ISAC Operational Update and Program News

November 22, 2023

2023-24 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

ISAC

2023-24 MAP Payment Processing

- To be considered timely, Fall term (first-term) must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 8, 2023.**

- Any initial payments (claims) submitted after the term's priority claim deadline date will be considered late and will only be paid if funds remain after all timely claims have been paid.

- Claims may be submitted through the MAP system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol process.

- Payment requests are processed on a nightly basis and results are provided the next business day.

- **Reminder**… MAP awarding continues to be suspended as of September 23, 2023, for the 2023-24 award year.

ISAC

MAP – Processing Reminder

- If a payment request has been submitted for a term and the MAP code needs to be corrected or updated:

  o First, cancel the original request (just as you would do a cancellation for other reasons, such as a withdrawal).

  o Once the cancellation has processed, submit a new request using the alternate budget code.

- This can be done in GAP Access in the MAP system for individual adjustments to a student's record or it may be done using FTP.

  o In either case, this would be a two-step process of cancelling the request and letting it process, and then submitting a new request after the cancellation has processed.

- Keep in mind claim deadline dates when making this kind of adjustment to ensure plenty of time to cancel and then submit a new claim.

ISAC

2023-24 MTI Payment Processing

- Schools may submit 2023-24 payment requests for the Fall term (first-term).

- To be considered timely, Fall term (first-term) must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29, 2023.**

- Claims may be submitted through the MTI system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) process.

- Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, *generating* the request and then *submitting* the request.

- Colleges are encouraged to submit payment requests as soon as possible.

ISAC

2023-24 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Schools may complete the tuition waiver process for students listed in the SETTW system in GAP Access by certifying each student's eligibility and enrollment.

- Each of the public universities with students who were awarded 2023-24 tuition waivers have been sent an e-mail from ISAC.
  - Certify each student's eligibility within 60 days of the date on which the e-mail is received.

- If subsequent 2023-24 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send similar e-mail messages to impacted institutions.

- Further details on the Tuition Waiver Process: https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/illinois-settw/tuition-waiver-process/index.html

- SETTW User Guide: https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/illinois-settw/media/SETTW-User-Guide-Sept2023.pdf

ISAC

2023-24 Golden Apple (GA) Payment Processing

- Schools may submit 2023-24 payment requests for the Fall term (first-term).

- To be considered timely, Fall term (first-term) must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29, 2023.**

- Claims may be submitted through the GA system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) process .

- Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, which involves *generating* the request (either individually or in a batch) and then *submitting* the request.

- The Annual Award field has been adjusted to show as **Annual Award Amount To Date.**
  - The Golden Apple Foundation only certifies/awards a student for <u>one term at a time</u>.
    - For example: If it is the beginning of the Fall term, the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' is reflecting the Fall term amount only, not the entire award year.
    - If the same student is certified/awarded for Spring, you will see an increase in the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' to include the Spring award.

ISAC

Golden Apple

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

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

GA 2023-2024: Student List Eligibility: View

Select School and School Code

[   ] ⌄   [Go]

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
🔍	💲	☐	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
🔍	💲	☐	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
🔍	💲	☐	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00	Y	
🔍	💲	☐	xxx-xx-				N	30	08/24/2023	Timely Renewal		09/06/2023	2500.00		
🔍	💲	☐	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	2500.00		
🔍	💲	☐	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
🔍	💲	☐	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	2500.00		

[View Report] [Excel Report] [Save Selected]

ISAC

Golden Apple Payment Adjustment

- If an adjustment is needed to increase or decrease an award;

  - a school can submit a request asking to increase/decrease up to the Annual Award Amount for the term

  - GAP Access will process the new payment request and will send an additional payment minus any previous funds paid if it is an increase

  - if it is a decrease, it will process that request and adjust the award accordingly

    - For Example: The annual award amount shown is $2,500 for Term 1 and the school only requested $1,250 for Term 1. A request can be submitted to increase the award up to the full annual award amount for Term 1.

    - GAP Access will process the additional request and remit payment for $1,250 and increase the amount paid for the term to $2,500.

ISAC

Golden Apple Payment Adjustment

GA 2023-2024: Student Payment List: View

Select School and School Code:

[dropdown] [Go]

Home   Student   Certification   File Upload   **Payment**   Reports

List   Filter   Sort   Columns   Payment Request Entry   Submit Payment Requests

Entries displayed [100]

Sel	Req Sel	Term Number	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount To Date	Term Award Amount	School Code	Request Code	Academic Level	Enrollment Status	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Amount Paid	Adjusted Amount	Res Cod
☐	☐	1			ABBY	2500.0	2500.00		P	Senior	Full time		1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	*
☐	☐	1			ABBY	2500.0	2500.00		P	Senior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00	1250.00	B
☐	☐	1			KIRSTEN	2500.0	2500.00		P	Junior	Full time		1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	*
☐	☐	1			KIRSTEN	2500.0	2500.00		P	Junior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00	1250.00	B

A request can be submitted to increase/decrease the award up to the full annual award amount.

For example: GAP will process the additional request and remit payment for $1,250 and increase the amount paid for the term to $2,500.

2023-24 Military Programs

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant
  - Benefit usage data for the Fall term 2023 must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29**, in order to be considered timely.

  - Starting with the 2023-24 academic year:
    - there are no longer term deadline dates by which applications must be submitted each term
    - applications must be received by ISAC in time for eligibility to be determined
    - the applicant will need to notify the college about their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the first term for which benefits have been requested

- A reminder of additional eligibility for some ING Students
  - Members of the Illinois National Guard who have served at least 10 years in the Guard may be eligible to receive up to 180 Units (6 years) of eligibility for the ING Grant.

- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
  - Online application process is available
    - The application is not specific to an award year
  - Benefit usage data for the Fall term 2023 must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29**, in order to be considered timely.

