- All schools with an outstanding amount owed to ISAC at the end of the school year will receive a notice indicating the total amount to be returned.

- When it is necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, a Gift Assistance Programs Refund Check Form should be completed and submitted along with the payment.

Flexibilities in ISAC Program Administration

- **MAP Award Adjustments**
  - To provide some administrative relief for colleges for the remainder of the 2023-24 award year, ISAC is:
    - Temporarily suspending the expectation to submit enrollment hour adjustments 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 is also 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

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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

- Information was provided in an e-Message on April 24 -- isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0424-2.html

ISAC

2024-25 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

ISAC

Timeline -- Preparing for 2024-25 MAP

- **April 2024**
  - 2024-25 MAP eligibility was made available in the MAP system in GAP Access
  - Collection of 2024-25 budget data from MAP-approved colleges began on April 1

- **May 2024**
  - Legislative session continues, with the hope that there will be a finalized state budget by end of the month
  - ILASFAA MAP Formula Committee Meeting plans to meet to discuss recommendations for the Recompute Formula

- **June 2024**
  - Schools' 2024-25 budget data due by June 1
  - Finalized state budget, including ISAC appropriations for FY25
  - MAP Recompute Formula recommendations to be presented to ISAC Commissioners for approval at the June 20th Commission Meeting
  - Approved maximum annual award amount for the 2024-25 award year announced
    - Cannot exceed maximum in statute
  - Recompute Formula implemented
    - Late June/early July (dependent on budget being final, if formula changes are needed, etc.)

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2024-25 MAP Processing Cycle

- The 2024-25 MAP processing cycle began April 5

- Student eligibility information is available in the MAP system
  - This includes students who have submitted a 2024-25 FAFSA or a 2024-25 Alternative Application

- Visit our website for more information:
  - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/

2024-25 MAP Start-Up Formula

- ISAC Commissioners approved the 2024-25 MAP Start-Up formula in Sept. 2023
  - 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)

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

- Students may login to their application and make corrections, as needed

- FAAs may use the functionality in the MAP system for Alternative Application student records to make corrections or a professional judgment determination

- A 2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing is available to assist FAAs with processing question

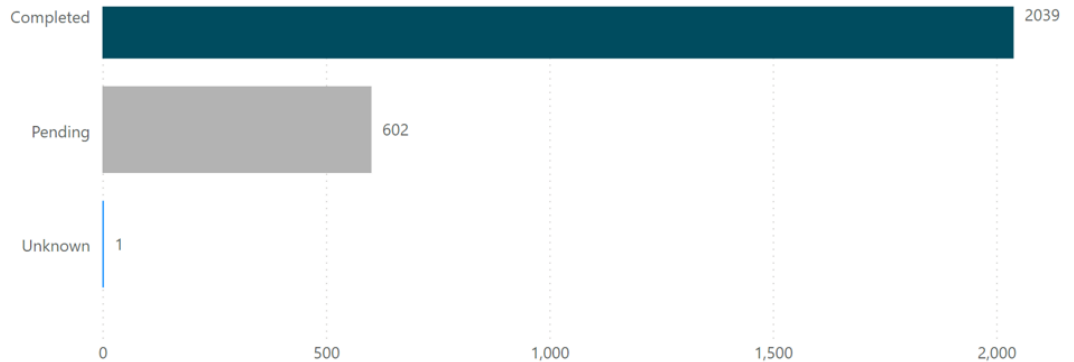 - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2425-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Jan24.pdf
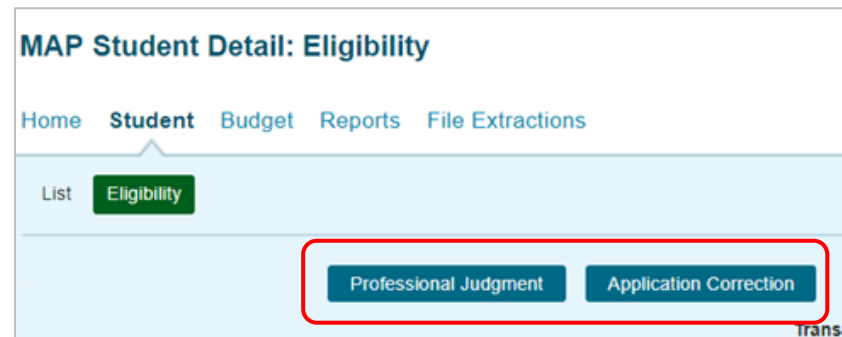
2024-25 Alternative Application

