

ISAC Operational Update and Program News

October 25, 2023



2023-24 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

MAP Suspension

- A suspension date for 2023-24 school year was set for **September 23, 2023**.
- 2023-24 FAFSA Applications or Alternative Applications received **on or after Saturday, September 23, 2023**, are held in suspense status.
- MAP records in suspense status are indicated by a MAP Suspend Code of "S" in the MAP system and in the MAP Eligibility File Extraction.
- ISAC does not notify affected applicants that their awards had been placed in suspense status.
- Colleges are advised to communicate announcement information to students with suspended awards as prescribed in school policy and procedure.

2023-24 MAP Payment Processing

- To be considered as timely, 2023-24 payment requests for the Fall term (first term) must be submitted **on or before December 8, 2023**.
- Any initial 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.

MAP – Processing Reminder

- If a payment request has been submitted for a term and the MAP code needs to be corrected or updated:
 - First, cancel the original request (just as you would do a cancellation for other reasons, such as a withdrawal).
 - 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.
 - 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 Policies & Procedures - MAP

- On October 10, 2023, ISAC presented a webinar on MAP Policies & Procedures.
- If you missed the presentation, you could find the Power Point presentation in the e-library at <https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html>



Agenda

- Overview of MAP
 - MAP Cycle
- MAP Policies & Procedures
 - Awarding
 - Payment Processing
 - Adjustments
- MAP Resources

2023-24 MTI Payment Processing

- Schools may begin to submit 2023-24 payment requests for the Fall term.
- First-term payment requests must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29.**
- Claims may be submitted through the MTI system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol 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.

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

- Tuition waivers have been awarded and students have been notified
- Awarding currently is taking place twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays
- Schools are encouraged to check the SETTW system after each day of awarding
- Schools may now complete the tuition waiver process in GAP Access.
 - This is done by certifying eligibility in GAP Access for both newly-awarded students and transfer students in the SETTW system within GAP Access.
- 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.

2023-24 Golden Apple (GA) Payment Processing

- First-term payment requests are now being accepted online via the Golden Apple system.
- To be considered timely, first-term payment requests must be submitted **on or before Friday, December 29, 2023.**
- 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 one term at a time.
 - 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 year award.
 - 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.

Golden Apple

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

Columns showing if MTI and/or SETTW had been awarded

GA 2023-2024: Student List Eligibility: View

Select School and School Code

Home **Student** Certification File Upload Payment Reports

List Filter Sort Columns

Entries displayed 100

Sel	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	DOB	Default	Total Units	Application Date	Applicant Category	School Code	Certified Date	Annual Award Amount To Date	Awarded MTI	Awarded SETTW
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00	Y	
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	30	08/24/2023	Timely Renewal		09/06/2023	2500.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	2500.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	1250.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	xxx-xx-				N	6	08/24/2023	Timely New		09/06/2023	2500.00		

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.

Golden Apple Payment Adjustment

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.

GA 2023-2024: Student Payment List: View

Select School and School Code:

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
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		ABBY		2500.0	2500.00	P		Senior	Full time		1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		ABBY		2500.0	2500.00	P		Senior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00	1250.00	B
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		KIRSTEN		2500.0	2500.00	P		Junior	Full time		1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1		KIRSTEN		2500.0	2500.00	P		Junior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00	1250.00	B

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.

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.

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 the 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)

- Colleges may submit 2023-24 ECACE Scholarship first-term payment/claim requests for students who have completed the prequalification process via the ECACE system in GAP Access.
- 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.

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

- The following clarifications have been made to the Eligibility Requirements:
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time (at least 3 credit hours) basis at the undergraduate or graduate level at a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) member institution, and be pursuing at least one of the following:
 - an Associate of Applied Science degree (or related certificate) in early childhood education or an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood at an approved college.
 - a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with or without a Professional Educator License; or
 - for those who already hold a bachelor's degree:
 - courses to make you eligible for a lead teacher position in a licensed program;
 - **Director, Early Childhood or Infant Toddler Credentials;**
 - a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement;
 - **for those who already have a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement, additional endorsements or letters of approval** in Bilingual, English as a Second Language, or Special Education, or,
 - for those seeking licensure, and/or an additional endorsement, a Master's degree in early childhood.