ISAC

2023-24 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) Program

- Colleges are reminded to continue certifying eligibility for 2023-24 NES using the NESP system.
    - Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, certification takes place prior to the awarding process (similar to the certification process of the MTI Scholarship Program).
        - Colleges must provide the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

- NES certification is done for the academic year (rather than by term).
    - Colleges verify recipients' enrollment status as part of the payment request process.
    - All certification records available in the system must be completed, regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled.

- A recently-updated NES User Guide includes details regarding functionality to certify student eligibility for this program, as well as an explanation of cyclical program processes. isac.org/gap-access/#guide

- Payment processing coming soon in the NESP system via GAP Access.

ISAC

2023-24 NES Upcoming Changes

- When the NES payment processing becomes available the following changes will be in effect:

  - Awarded funds that had been disbursed directly to students as a "stipend" in the 2022-23 and earlier academic years will now be included in the scholarship amount requested by and paid to the college.
    - i.e., NES awards will no longer have a stipend component

  - Each payment request submitted via the NESP system will be delivered to the college in a lump sum, rather than as individual checks for each student.
    - Either electronically or as a check, depending on how your college has set-up their payments

  - Payment Offset and Reconciliation procedures now apply to NES.
    - Refund checks should not be sent for cancellations/adjustments made throughout the award year.
    - Funds should only be returned to ISAC after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular school year.

- Watch for future updates in e-Messaging regarding NES.

2023-24 Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE)

- Schools may submit 2023-24 payment requests for the Fall term (first-term).

- To be considered timely, Fall term (first-term) must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29, 2023.**

- By submitting a payment request, a college is certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria.

- If a college determines that a prequalified applicant does not meet all eligibility requirements, they report the reason for ineligibility via the ECACE system.

- The maximum award amount that may be claimed during the academic year populates in the "Max Annual Award Amount" field as part of the prequalification process.

- Colleges determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving, keeping in mind that the ECACE Scholarship is last payer, is not need-based aid, and can be used for any cost of attendance component.

ISAC

2023-24 ECACE Processing

- Applications with Timely New, Timely Renewal, Untimely New and Untimely Renewal are all considered complete.
  - All complete applications, regarding of how they are categorized are considered when prequalifying applicants for program eligibility.

- Prequalified applicants who have been awarded are eligible for payment.
  - Maximum award amount populates in the "Max Annual Award Amount" field in GAP.
  - 2023-24 maximum award amounts are:
    - $33,558 at four-year institutions
    - $18,262 at community colleges

- For students who plan to attend different types of institutions during the award year, the ECACE system will automatically calculate an eligible award amount based on the student's type of school listed on their application each term.
  - For example, an award amount of $25,910 would show as the maximum eligible award amount for a student at a four-year institution who is attending at a community college in the Fall (first) term.
    - Calculated by dividing $18,262, which is the max award at a community college by 2 (=$9,131) since the student is only attending there for the first term.
    - The rest of the award is calculated using the max award of $33,558 at a four-year institution divided by 2 (=$16,779).
    - $9,131 + $16,779 =$25,910

ISAC

2023-24 ECACE Processing

- ECACE Scholarship Summer term 2024

    - The program will be administered in the same way it was last year, allowing for Summer term awards for eligible students.

    - We will announce Spring and Summer claim deadline dates next Spring when we get closer to that timeframe.

- ECACE User Guide has been updated: https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/ECACE-User-Guide-Oct2023.pdf

ISAC

2023-24 Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers (PFC)

- Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters for the Fall term have been e-mailed to financial aid directors, initiating the payment process.

- Fall-term payment request deadline date is **Thursday, November 30, 2023**.
  - Date by which Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters should be returned to ISAC.

- Application remains available for students to download and complete.

- Application deadline dates are:
  - ~~October 1, 2023 – Full Year Consideration~~
  - March 1, 2024 - Only 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Consideration
  - June 15, 2024 - Only Summer Term Consideration

- Applicants must reapply each year.

- Qualified applicants will be sent a Notice of Eligibility from ISAC.
  - If application is incomplete, a Notice of Incomplete Application will be sent to the applicant.

ISAC

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

- Awarding took place in mid-November for all timely applicants who have been certified as eligible.

- Payment claims may be submitted through the SWSP system in GAP Access.

- Priority payment request deadline date for the Fall term is **Friday, December 29, 2023.**

- A complete application and a complete and eligible certification record are required for consideration for an award.

- Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, *generating* the request and then *submitting* the request.

- Payment results display on the SWSP Student Payment List: View screen and on the Payment Results/Exception report the day after payment requests are processed.

- Colleges are encouraged to submit payment requests as soon as possible.

ISAC

2023-24 SWSP Processing

- Certification for SWSP eligibility continues in GAP Access.

- Certifying applicant's eligibility is for the entire academic year, including the Summer term (Term 3).

- Certification Overview:
  - Effective with the 2023-24 processing cycle, a new "Anticipated Date of Program Completion" field has been added to the Certification Data screen to track program length.

  - Effective with the 2023-24 processing cycle, a new "Has not been continuously enrolled" option has been added to the Ineligible drop-down menu for applicants who fail to remain continuously enrolled in an approved program that qualifies them for the scholarship.

- If information is not saved and submitted, but the screen is closed, the information will not be saved, and will need to be re-entered.

- Detailed instructions for completion are in the User Guide.
  - https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/SWSP-UserGuide-Sept2023.pdf

ISAC

2023-24 Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters for the Fall term have been e-mailed to financial aid directors, initiating the payment process.

- Fall term payment request deadline date is **Thursday, November 30, 2023**.
  - Date by which Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters should be returned to ISAC.

- The online application remains available in the ISAC Student Portal.

- Application deadline dates are:
  - ~~October 1, 2023 – Full Year Consideration~~
  - March 1, 2024 - Only 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Consideration
  - June 15, 2024 - Only Summer Term Consideration

ISAC

2023-24 Grant Program for Exonerees

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal.

- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 terms (the grant is not available for Summer terms).

- Applications are processed in date-received order ("first come, first served").

- Qualified applicants are sent a Notice of Eligibility letter from ISAC.

ISAC

2023-24 Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

- The 2023-24 online application remains available in the ISAC Student Portal.

- The priority application consideration date for the 2023-24 academic year was **November 15, 2023**.

- Applications received after that date are considered for awards only if funding remains available after all timely, qualified applicants have been awarded.

- Program administration for 2023-24 will take place in GAP Access.
  - Certification of applicants' employment status at community mental health facilities must be verified as part of program eligibility.

- Disbursements of funds for qualified applicants has begun; notification of eligibility to recipients is underway.

ISAC

2022-23 Enrollment Verification Process

- ISAC is currently collecting 2022-2023 enrollment verification data for students who previously received funds from ISAC-administered teacher programs.

- Enrollment verification data for the SETTW Program and the MTI Scholarship Program is provided through each program's system within GAP Access.

- Data is to be completed by the college and returned to ISAC as soon as possible, verifying award recipients' current enrollment status.

- All data must be submitted on or before **Friday, December 1, 2023**.

- As a reminder, ISAC monitors recipients' fulfillment of the program requirements associated with the teacher programs, and if recipients fail to meet the requirements, their awards convert to loans that must be repaid.

- e-Message October 30, 2023: https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2023-1030.html

ISAC

Enrollment Status Verification

Overview
Security Access to GAP Access
Reporting Enrollment Status Data *(submit 2022-2023 data by December 1, 2023)*

Overview

At the end of each academic year, colleges are required to verify the enrollment statuses for MTI and SETTW recipients by submitting Enrollment Status Verification data to ISAC. The functionality for reporting enrollment status data for students who previously received funds from ISAC-administered teacher programs is performed through the ISAC Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access portal.

ISAC monitors recipients' fulfillment of the program requirements because, if recipients fail to meet the applicable requirements, their scholarships convert to loans that must be repaid. Knowing recipients' enrollment status, as reported by the colleges, allows ISAC to communicate with recipients who have graduated (or otherwise stopped attending college) regarding the steps they need to take in order to fulfill their teaching requirements.

Refer to the Enrollment Status Verification for the Teacher Programs User Guide for step-by-step instructions on completing and submitting enrollment status data to ISAC. Details about the teaching requirement, extensions, deferments and repayment are provided via the Program Requirements page in the Students & Parents – After College area of this website.

Displaced Energy Wor[...]
Transition Scholarship[...]

Early Childhood Acce[...]
For Equity (ECACE) S[...]
Program

Golden Apple Scholar[...]
Program

Grant Programs For D[...]
Police-Fire-Correction[...]

Grant Program For Ex[...]

Higher Education Lice[...]
(HELP) Program

Illinois National Guard[...]
Program

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program

Minority Teachers Of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Reporting Enrollment Status Data

- Verification of award recipients' current enrollment status data is to be completed by the college and returned to ISAC as soon as possible, and **all 2022-23 data must be submitted on or before Friday, December 1, 2023**.

- Enrollment verification functionality for the teacher programs is available is available each day between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. (CT)

- *For the Illinois SETTW Program only:*
  - *Colleges must submit Tuition Waiver Conversion (TWC) data for all SETTW recipients who are not enrolled or are no longer eligible to receive the waiver. Further instructions for submitting TWC data via the SETTW system are provided in the Enrollment Status Verification for the Teacher Programs User Guide.*

- *For the MTI Scholarship and Illinois SETTW programs:*

- To locate the Enrollment Status Verification information on the ISAC website…

- Go to the list of ISAC Gift Assistance Programs, click on SETTW or MTI program

- Once there, on the right-hand side of the program webpage, click on Enrollment Status Verification

- Or, by clicking Enrollment Status Verification underneath the Program News heading of the SETTW or MTI program webpage

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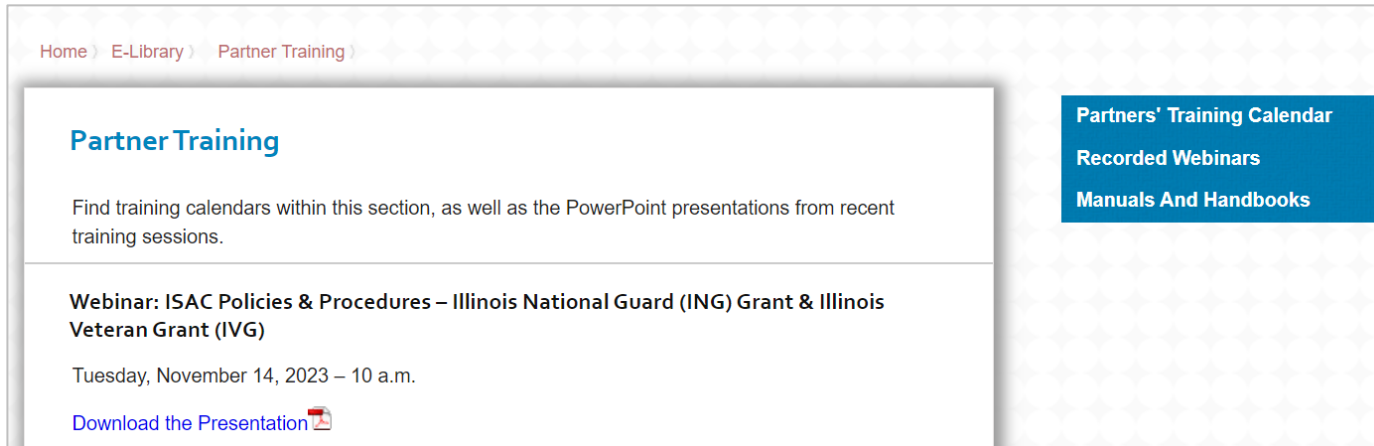
Policies & Procedures Webinars for FAAs

- ISAC's Partner Services Department will present a monthly webinar on the second Tuesday of the month that will focus on important policies and procedures for ISAC programs

- *Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program* will be the next Tuesday Training topic

- It will be offered on Tuesday, December 12 at 10 a.m.