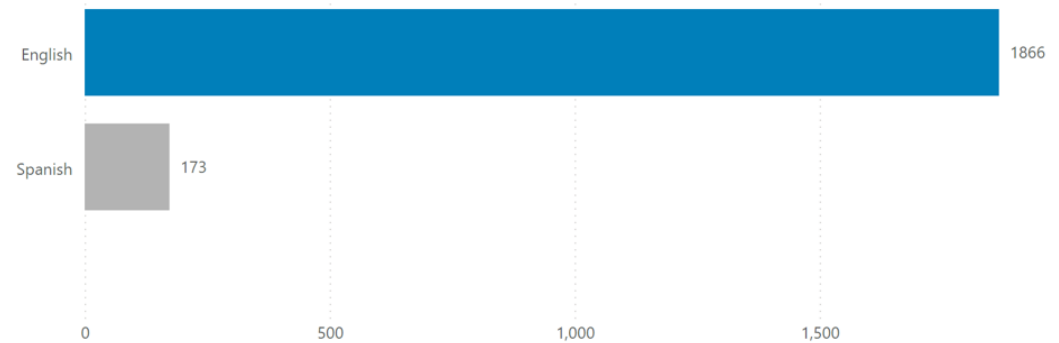**Alternative Applications for 2024-2025**

As of 05/27/2024

Total Number of Applications Started

2642

Total Number of Applications Completed

2039

Completed: 2039
Pending: 602
Unknown: 1

English: 1866
Spanish: 173

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.

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2024-25 MAP Rights & Responsibilities

- An updated version of the document has been posted in the MAP section of the FAA area at isac.org

- The document outlines a student's use of the MAP grant, and that the student understands and agrees to maintain all eligibility requirements

- Schools may want to provide students with a copy of this document or the link isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2425-MAP-RR.pdf

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) replaced the SSN on the file
    - The Person UUID field is 36 characters in length, and the total number of characters removed was 36, so the length of the file did not change
    - The Person UUID stays the same for the student across FAFSA cycles
    - ISAC will generate a Person UUID for Alternative Application applicants
        - It will always begin with "ISAC" to be easily identified as an ISAC-assigned number

ISAC

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

160-byte file layout specifications

```
ISACPLL3YyRh5E8EohuN58wgGndxcXdQPGKM
ISACPwHoPtRKMQxELuxwUCON0grXZKdeJjT6
ISACPXPGkpacsIF8iOROjPDzjjvzYN6N2wTN
```

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

Survey Outcome for 2024-25 Financial Aid Awarding

- Thank you to those who completed the ISAC survey on financial aid awarding
  - Sent to all MAP-approved schools earlier this month

- Data was gathered to get an update on where schools are in the awarding process

- 57 schools participated in the survey -- a response rate of close to 50%

- Schools that indicated they have sent out financial aid offers to new students
  - Yes – 62% / No – 38%

- 49% of schools indicated they have already begun processing returning students

- Some of the current challenges schools commented on were:
  - the submission of FAFSA corrections and the inability for schools to make FAFSA corrections from the school side
  - several ISIRs being received with blank SAIs and no comment codes explaining why,
  - short staffed or inadequate resources,
  - technical issues – loading/importing ISIRs, software configurations

FAFSA Completions by IL High Schools

- How to locate the data report for the 2024-25 FAFSA Completions by IL High Schools on FSA's website

- Go to studentaid.gov/

- Scroll to the bottom of the Home page and click on Data Center

- Then click on:
  - Student Aid Data
  - Application Volume Reports
  - FAFSA Completion by High School and Public School District

FAFSA Completions by IL High Schools

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FAFSA® Form ⌄   Loans and Grants ⌄   Loan Repayment ⌄   Loan Forgiveness ⌄

Home > Data Center > Student Aid Data > Application Volume Reports > FAFSA® Completion by High School and Public School District

FAFSA® Completion by High School and Public School District

As the cost of college continues to increase, financial aid becomes ever more important. While many factors are involved in the decision to attend college, a strong correlation exists between FAFSA completion and college enrollment.