2023-24 ECACE Scholarship Program Processing

- Applications are categorized as Timely New, Timely Renewal, Untimely New and Untimely Renewal as they are received by ISAC.
 - All complete applications, regarding of how they are categorized are considered when prequalifying applicants for program eligibility.
- Prequalification results are available in the ECACE system in GAP Access twice each week—on Wednesday and Friday mornings.
 - Only records for students who have completed the online application process and who meet all initial eligibility requirements are considered for prequalification.
- Prequalified applicants who have been awarded are eligible for payment.
 - A maximum award amount populates in the “Max Annual Award Amount” field in GAP Access.
 - 2023-24 maximum award amounts are:
 - \$33,558 at four-year institutions
 - \$18,262 at community colleges

2023-24 ECACE Scholarship Program 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>

2023-24 ECACE Award Amounts

- 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 ($=\$16,779$).
 - $\$9,131 + \$16,779 = \$25,910$

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

- Application remains available for students to download and complete
- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the Spring 2024 and Summer 2024 terms only.
 - Full-year and Fall term deadline date was October 1.
- Term 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.

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

- Certification for SWSP eligibility is open in GAP Access.
- Certification Overview:
 - Select the Certification tab to access the SWSP Certification List: View and view names of applicants attending your institution.
 - Click on an applicant's name or Social Security number to open the Certification Data screen.
 - 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.
 - Fields to be completed will be highlighted in red, based on whether the Eligible field is completed as Yes or No.
 - If Eligible, these fields must be completed:
 - Anticipated term(s) of enrollment
 - Term 1 eligible amount
 - Term 2 eligible amount
 - Term 3 eligible amount
 - If Ineligible, only the ineligible reason must be selected from the drop-down menu.
 - 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.

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

- 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.
- Benefits can cover eligible summer terms; summer term is considered Term 3.
- Applicants may be certified as eligible for all 3 terms.
 - i.e., for the 2023-24 academic year: Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024, or a mix of terms, depending on their enrollment status.
- The program pays tuition and mandatory fees and the amount for each term may vary, depending on term costs.
- Detailed instructions for completion are in the User Guide.
 - <https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/SWSP-UserGuide-Sept2023.pdf>

2023-24 Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal.
- Students may use the 2023-24 application to apply for the Spring 2024 and Summer 2024 terms only.
 - Full-year and Fall term deadline date was October 1.
- Term 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

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.

2023-24 Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

- The 2023-24 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal.
- The priority application consideration date for the 2023-24 academic year is **November 15, 2023**.
- 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.

2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

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 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is expected to be available in December 2023 (rather than in October).
- ISAC anticipates availability of the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid for the 2024-25 academic year to coincide with the launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA.



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.

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
- ***Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant & Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Programs*** will be the next Tuesday Training topic
- It will be offered on Tuesday, November 14 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

***Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant &
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Programs
November 14, 10 a.m.***

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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

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* First Name

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- Business Officer - fiscal updates
- ECACE Administrators – program & processing updates about the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program
- FAA ISAC Update - monthly newsletter summarizing each month's announcements and updates
- Financial Aid Administrators - program & processing updates, rules & regulations, operational announcements
- Financial Aid Directors - administrative announcements
- MAP Users - operational updates for the Internet application used to process MAP data
- NESP Schools – operational announcements for schools participating in the Nursing Education Scholarship Program
- Public Schools - operational announcements for colleges participating in the ING Grant and IVG programs

• Subscription groups for specific programs are available.