- A link to the webinar will be provided on the Partner Training page on the day of event:
  - https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

- Registration is not required.

Tuesday Training
Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI)
Scholarship Program
December 12, 10 a.m.

ISAC

ISAC Policies & Procedures Webinars

- If you missed these presentations, you could find the Power Point presentations in the e-library at:
https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

  - November 14 - Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant & Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Programs

  - October 10 – Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Home › E-Library › Partner Training ›

Partner Training

Find training calendars within this section, as well as the PowerPoint presentations from recent training sessions.

Webinar: ISAC Policies & Procedures – Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant & Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – 10 a.m.

Download the Presentation

Partners' Training Calendar

Recorded Webinars

Manuals And Handbooks

ISAC

2024-25 Award Year
Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

ISAC

2024-25 MAP Start-Up Formula

- On September 21, 2023, ISAC approved the 2024-25 (FY25) MAP Start-Up formula

- It is the same as the 2023- 24 Recompute Formula:

  - 2021-22 reported tuition and fees
  - the 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

Reminder…

- 2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid for the 2024-25 academic year will coincide with the launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA.

- 2024-25 FAFSA is expected to be available by December 31, 2023.

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

En Español

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

Access the application here

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented students
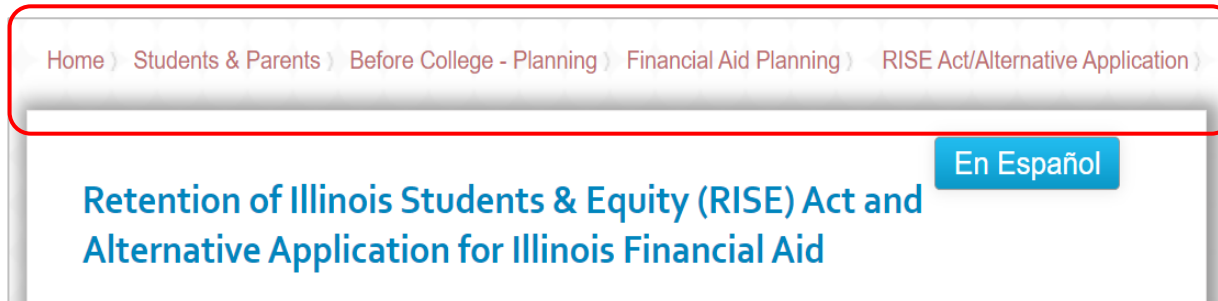
ISAC

ISAC File Layouts for 2024-25 FAFSA & Alternative Application Processing

- Updates to the 160-byte file layout that is used for MAP processing
  - https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2023-1019.html

- Key changes:
  - Removal of data elements within the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to protect student identity when transmitting files between ISAC and colleges.
    - No longer included on the file are:
      - Student Social Security number (SSN)
      - Student Last Name (previously an optional field),
      - Original SSN, and
      - Name ID

- The SSN will be replaced on the 160-byte file layout with the student's Person Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) that is assigned to the student by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) as part of the FAFSA Processing System (FPS).

- The Person UUID field is 36 characters in length, and the total number of characters being removed (SSN – 9, Last Name – 16, Original SSN – 9, and Name ID – 2) is also 36, so the length of the file will not change.
  - Expected to be an identifier that will stay the same for the student across FAFSA cycles.

- This change to the 160-byte file layout for 2024-25 means that schools will be working with two different file layouts while the 2023-24 award year remains in active processing.

ISAC

Sign-Up for E-messaging

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

* 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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2023-24 Federal Student Aid Handbook Appendices A-F Available

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-09/appendices-f-2023-2024-federal-student-aid-handbook

2023-24 Federal Student Aid Handbook Vol. 2 – School Eligibility & Operations Available

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/fsa-handbook/2023-2024/vol2

OUTAGE ALERT—G6 System Outage Dec. 1−4, 2023 − Impact to Federal Student Aid Processing and on Funds Availability for Title IV Programs

All disbursements with a disbursement date from Dec. 1–4, 2023, must be received and accepted by the COD System **no later than 9 a.m. ET on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023**, to generate the appropriate funding level increase prior to the G6 shutdown.

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-13/outage-alert-g6-system-outage-dec-1-4-2023-impact-federal-student-aid-processing-and-funds-availability-title-iv-programs

ISAC

2024-25 FAFSA

Electronic Announcement - November 15

2024-25 FAFSA will be available by December 31, 2023, and schools will begin receiving ISIR data by the end of January 2024.

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-15/update-simplified-streamlined-redesigned-2024-25-fafsa

KNOWLEDGE CENTER ⌄ TRAINING ⌄ FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY ⌄ TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

What's New   Library   Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFS

(GENERAL-23-100) Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA

🖨 Print

POSTED DATE: November 15, 2023
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-23-100
SUBJECT: Update on the Simplified, Streamlined, Redesigned 2024-25 FAFSA

Today, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released new det
streamlined *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form. The
than ever for students to get financial aid for college and help 610,000 n
backgrounds receive Pell Grants. In total, it will allow 1.5 million more stu
Pell Grant award, bringing the total number of students eligible for the n
million.

The changes to the FAFSA form represent the most ambitious and signif
processes to apply for federal student aid and the formulas used to dete
Common Financial Aid Form — the FAFSA form's predecessor — was intro
were enacted by bipartisan majorities in Congress through the *FUTURE A
Act*. The improved FAFSA form will be available for students and parents
who complete the form will receive a confirmation and see their estimate
information on the implementation of the new FAFSA is provided below.