Class of 2024 HS Senior FAFSA Data by State/Territory

FAFSA Data by State/Territory ⌄

Completion Report Archives

2024 ⌄

2023 ⌄

- Once you're on this webpage, scroll down to FAFSA Data by State/Territory and select Illinois

- After selecting Illinois, an excel spreadsheet report will be created for you to download and view

- The FAFSA Submissions by High School Applications processed report also provides data information for:
  o IL School Level Data
  o IL District Level Data
  o MAP IL 2023-24 Cycle 15 Mos
  o MAP IL 2024-25 Current Data

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FAFSA Completions by IL High Schools

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Submissions by High School
Applications processed through May 17 of the first 15 months of each cycle

| | | | | 2024/ 2025 Cycle | | 2023/ 2024 Cycle | | | | | |
| | | | | Through May 17, 2024 | | Through May 17, 2023 | | Through June 2023 | | Through December 2023 | |
School Code	Name	City	State	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete
170654000339	A B SHEPARD HIGH SCH (CAMPUS)	PALOS HEIGHTS	IL	220	195	271	253	292	270	343	320
170141306274	ABINGDON-AVON HIGH SCH	ABINGDON	IL	30	29	19	19	21	20	25	24
170010505357	A-C CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	ASHLAND	IL	11	9	18	17	19	18	21	21
A1901626	ACADEMY HIGH	CHAMPAIGN	IL	7	7	9	9	9	9	10	9
170142606424	ACE AMANDLA CHARTER SCHOOL	CHICAGO	IL	21	20	19	17	19	17	19	17
170993006508	ACERO CHTR SOR JUANA INES DE LA	CHICAGO	IL	14	10	13	11	13	11	15	13
170993006467	ACERO CHTR NETRK - MAJOR GARCIA	CHICAGO	IL	28	27	129	117	137	122	142	129
170993006483	ACERO CHTR SCH NETWRK- VICTORIA	CHICAGO	IL	92	81	113	87	116	91	120	102
171394001737	ADDISON TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL	ADDISON	IL	199	180	229	205	244	222	288	265
173258003385	ADLAI E STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL	LINCOLNSHIRE	IL	766	732	868	845	882	861	929	913
A0901406	AGAPE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL	ENERGY	IL	<5	<5	9	9	9	9	13	13
170993006055	AIR FORCE ACAD HIGH SCHOOL	CHICAGO	IL	28	28	34	34	34	34	35	34
170993006072	ALCOTT COLLEGE PREP	CHICAGO	IL	69	67	48	48	48	48	48	48
170330000017	ALDEN-HEBRON HIGH SCHOOL	HEBRON	IL	9	7	15	14	15	14	16	15
00347133	ALLEMAN HIGH SCHOOL	ROCK ISLAND	IL	39	39	48	47	50	49	58	56

| IL School Level Data | IL District Level Data | Map IL 2023-24 Cycle 15 Mos | Map IL 2024-25 Current Data |

Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative

- ISAC provides resources regarding the Financial Aid Application Completion

- FAFSA completion workshops, FAFSA Communication Toolkit & more

- More information is provided on ISAC's website: isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html

2024-25 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- 2024-25 NES application is no longer being accepted

  - Application period was March 1 through April 30, 2024

  - Final date was 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 were not able to submit their FAFSA by April 30

  - However, the NES Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note should have still been submitted by April 30 to be considered a timely applicant

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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.