Quick Links

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Applications

Federal Updates

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

- 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/2023-10-16/active-confirmation-tg-numbers-saig-mailboxes-and-electronic-services-user-accounts-required-dec-7-2023-maintain-access-federal-student-aid-systems>

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 now 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>

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>

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>

2024-25 FAFSA Draft Specifications Guide Available

- ED announces that the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) draft Specifications Guide is available.
- Further details, including how financial aid administrators and other stakeholders can understand and prepare for upcoming changes, are available on the FSA Partner Connect website.
- <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/handbooks-manuals-or-guides/2023-05-31/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-october-2023-update>

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, it says "Federal Student Aid" with the tagline "An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION" and "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®". Below this is a navigation bar with "KNOWLEDGE CENTER", "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", and "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY". A dark blue bar contains "What's New", "Library", and "Topics". The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Knowledge Center Home > Library > Handbooks, Manuals, or Guides > Draft 2024-25 FAFSA Specifications Guide (October 2023 Update)". The title of the page is "Draft 2024-25 FAFSA Specifications Guide (October 2023 Update)". There is a "Print" button. Below that, the "POSTED DATE: May 31, 2023" and "SUBJECT: Draft 2024-25 FAFSA Specifications Guide (October 2023 Update)" are listed. The main text describes the FAFSA Simplification Act, enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, representing 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. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced a phased implementation approach to the FAFSA Simplification Act, with full implementation by July 1, 2024.

Draft 2024-25 FAFSA Specification Guide – October 2023

- Draft update to Volume 4 – Record Layouts & Processing Codes
 - **Draft Introduction**
 - **Draft Volume 1 – Summary of Changes**
 - **Draft Volume 2 – FPS Schedule and Getting Help**
 - **Draft Volume 3 – Electronic Data Exchange and FAFSA Processing**
 - **Draft Volume 4 – Record Layouts and Processing Codes**
 - **Draft Volume 5 – Edits and Rejects**
 - **Draft Volume 6 – ISIR Guide**
 - **Draft Volume 7 – Comment Codes**
 - **Draft Volume 8 – Agency Matches**
 - **Draft Volume 9 – Testing and Web Demo System**
- <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/handbooks-manuals-or-guides/2023-05-31/draft-2024-25-fafsa-specifications-guide-october-2023-update>

FSA Webinars

- FSA announced an additional webinar to the Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series - **Student.Aid.gov Account Creation Process for Users Without an SNN** - scheduled for November 2 at 12 p.m.
 - If you missed the other webinars which focused on FAFSA Simplification, they can be found under the recorded training at: fsatraining.ed.gov/course/view.php?id=107
- Wednesday Webinar Series, Fall 2023 (2-hour webinars, 12-2 p.m.)
 - Topics Related to the Title IV programs
 - 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>

2023 Virtual FSA Training Conference

- November 28 – December 1, 2023
- Registration is now open ... Go to FSA Training Conference Home 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 draft conference agenda and presenter biographies, on the FSA Training Conference website.
- For more information: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-09-29/2023-virtual-federal-student-aid-training-conference-registration-now-open>



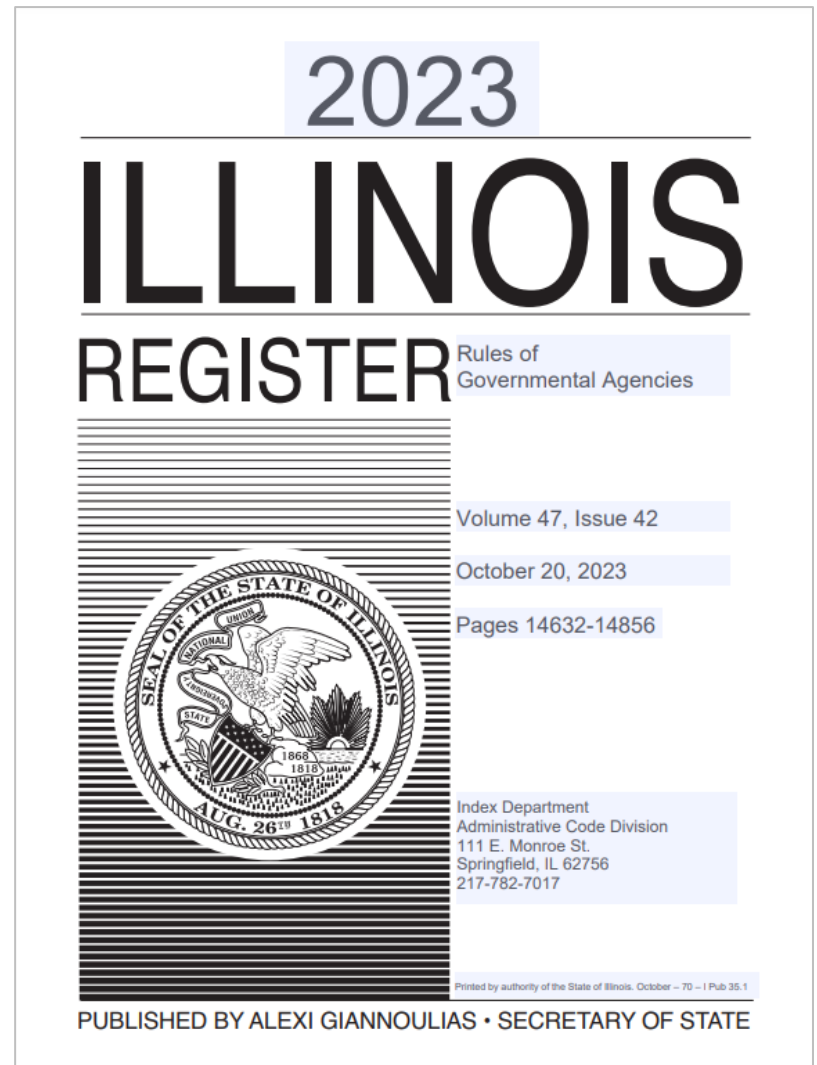
The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it says "Federal Student Aid" and "PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN BOND". Below that, there are navigation links: "KNOWLEDGE CENTER", "TRAINING", "FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY", and "TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY". A dark blue bar contains "What's New", "Library", and "Topics". The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: "Knowledge Center Home > Library > Electronic Announcements > 2023 Virtual Federal Student Aid Training Conference - Registration Now Open". The title of the announcement is "(GENERAL-23-84) 2023 Virtual Federal Student Aid Training Conference – Registration Now Open". There is a "Print" button. Below that, the following information is displayed: "POSTED DATE: September 29, 2023", "AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid", "ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-23-84", and "SUBJECT: 2023 Virtual Federal Student Aid Training Conference – Registration Now Open". At the bottom, a short paragraph reads: "Registration for the 2023 Virtual Federal Student Aid Training Conference for financial aid professionals is now open! Go to FSA Training Conference Home on FSA Partner Connect, and choose 'Registration' from the main menu to complete your free registration."

NASFAA Webinars

- 2023 Upcoming Webinars for NASFAA members:
 - Top AskRegs Questions: Student Eligibility – November 15 at 1 p.m.
 - 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

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/department_s/index/register/volume47/register_volume47_42.pdf



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 2 - FSA Webinar – StudentAid.gov Account Creation Process for Users Without an SSN – 12 p.m.
- November 7 - ISAC FAFSA Symposium, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - Moraine Valley Community College
 - Register now at <https://www.isac.org/pd/FAFSA-Symposium/>
- November 8 - FSA Webinar – SAP Essentials – 12 p.m.
- November 14 - ISAC Tuesday Training- ISAC Military Programs, 10 a.m.
- November 22 - ISAC Operational Update & Program News, **10 a.m.**
 - The time and date was changed due to upcoming Holiday and FSA Conference
- November 28-December 1 - 2023 FSA Virtual Training Conference
 - Registration Required
- December 12 - ISAC Tuesday Training – Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program, 10 a.m.
- December 20 - ISAC Operational Update & Program News, 2 p.m.
 - The date was changed due to the upcoming holiday

Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!

ISAC Contact Information

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