A Better FAFSA Form

Transition to th

The Department has b
the better FAFSA exp
Department is issuing

Students and families will be able to complete and submit FAFSA forms online by Dec. 31. We expect applications to peak in late January and February 2024. The new FAFSA will allow students and families to use federal tax data transferred directly and securely from the Internal Revenue Service. Once the application is complete, students will receive a confirmation email including their estimated Student Aid Index and Pell Grant eligibility. Students and families will also be able to complete paper forms by downloading a PDF form and mailing it to the Department.

Schools will begin receiving aid eligibility information, including Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs), by the end of January 2024, with information on paper forms to follow. Additionally, students will also be able to make corrections and updates at this time. Institutions will be able to make corrections in the weeks following. Direct connections to certain state financial aid applications and the ability for unpaid preparers to complete a FAFSA form on behalf of students will return with the 2025–26 FAFSA.

The new FAFSA is not only a major transition for the Department; it will also bring many changes for students, families, schools, and software vendors. In March 2023, we published the Better FAFSA Better Future Roadmap (FAFSA Roadmap), an implementation timeline of resources, guidance, and training materials for students and parents, schools and institutions, and other stakeholders about the redesigned 2024–25 FAFSA form. The Department has updated the FAFSA Roadmap with additional resources for our stakeholders, including students and families. We remain committed to continuing our support with regular outreach, including webinars, guidance, tool tips, and communications directly to our stakeholders.

ISAC

Reminder: Updated SAIG Enrollment Agreement and SAIG Software Required to Receive 2024–25 ISIRs

Schools must sign an updated SAIG enrollment agreement and install updated SAIG software to receive ISIRs for the 2024-25 award year and beyond.

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-17/reminder-updated-saig-enrollment-agreement-and-saig-software-required-receive-2024-25-isirs

Active Confirmation of TG Numbers (SAIG Mailboxes) Required by December 7, 2023

Reminder…

- Every organization enrolled for a Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) account is required to review and validate its assigned TG numbers and Electronic Services user accounts by **December 7, 2023**.

- Requires schools to complete and submit before they can receive Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) for 2024-25.

- To perform the active confirmation process, every Primary Destination Point Administrator (DPA) at an organization must follow the steps outlined for both the organization's SAIG mailboxes (Destination Points/TG numbers) **and** Electronic Services accounts. **It is a two-step process.**

- Failure to accurately complete this process **by December 7, 2023**, will result in loss of access to FSA data systems, including services such as ISIR deliveries, ISIR requests, FAFSA corrections, and NSLDS enrollment reporting and updates.

- Link to announcement and more information:
  - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-14/reminder-active-confirmation-tg-numbers-saig-mailboxes-and-electronic-services-user-accounts-required-dec-7-2023-maintain-access-federal-student-aid-systems

SAIG Software Upgrade for FTI Data Transmission

- Upgraded software will be required for transmission of federal tax information (FTI) for the 2024−25 award year and beyond.

- New versions of EDconnect 8.6.0 and TDClient are now available on the Software and Other Tools page of the Knowledge Center website, along with an accompanying user guide that includes installation instructions.

- The upgraded SAIG software must be installed to receive 2024−25 *Institutional Student Information Records* (ISIRs) in a new FTI-SAIG mailbox.

- The current versions of EDconnect and TDClient will continue to be available and can be used with the existing SAIG system. However, **SAIG users who expect to receive 2024−25 ISIRs must install and use the updated software for transmission with the FTI-SAIG.**

- November 8, 2023 - Electronic Announcement (General-23-95) https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-08/saig-software-upgrade-fti-data-transmission-upgrade-edconnect-860-and-updated-tdclient-software
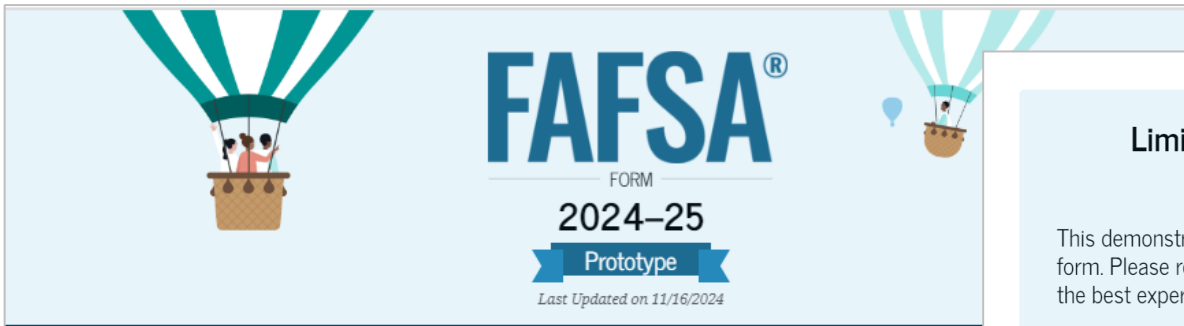
ISAC

2024-25 Test ISIR Data File Available

- 2024–25 test *Institutional Student Information Record* (ISIR) data file for use in system testing by schools, state agencies, software providers, and other agencies and entities is available.

- Testing is optional.

- The file is a tool to help ensure your processing system is prepared for the ISIR data that will be produced by the FAFSA Processing System (FPS).

- Link to announcement (APP-23-15):

  https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-09-28/2024-25-test-isir-data-file-available

2024-25 FAFSA Prototype

- FSA announced that a 2024–25 FAFSA prototype is now available for use.

- The FAFSA prototype offers the financial aid community an advance opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the FAFSA user experience ahead of its release.

- It is not a complete replica of the 2024–25 FAFSA form that will be available.

- It is a web-based design tool that allows users to navigate specific scenarios that many 2024–25 applicants will encounter on the live website.

- You can use this tool to prepare staff and college access professionals for the upcoming FAFSA launch.