- If a state program is created and the Illinois General Assembly approves state funding for the 2024-25 academic year, ISAC will provide more information as it becomes available

ISAC

2024-25 Teacher Program Updates

- **Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program**
  - The priority application consideration date was March 1, 2024
  - Applications continue to be accepted, but will only be considered if available waivers remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded
  - Does not require a FAFSA or Alternative Application to complete the application process

- **Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program**
  - The priority application consideration date was March 31, 2024
  - Applications continue to be accepted, but will only be considered if available funds remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded
  - Applicants must also submit a 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application
  - Due to issues with the 2024-25 FAFSA, allowances will be provided for applicants who were not able to submit their FAFSA by March 31
  - **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 of Illinois Program**
  - The deadline application date was April 1, 2024
  - Applications for the program are processed by the Golden Apple Foundation goldenapple.org/scholars

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ISAC Budget Reporting

- The process to collect 2024-25 budget data for MAP, IVG & ING opened 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
  - Schools should notify School Services by e-mail if estimated data is being provided and will need to be updated during the summer months
  - All budget data must be submitted before MAP payment processing can begin
  - ISAC provided a webinar on the Budget Reporting process; you may download the presentation at the Partner Training page
    - isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

Please remember to submit 2024-25 budget data on or before this upcoming Saturday, June 1, 2024

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Enhancements to the GAP Access Registration Process

- Primary Administrators are now able to more easily provide access to new Administrators

- GAP Access User Guides have been updated

- Reminder -- Password resets can be done by the school
  - please see the prompt under the GAP Access Login Box

- See the April 17 e-Message more information: isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0417-2.html

Sign-Up for e-Messaging

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Illinois Student Assistance Commission

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*indicates required field

* **Email**

* **First Name**

* **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

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2024-25 FAFSA Information from ED

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information

KNOWLEDGE CENTER ∨   TRAINING ∨   FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY ∨   TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ∨   PARTNER CONNECT SERVICES ∨

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Knowledge Center Home > Topics > FAFSA Simplification Information

FAFSA Simplification Information

The *FAFSA Simplification Act passed on Dec. 27, 2020 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* ☑ and represents a significant overhaul of federal student aid, including the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form, need analysis, and many policies and procedures for schools that participate in the *Title IV* programs. FSA will be implementing the *FAFSA Simplification Act* alongside the FAFSA portion of the *Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act* ☑ which authorizes a direct data exchange with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to facilitate completing the FAFSA form. This page serves as a repository for all information, guidance, and training related to implementation of these laws.

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⚠ **2024-25 FAFSA News**

- **Fast News:** May 24, 2024
- **Status:** May 24, 2024
- **Issues:** May 22, 2024
- **Updates:** March 27, 2024

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- **Updates:** March 27, 2024
- **FAQs:** March 27, 2024

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FAFSA Simplification Q&As

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

U.S. Department of Education

Student Loans	Grants	Laws	Data

FAFSA Simplification Questions and Answers

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

Questions on this topic are divided into the following categories:

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

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

Student Aid Index (SAI)

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

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

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

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

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

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

How Do I Find...