- Link to the announcement (APP-23-16): https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-09-29/announcing-2024-25-fafsa-prototype

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2024-25 FAFSA Prototype

Link to 2024–25 FAFSA Prototype:
https://fsapartners.ed.gov/fafsa-prototype/2425
(Access Code: prototype2425)

Federal Student Aid Estimator

- Provides an estimate of the new Student Aid Index (SAI) and revised federal Pell Grant eligibility calculation.

- FSA is required to provide an electronic estimator that will allow applicants to receive a non-binding estimate of their federal financial aid.

- This free online tool provides students with early estimates of their eligibility for federal student aid.

- https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/

Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®

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What's New   Library   Topics

Knowledge Center Home › Library › Electronic Announcements › Release of Revised Federal Student Aid Estimator

(GENERAL-23-78) Release of Revised Federal Student Aid Estimator
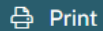
🖨 Print

POSTED DATE: September 21, 2023
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-23-78
SUBJECT: Release of Revised Federal Student Aid Estimator

The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) is pleased
release of a newly revised *Federal Student Aid Estimator* 🔗 that now provides an
Student Aid Index (SAI) and revised federal Pell Grant eligibility calculation.

The *FAFSA Simplification Act,* enacted into law as part of the *Consolidated Approp*
and amended by the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022,* represents a signifi
federal student aid, including the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA
and many policies and procedures for schools that participate in the *Title IV* prog
requirement in the *FAFSA Simplification Act* is that FSA provide an electronic esti
applicants to receive a non-binding estimate of their federal financial aid. To fulfi
has revised the *Federal Student Aid Estimator,* a free online tool that provides stu
estimates of their eligibility for federal student aid. The actual and final federal a

Federal Studen
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of

Federal Student Aid Estimator

Our *Federal Student Aid Estimator* provides an estimate of how much federal student aid the student
may be eligible to receive. These estimates are based on the Student Aid Index (SAI), an index to
determine federal student aid eligibility.

💡 This Is Not the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) Form

Use this tool to see how much federal student aid you may be eligible for in the 2024–25 award year. Note: This tool estimates the Student
Aid Index (SAI) for the 2024–25 award year, not the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for the 2023–24 award year.

To apply for financial aid, complete the FAFSA® form.
1. 2023–24 FAFSA form: Apply for aid to attend school between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.
2. 2024–25 FAFSA form (available December 2023): Apply for aid to attend school between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Begin Estimate of Federal Student Aid

The student may want to use the *Federal Student Aid Estimator* before filling out
the FAFSA® form to help them understand their options for paying for college or
career school by providing them an early estimate of how much federal student
aid they may be eligible for.

Start Estimate

Upcoming New E-App Implementation in FSA Partner Connect

KNOWLEDGE CENTER ∨ TRAINING ∨ FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY ∨ TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ∨

What's New   Library   Topics

Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements
> FSA Partner Connect – Implementation Planned for December 2023; E-App and Other Actions Required by Nov. 17 and Nov. 24, 2023 (Upda

(GENERAL-23-86) FSA Partner Connect – Implementation Planned for December 2023; E-App and Other Actions Required by Nov. 17 and Nov. 24, 2023 (Updated Nov. 7, 2023)

🖨 Print

POSTED DATE: October 20, 2023
AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid
ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-23-86
SUBJECT: FSA Partner Connect – Implementation Planned for December 2023; E-App and Other Actions Required by Nov. 17 and Nov. 24, 2023 (Updated Nov. 7, 2023)

ℹ️ **Note**

On Nov. 7, 2023, we updated this announcement to remind the community about the upcoming December 2023 implementation for FSA Partner Connect and actions that should be taken by Nov. 24, 2023.

In addition, to help ensure a smooth transition to the new system, we strongly encourage schools and third-party servicers to review the following:

Schools should

- Review their current ECAR and make sure that all demographic and contact information is correct. It is critical that the President's name and email address, and the Financial Aid Administrator's name and email address, are accurate. Changes must be made on the current E-App website by **Nov. 17, 2023**, to ensure they can be processed before the current system is no longer available.

Third-Party Servicers should

- Review their current TPS data form and make sure that all demographic and contact information is correct. Changes must be made by **Nov. 17, 2023**, to ensure they can be processed before the current system is no longer available.

Confirming the demographic and contact information for key officials at your organization will be critical for ensuring proper user access and assignment of user roles for the new E-App. More information about access and roles will be coming in a forthcoming electronic announcement.

E-App Processing Impacts During Transition Period

To implement the new E-App in FSA Partner Connect in December 2023, **we must cease use of the existing E-App in the eligcert.ed.gov online system on Nov. 24, 2023.** We regret this inconvenience, but a transition period is necessary to migrate the data from the old system to the new system.

⚠️ **Important**

Starting Nov. 25, 2023, users will no longer be able to sign in to the eligcert.ed.gov online system. Accordingly, users should review the following information to ensure all necessary actions are completed by **Nov. 24, 2023**.

In addition, no later than **Nov. 24, 2023**, we strongly encourage schools to download or print the following items to save for their records and to have available to re-enter data in the new online system, if needed:

- Current ECAR

- Any acknowledgement and approval notices and letters that the school does not have saved

- The school's Application data (for cases in which a school recently applied, but that application has not been processed)

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-10-20/fsa-partner-connect-implementation-planned-december-2023-e-app-and-other-actions-required-nov-17-and-nov-24-2023-updated-nov-7-2023

Prison Education Program Application Form

- Prison Education Program (PEP) Application Form and Instructions for Applying for Prison Education Programs is now available. (Updated Oct. 20, 2023)

- A school must provide information via eligcert.ed.gov by **Nov. 24, 2023,** if considering eligibility for a Prison Education Program (PEP) or needs to report additional PEPs.

- A PEP Application Form that ***must be*** used by schools applying to offer an approved PEP.

- For more information regarding (GENERAL-23-52) Availability of the Prison Education Program Application Form and Instructions for Applying for Prison Education Programs (Updated Oct. 20, 2023):
    - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-06-30/availability-prison-education-program-application-form-and-instructions-applying-prison-education-programs-updated-oct-20-2023
    - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-10-20/fsa-partner-connect-implementation-planned-december-2023-e-app-and-other-actions-required-nov-24-2023

FSA Resources

The Department has provided and encourages partners to use these key resources of up-to-date digital and social media content to use and share with students and parents.

https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-10-30/federal-student-aid-resources-financial-aid-administrators-school-counselors-college-access-professionals-and-mentors

FSA Resources

U.S. Department of Education

| Student Loans | Grants | Laws | Data |

FAFSA Simplification Questions and Answers

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

Questions on this topic are divided into the following categories:

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

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

Student Aid Index (SAI)

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

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

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

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

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

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

How Do I Find...

- Student loans, forgiveness
- Higher Education Rulemaking
- College accreditation
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- FERPA
- FAFSA
- 1098, tax forms

More >

Information About...

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

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2023 Virtual FSA Training Conference

- November 28 – December 1, 2023

- Registration is now open … Go to FSA Training Conference on FSA Partner Connect and choose "Registration" from the main menu to complete your free registration.

- Session descriptions and details about the Virtual Exhibit Hall stations are available, along with the conference agenda and presenter biographies, on the FSA Training Conference website.

- For more information: https://fsapartners.ed.gov/training/federal-student-aid-fsa-training-conference/registration

2023 Virtual FSA Training Conference Virtual Event Platform

https://2023fsatc.us.chime.live/app/module?id=2
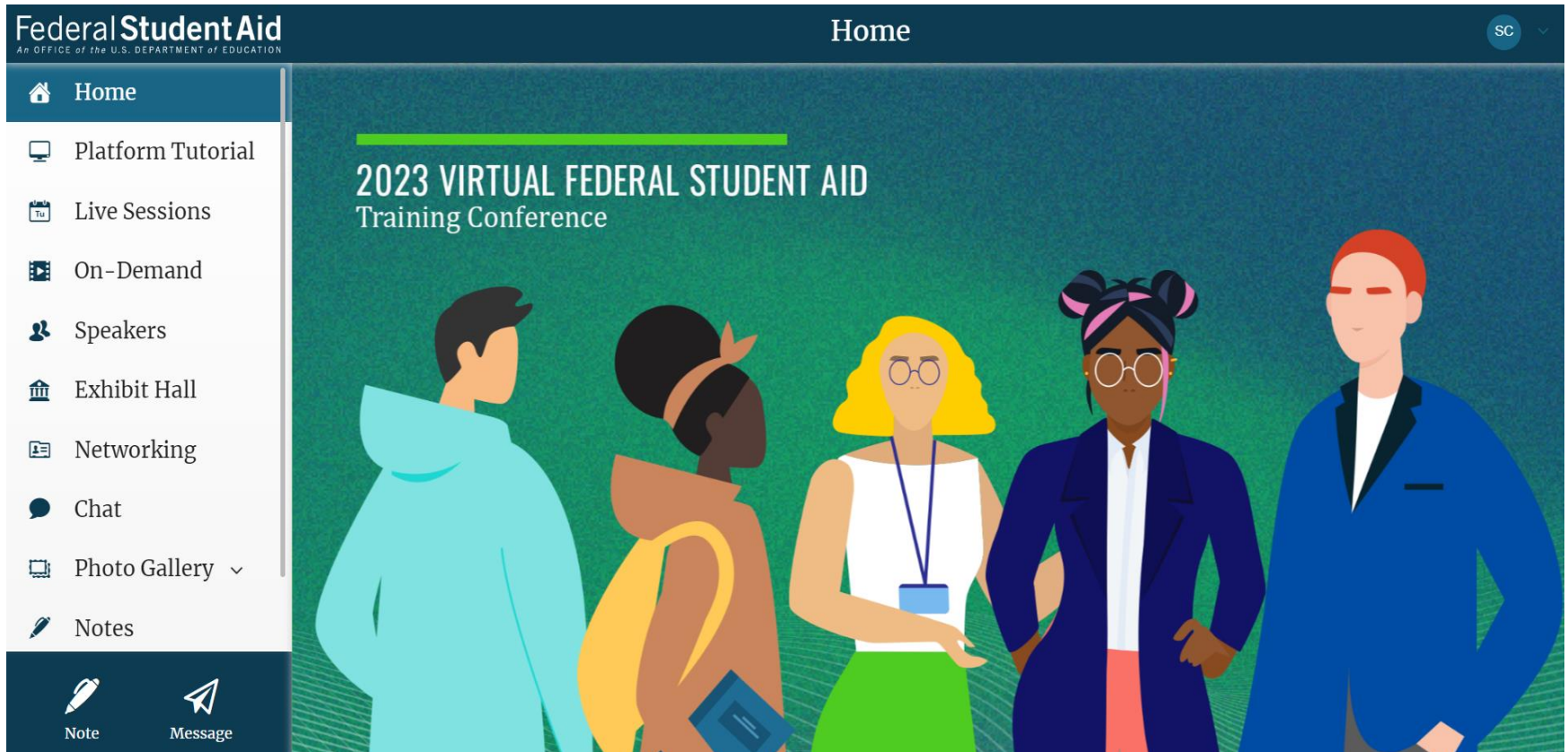
FSA Webinars − If you missed...

- **Student.Aid.gov Account Creation Process for Users Without a SSN**
  - Starting in the 2024−25 award year, each student and contributor must create their own StudentAid.gov account to complete the FAFSA form online. This is a preview of the new account creation process for users without a Social Security number (SSN). Please note: This webinar was not designed to be a step-by-step guide for students and contributors.
    - Link to webinar: https://fsatraining.ed.gov/mod/page/view.php?id=11782
    - Link to transcript: https://fsatraining.ed.gov/pluginfile.php/173519/mod_page/content/24/Studentaid.gov%20act%20create%20process%20for%20users%20without%20SSN%20Transcript%2011_2_23.pdf

- **Wednesday Webinar Series, Fall 2023**
  - Topics Related to the Title IV programs (2-hour webinars)
    - November 8 − SAP Essentials
    - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-08-02/live-internet-webinars-wednesday-webinar-series-fall-2023

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NASFAA Webinars

- **2023 Upcoming Webinars for NASFAA members:**

  - Office Culture: Managing Change Through Communication and Connection - Professional Development Panel - December 6 at 1 p.m.