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- FERPA
- FAFSA
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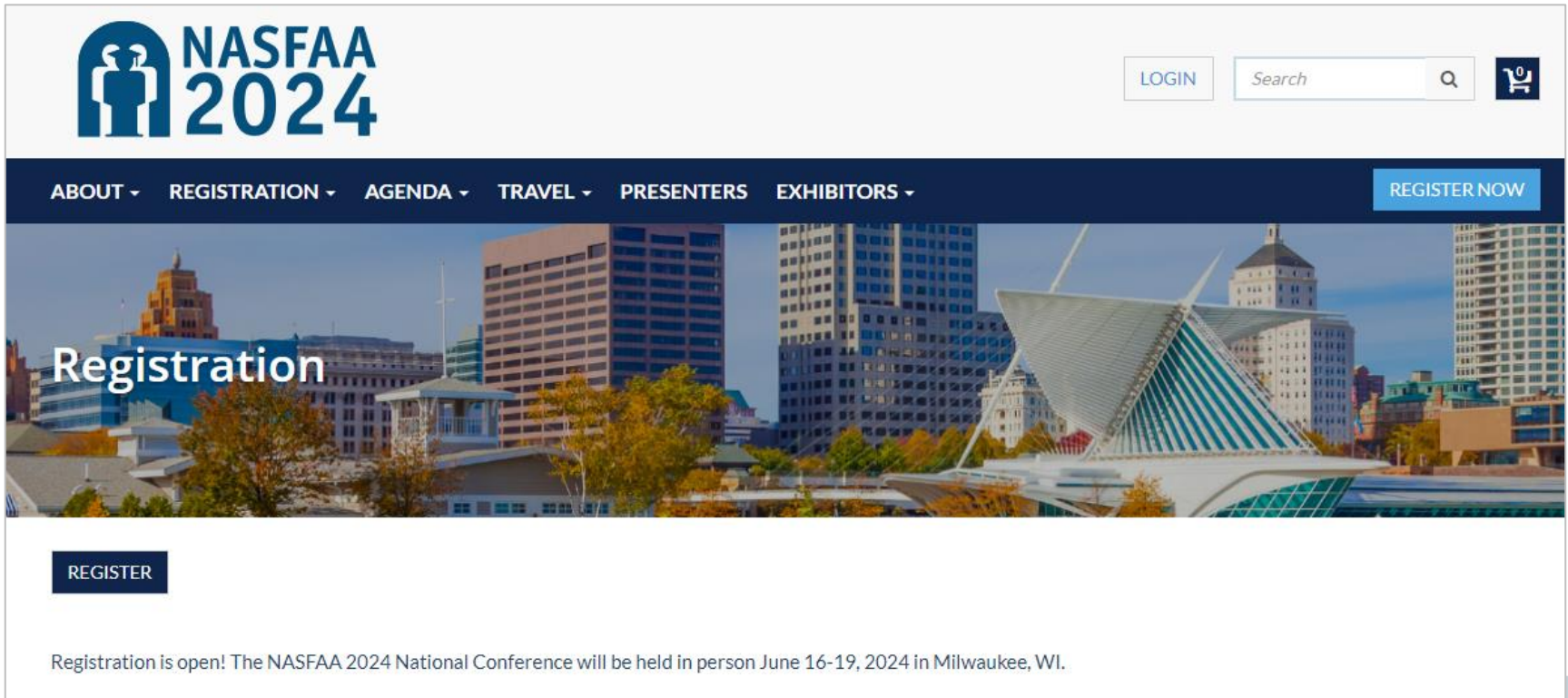- Cybersecurity

ISA

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NASFAA Upcoming Webinars

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

- In Case You Missed It: New Regulations Effective July 1, 2024 -- **May 29**

- Top AskRegs Questions: FAFSA Simplification -- **June 5**

- nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand

Registration open for
NASFAA 2024 National Conference
June 16-19, 2024
Milwaukee, WI

Registration is open! The NASFAA 2024 National Conference will be held in person June 16-19, 2024 in Milwaukee, WI.

Register now for
2024 NASFAA Virtual Conference
July 8-11, 2024

Join ILASFAA

- Become part of a valuable and diverse organization

- Provides leadership development and professional growth, such as:
  - Communications on financial aid programs and legislation
  - Training for new and existing members and
  - Updates for experienced financial aid administrators

- Many opportunities to be involved in longstanding committees

- To learn more about becoming an ILASFAA member and/or how to volunteer on an ILASFAA committee, go to: ilasfaa.org/institutional_membership_and_m.php

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.
        - ❖ June 26
        - ❖ July 31
        - ❖ Aug 28

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.
        - ❖ June 11 – ISAC Terms, Definitions and Processes

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
    - isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

Important ISAC Dates

- Commission Meeting – Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 1 p.m.
  - In-person meeting - may attend at ISAC's Deerfield Office or Springfield Office

- Executive Briefing – Monday, June 24, 2024, at 11 a.m.
  - Visit the Partner Training page of the e-Library, where instructions for joining the call will be provided
    - isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

- ISAC staff will be unavailable for these upcoming holidays:
  - Wednesday, June 19 – Juneteenth
  - Thursday, July 4 – Independence Day

- Information regarding the all of these events/dates were provided in an e-Message on May 21
  - isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0521.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
Anit Chacko
Bertha Esquivel
Ghouse Farooqi
Matt Setnicar
Manju Thomas
Larry Thompson

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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**

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

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Questions/Comments

Thank you for attending today!