  - Verification: 2024-25 (Extended Edition) – December 12 at 1 p.m.

  - Policy Update: Winter 2023 - December 13 at 1 p.m.

- Link to webinars:

  https://www.nasfaa.org/Webinars_Live_and_On_Demand

ISAC

Public Comment Period for Proposed Rules & Amendments

- Proposed administrative rules and amendments were published in the October 20th *Illinois Register*.

- The public comment period is open through **Monday, December 4th**.

- Instructions for submitting comments are included in the Register.

- https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/index/register/volume47/register_volume47_42.pdf

2023
ILLINOIS
REGISTER
Rules of Governmental Agencies

Volume 47, Issue 42

October 20, 2023

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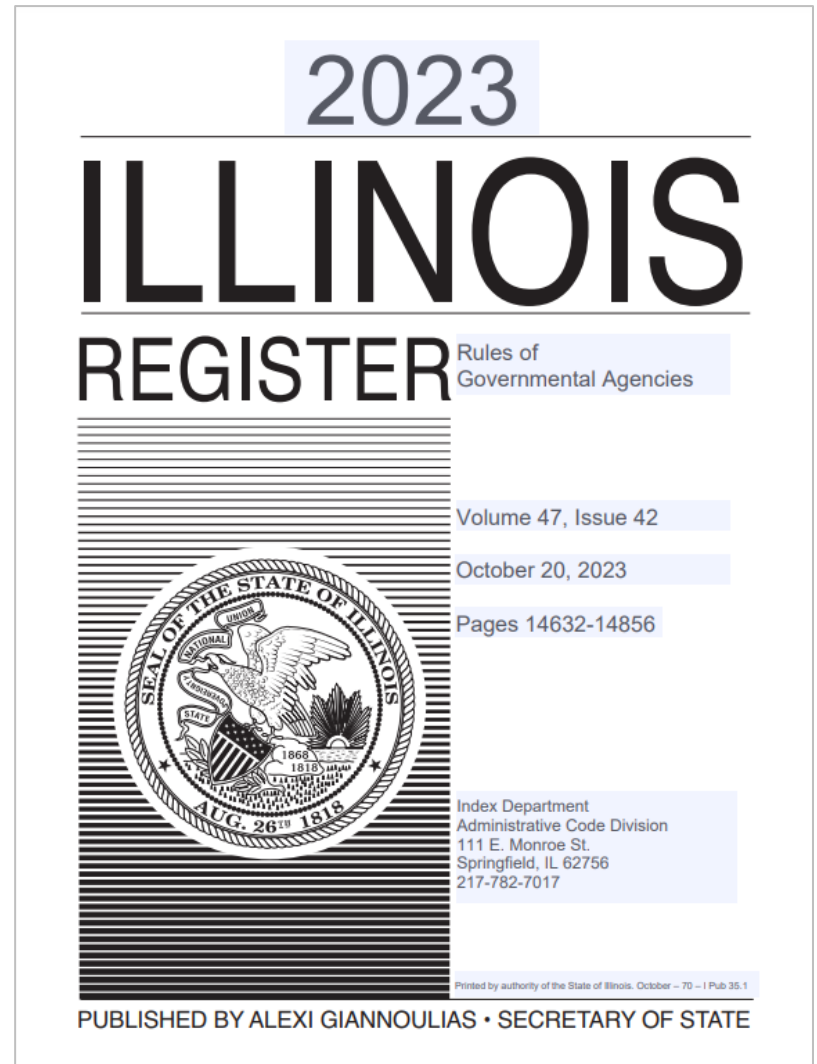
ISAC

ILASFAA Fall Workshop

- Training & Professional Development

- Virtual WebEx Event

- Free for ILASFAA Members

- December 6, 2023, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

- Agenda Topics
  - ISAC Update
  - Legislative Updates
  - Professional Development
  - 2024-25 ISAC Alternative Application
  - FAFSA Simplification
  - Round Table Discussion

- Registration Links and a Detailed Agenda Coming Soon!

Save the date!

ILASFAA Conference 2024 Session Proposals

- 2024 ILASFAA Conference will be Monday, March 4th through Wednesday, March 6th at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in Bloomington, IL.

- This year's theme is **'Back to the Future'**

- Share your knowledge with ILASFAA and fill out the Google Form to indicate the session that you would like to present.

- There are session ideas on the Google Form should you need help determining a topic or area to present on.

- Link to Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRP3mxk5fF-ArN0X7LJn5f7yu5ZvisFcG5IE8yMyMwotp2aA/viewform

Dates to Remember …

- November 28-December 1 - 2023 FSA Virtual Training Conference
  - Registration Required

- December 6 – ILASFAA Fall Workshop, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - Registration Required (coming soon) – Free Virtual Event

- December 7 – Commission Meeting
  - More details, including agenda items will be available prior to the meeting at https://www.isac.org/about-isac/commissioners/commission-meeting-schedule.html

- December 12 - ISAC Tuesday Training – Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program, 10 a.m.
  - https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

- December 20 - ISAC Operational Update & Program News, 2 p.m.
  - The date was changed due to the upcoming holiday

ISAC

Questions/Comments

Thank you for attending today!

ISAC

ISAC Contact Information

School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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Partner & Training Services

Stephanie Claudio - Stephanie.Claudio@illinois.gov

Kim Eck -- Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov

Daniela Rios – Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov

Sherry Schonauer -- Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov