



# All Things MAP: An Operational Update on the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Monetary Award Program

January 14, 2025



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

# 2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- Initial FY2025 Recompute Formula
  - Was approved at the June 2024 Commission Meeting
  - Maximum award amount was \$8,400
- ISAC suspended the announcement of 2024-25 MAP grants for all students whose initial 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application was received on or after **August 21, 2024**
- Fall term claim deadline date was **Friday, December 6, 2024**
  - Term 1 enrollment and fall claim rates were much higher than expected
- On December 17, ISAC announced that a 4% reduction factor would need to be applied to the 2024-25 maximum annual award amount to stay within the FY25 appropriation
  - The reduction was only applied to second semester and second/third quarter claims; fall term award amounts were not reduced
    - For semester institutions, the maximum eligible award amount for the spring term was reduced by 8%
    - For quarter institutions, the maximum eligible award amount for both second and third quarters was reduced by 6%

# 2024-25 MAP

- Mid-Year Recompute
  - Reduces the maximum annual award amount of \$8400 by 4%
    - $8400 \times .96 = 8064$
- The reduction was implemented in the MAP system and recalculated awards provided to colleges on December 23
  - The award amounts displaying in the MAP system continue to show the original maximum eligible amount for the fall term
  - To account for the reduction that was not applied to the fall term, a higher percentage was used to reduce original second and third term eligibility amounts
- Payment processing for Term 2 was made available on January 2
  - The claim deadline date for Term 2 (spring semester/winter quarter) is **Friday, April 4**

# 2024-25 MAP

## Recent announcements and resources

- Reduction announcement
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1217.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1217.html)
- Mid-Year Recompute implemented
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1224.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1224.html)
- Information for students
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230-2.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230-2.html)
- Term 2 payment processing opens
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0102-2.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0102-2.html)

# 2024-25 MAP

The screenshot shows the ISAC website homepage. At the top left is the ISAC logo (Illinois Student Assistance Commission). To the right are links for 'COUNSELORS' and 'E-LIBRARY'. A main navigation menu on the left includes 'HOME', 'STUDENTS & PARENTS >', 'ISAC STUDENT PORTAL', 'RESEARCH & POLICY >', 'NEWSROOM', and 'ABOUT ISAC >'. A central banner features the text 'GET MONEY FOR THAT'S RIGHT FINANCIAL AID' and 'The FAFSA® is the key to get as institutional aid, for educational Alternative Application for Illinois'. Below this is a green box with 'GET INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCIAL AID, HELP WITH APPLICATIONS, AND HELP WITH COLLEGE PLANNING/APPLICATIONS AND MORE' and 'Find free workshops, or contact your local ISACorps member'. At the bottom of the banner are buttons for 'Free FAFSA Help' and 'College Changes Everything'. A 'Featured' section at the bottom left contains two items: 'FAQs: Reduction in 2024-25 MAP Awards' (highlighted with a red box) and '2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP) Suspense'.

## FAQs: Reduction in 2024-25 MAP Awards

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Reduced Term 2 Award Amounts

Based on Max Annual Award Amount, Semester School, With Cents

Semester Cents:

Credit hours	Term 1 award	Pre recompute term 2 award	Post recompute term 2 award	Difference
3	\$840.00	\$840.00	\$772.80	\$67.20
4	\$1,120.00	\$1,120.00	\$1,030.40	\$89.60
5	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,288.00	\$112.00
6	\$1,680.00	\$1,680.00	\$1,545.60	\$134.40
7	\$1,960.00	\$1,960.00	\$1,803.20	\$156.80
8	\$2,240.00	\$2,240.00	\$2,060.80	\$179.20
9	\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00	\$2,318.40	\$201.60
10	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,576.00	\$224.00
11	\$3,080.00	\$3,080.00	\$2,833.60	\$246.40
12	\$3,360.00	\$3,360.00	\$3,091.20	\$268.80
13	\$3,640.00	\$3,640.00	\$3,348.80	\$291.20
14	\$3,920.00	\$3,920.00	\$3,606.40	\$313.60
15	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$3,864.00	\$336.00

# Reduced Term 2 Award Amounts

Based on Max Annual Award Amount, Semester School, No Cents

Semester No Cents:

Credit hours	Term 1 award	Pre recompute term 2 award	Post recompute term 2 award	Difference
3	\$840	\$840	\$772	\$68
4	\$1,120	\$1,120	\$1,030	\$90
5	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,288	\$112
6	\$1,680	\$1,680	\$1,545	\$135
7	\$1,960	\$1,960	\$1,803	\$157
8	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,060	\$180
9	\$2,520	\$2,520	\$2,318	\$202
10	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,576	\$224
11	\$3,080	\$3,080	\$2,833	\$247
12	\$3,360	\$3,360	\$3,091	\$269
13	\$3,640	\$3,640	\$3,348	\$292
14	\$3,920	\$3,920	\$3,606	\$314
15	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$3,864	\$336



# Reduced Term 2 & 3 Award Amounts

## Based on Max Annual Award Amount, Quarter School, Cents

Quarter Cents (East West only):

Enrollment Hours At .66 School	MPCH	Term 1 award	Pre recompute term 2 & 3 award	Post recompute term 2 & 3 award	Term 2 & 3 Difference
4-5	3	\$840.00	\$840.00	\$789.60	\$50.40
6	4	\$1,120.00	\$1,120.00	\$1,052.80	\$67.20
7-8	5	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,316.00	\$84.00
9	6	\$1,680.00	\$1,680.00	\$1,579.20	\$100.80
10-11	7	\$1,960.00	\$1,960.00	\$1,842.40	\$117.60
12	8	\$2,240.00	\$2,240.00	\$2,105.60	\$134.40
13-14	9	\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00	\$2,368.80	\$151.20
15	10	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,632.00	\$168.00

# Reduced Term 2 & 3 Award Amounts

Based on Max Annual Award Amount, Quarter School, No Cents

Quarter No Cents:

Enrollment Hours At .66 School	Enrollment Hours At 3.3 School	MPCH	Term 1 award	Pre recompute term 2 & 3 award	Post recompute term 2 & 3 award	Term 2 & 3 Difference
4-5	1	3	\$840	\$840	\$789	\$51
6	1.1 - 1.3	4	\$1,120	\$1,120	\$1,052	\$68
7-8	1.4 - 1.6	5	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,316	\$84
9	1.7 - 1.9	6	\$1,680	\$1,680	\$1,579	\$101
10-11	2 - 2.2	7	\$1,960	\$1,960	\$1,842	\$118
12	2.3 - 2.5	8	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,105	\$135
13-14	2.6 - 2.8	9	\$2,520	\$2,520	\$2,368	\$152
15	≥ 2.9	10	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,632	\$168

# Semester Example

- Spring semester award, reduced by 8%
  - Original eligible term amount  $\times .92$  (8%) = new max eligible term amount, based on 15-hour enrollment
    - $4200 \times .92 = 3864$
    - $1500 \times .92 = 1380$
- Award amounts for less than full-time (15 hour) enrollment
  - Maximum eligible term award amount times the number of hours enrolled, divided by 15; student receives 1/15 of the award amount for each hour enrolled
    - $3864 \times 12/15 = 46,368/15 = 3091.20$ 
      - At “no cents” schools, truncate result to whole number: award amount is \$3091
      - At “cents” schools, truncate result to two decimal places: award amount is: \$3091.20

# MAP Payment Processing Reminders

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

# Illinois Residency Requirements for MAP

- MAP grant recipients must be residents of the State of Illinois and it is the college's responsibility to ensure that **all** MAP recipients meet the Illinois residency requirements
- For a dependent student to be considered an Illinois resident and eligible to receive a grant:
  - The parent of the dependent student who is required to complete the FAFSA must physically reside in Illinois and Illinois must be their true, fixed, and permanent home.
    - If Illinois becomes the parent's true, fixed, and permanent home after the initial FAFSA is filed, the student's and the parent's state of legal residence and permanent mailing address must be corrected to indicate Illinois on the FAFSA
- For an independent student to be considered a resident of Illinois they must have physically resided in Illinois (at the time of application), and must have resided for 12 continuous full months immediately **prior to the start of the academic year** for which assistance is requested and Illinois must be their true, fixed, and permanent home.
  - Example: An independent student attending an institution with an academic year starting on August 5, 2024, must have resided in Illinois from August 5, 2023 through August 4, 2024.

# Illinois Residency Requirements for MAP

- It is the college's responsibility to verify any dependent student for whom there may be conflicting information pertaining to the parent's state of legal resident, as well as any student whose dependency status changes from "dependent" to "independent" during the award year.
- Applicants who cease to be Illinois residents after MAP award notification may complete the academic year with the awarded grant.
  - Example: If a dependent student's parent(s) moves out of state after completing the FAFSA and have received notification of MAP eligibility, the student remains eligible for MAP for the balance of that award year, assuming the student continues to meet all other eligibility requirements.
- If a school has conflicting information about an applicant's residency, the school must resolve this discrepancy prior to delivering MAP funds.
  - This requirement to resolve conflicting information is separate from the Federal Verification requirement and supersedes all verification rules.
- An institution is not required to collect documentation to verify residency if:
  - the applicant received payment of a MAP award during the previous academic year; or
  - the applicant was enrolled in an ISAC-approved MAP institution or an ISAC-approved Illinois high school for the preceding consecutive 12 months prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested.

# Illinois Residency Rule Amendment, Effective Beginning in 2024-25

## From General Provisions, Section 2700.20 Definitions

"Resident of Illinois" –

A dependent student is a resident of Illinois if the parent of the dependent applicant, who is required by the instructions to complete the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, physically resides within the State of Illinois, and Illinois is the parent's true, fixed and permanent home.

An independent student is a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resides within the State of Illinois (at the time of application), and has so resided for a period of 12 continuous, full months immediately prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested and Illinois is their true, fixed and permanent home.

When an applicant does not qualify as a resident of Illinois under the preceding 2 paragraphs and the applicant is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a foreign missionary, or is the dependent or the spouse of an individual who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a foreign missionary, or is a dependent student required to list an out-of-state parent contributor on the FAFSA form, then the applicant's residency shall be determined in accordance with the following:

...

An applicant who is a dependent student and physically resides in the State of Illinois with a parent but is required to list an out-of-state parent contributor on the FAFSA form may be considered a Resident of Illinois for the purpose of State financial aid programs. See Section 2700.50(e)(3).

# Illinois Residency Rule Amendment, Effective Beginning in 2024-25

## From General Provisions, 2700.50(a)(3) – Determining Applicant Eligibility

3) If the institution has information that a dependent student physically resides with a parent within the State of Illinois, but the parent contributor listed on the FAFSA physically resides in another state, the institution shall review the applicant's residency eligibility for ISAC gift assistance programs to determine whether it should be based on the Illinois resident parent.

A) The institution will make this determination on a case-by-case basis upon confirming that the dependent student and Illinois parent reside in the State as evidenced by documentation as outlined in subsection (e)(4).

B) The institution shall notify ISAC of the determination.

C) A student's maximum annual MAP award amount shall be based on the need analysis calculation using the data of the parent who is required to provide financial information on the FAFSA or Alternative Application, according to the instructions provided on the respective applications.



# Dependent Residency Override

- A check-box is available in the MAP system to allow schools to override the residency issue for students who have a disqualify code due to an out-of-state parent contributor
  - When a school submits one of these requests in the MAP system, they will also have to check the “Include Ineligible” and “Disqualify” checkboxes on the Submit Payment Requests screen
- For FTP payment processing, a Dependent Residency Override field was added to the file layout to provide a Y indicator, if needed

Request Payment ▾

Enrollment Hours

Short-Term Certificate Program

Request Amount Override

Current Eligible Amount \$1,625.00

Original Eligible Amount \$1,875.00

User Defined

**Dependent Residency Override**

NSLDS Override NSLDS Override

Transaction # 01

Activity Date 10/07/2024

MAP Submit Payment Requests

Home Student **Payment** Budget Reports File Extractions

List Filter Sort Columns Input Student Enrollment Hours Payment Generation **Submit Payment Requests**

Selection Criteria for all eligible records

Term

User Defined

Include Ineligible

MAP Paid Credit Hours >= 135

Default

Late

MAP Suspend

Disqualify

## 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	Payment Results
Start	End			MAP Only	MAP	MAP	MAP
<b>160 Byte Format</b>							
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
51	53	8	Filler	X(03)			
54	54	9	User Defined	X(01)			
55	61	10	Requested Award Amount for Term	9(05)V99	X		X
62	62	11	ING Certified	X(01)			
63	64	12	Transaction Number	9(02)	X		X
65	65	13	Continuing Student	X(01)		X	X
66	66	14	Paid Previous Year	X(01)		X*	X
67	67	15	<b>Dependent Residency Override</b>	<b>X(01)</b>	<b>Opt*</b>		
68	68	16	Payment Result Code	X(01)			X
69	75	17	Payment Results Amount Paid for Term	9(05)V99			X
76	82	18	Adjusted Amt from Previous Payment Results	S9(05)V99			X

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

# 2025-26 MAP Start-Up

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

# 2025-26 MAP Start-Up

- 2025-26 MAP 160 Byte File Layout Specifications may be accessed via the Electronic Tools area of the e-Library for Partners.
  - There have been no changes made to the file layout for 2025-26
- At this time, the Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout has not yet been provided for the 2025-26 processing cycle.

Home > E-Library >

## Electronic Tools

This section provides information on electronic tools and specifications for loan and grant payment processing. Links to helpful software programs are also provided.

### Processing ISAC Gift Assistance Programs

#### 2025-26

- [2025-26 MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications](#)

#### 2024-25

- [FTP Process Using GAP Access Credentials](#)
- [2024-25 MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications](#)
- [2024-25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout](#)
- [2024-25 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout](#)
- [2024-25 ING Grant 160-Byte File Layout Specifications](#)
- [2024-25 IVG 160-Byte File Layout Specifications](#)

# 2025-26 Alternative Application

- The questions on the 2025-26 Alternative Application are consistent with the 2025-26 FAFSA and it collects all data elements needed to calculate an SAI
- Similar to an ISIR, the Alternative Application Student Record includes all application data elements
  - The order of the data in the file layout follows the order of the ISIR and the values are the same, unless otherwise noted
  - Available as a text file in Notepad
    - Using free Notepad++ app provides more user-friendly viewing
  - The Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout document provides details about field names, length of data fields, and start and end positions
- Creating/uploading Alternative Application Student Record files to colleges' internal systems is not required
  - Relevant student applicant data provided in GAP Access may be relied on to administer MAP for both FAFSA and Alternative Application applicants

# Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security

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

[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

*(last updated December 6, 2024)*

### **Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security Disclosure:**

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

# Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security

## ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented students

### Alternative Application to apply for Illinois MAP Grants

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

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

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

### Information Privacy and Security Disclosure:

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

Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and Program (MAP).

Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Aid Program (MAP). You must use the email address unless you changed your e-mail

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

**ISAC**  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

COUNSELORS | E-LIBRARY | FAQ'S | GAP ACCESS

**Privacy Policy**  
Last updated on January 4, 2023

**General Information**

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

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

This policy applies to the following ISAC sites:

- isac.org
- college-links.org
- isac.org
- willminds.com/Map
- ifms.isac.org
- collegedialogspsych.org

#### First-Time Applicants

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

START

#### Returning Applicants

Complete or correct a Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

Forgot Username?  
Forgot Password?

LOGIN

#### Submit Parent Signature

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

PARENT SIGNATURE

#### Information Privacy and Security Disclosure:

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

Privacy Policy



# New Disclosure Screen Added to Beginning of the Application Process



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

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

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

## Student Information

### Important Notice About Your Personal Information

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

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

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

Yes, I WILL proceed with completing the application.

**YES**

No, I WILL NOT proceed with completing the application.

**NO**



[Privacy Policy](#)



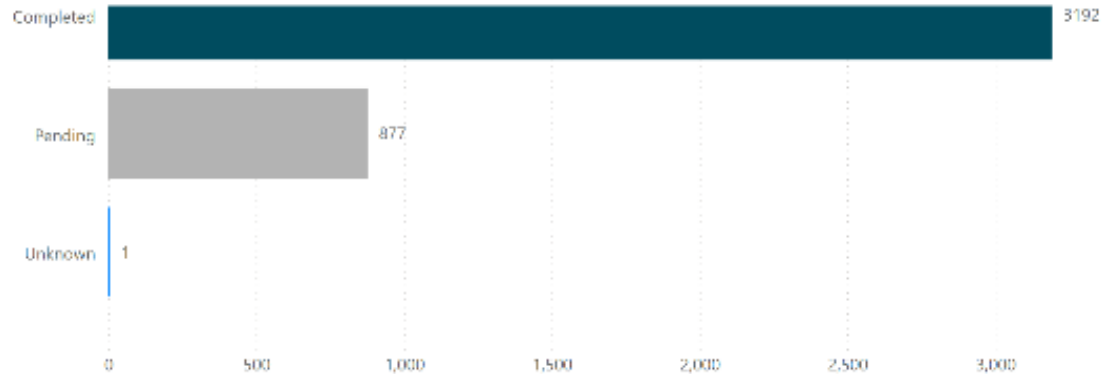
# 2024-25 Alt App Stats

## Alternative Applications for 2024-2025

As of 01/13/2025

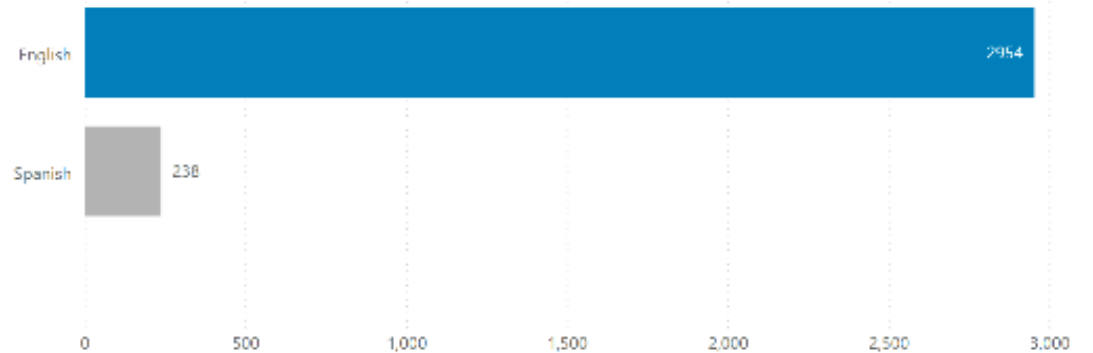
Total Number of Applications Started

4070



Total Number of Applications Completed

3192



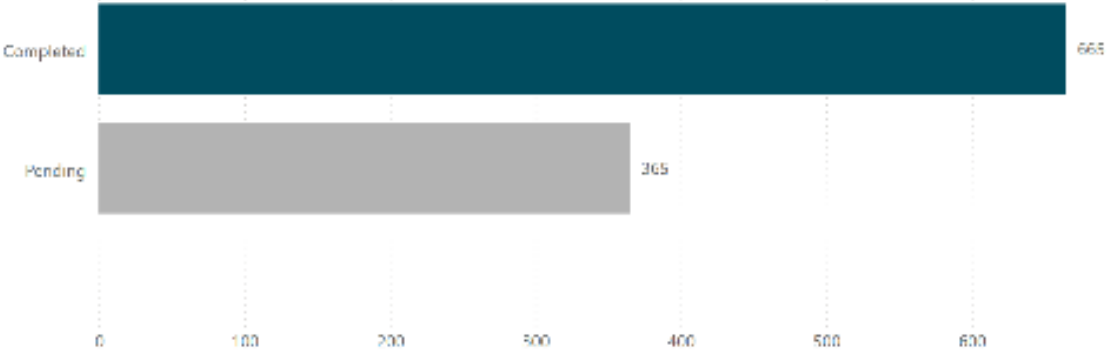
# 2025-26 Alt App Stats

## Alternative Applications for 2025-2026

As of 01/12/2025

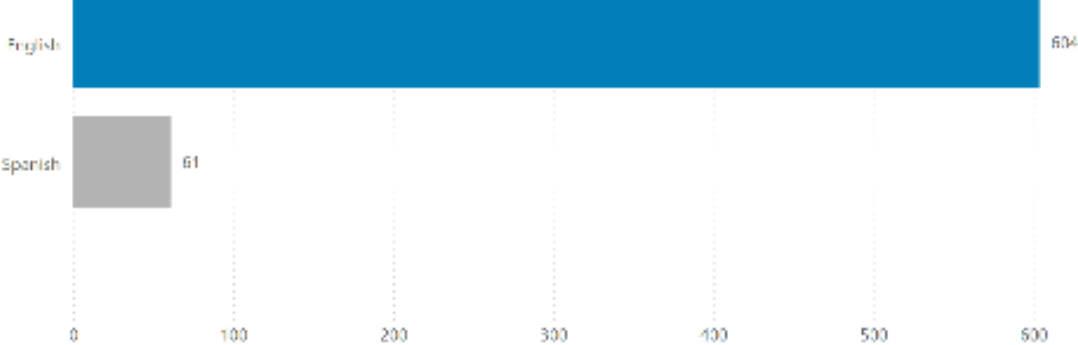
Total Number of Applications Started

1030



Total Number of Applications Completed

665



# Making Adjustments to Alternative Application Student Records

- A process is available in the MAP system that provides colleges with the ability to submit professional judgment adjustments and make corrections for Alternative Application student records
- Professional Judgment and Application Correction tabs are available on the Student Detail: Eligibility screen in the MAP system for Alt App records only
- Colleges may rely on the same policies and procedures they have in place for FAFSA applicants who have special or unusual circumstances
- During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed to the next page until required information has been entered
- Once all changes/updates have been entered, you must select a “Submit” button to complete the process
- For more detailed guidance refer to the Operational Guide for Alternative Application processing:
  - [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2425-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Jan24.pdf](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2425-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Jan24.pdf)

# To Process a Dependency Override - Professional Judgment in the MAP System

## MAP Student Detail: Eligibility

Home Student Budget Reports File Extractions

List Eligibility

Professional Judgment

Application Correction

Current SSN

Go

Transaction / Name ID

01 M. v

Go

School ID

Original SSN

Base MAP Code

## 2024-25 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing

Issue	Guidance	Regulatory/Rule Reference/Resources
<b>RISE Act Eligibility</b>	<p>The Alternative Application is not intended to be an alternate option for students who do not pass the database match checks on the FAFSA. It is intended for students who meet the specific eligibility criteria in the RISE Act legislation.</p> <p>If the student completed a FAFSA in error and meets all the criteria specified by the RISE Act, the student may complete the Alternative Application.</p>	<p>Illinois <a href="#">Public Act 101-0021</a></p>
<p>For students who have filed both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application, is the school responsible to compare and resolve conflicting data?</p>	<b>Certifying MAP Eligibility – Illinois Residency</b>	<p>The residency criteria in the RISE Act determines if a student is eligible to apply for MAP using the Alternative Application. To qualify to receive MAP benefits, students must also be a “resident of Illinois” as defined in ISAC’s Administrative Rules:</p> <p><a href="#">Public Act 101-0021</a>  <a href="#">ISAC Administrative Rules - General Provisions, Section 2700.20 Definitions and Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility</a></p>
	<p>What are the MAP residency requirements for students who are eligible to complete the Alternative Application?</p>	
	<b>Professional Judgment</b>	<p>Yes. Colleges may rely on the same policies and procedures they may already have in place for FAFSA applicants who have special circumstances.</p>
<p>Are students who have completed an Alternative Application subject to the same rules and guidance regarding professional judgment as a FAFSA applicant?</p>	<p>A process is available in the MAP system of the GAP Access portal that provides colleges with the ability to make corrections and submit professional judgment adjustments to Alternative Applications.</p> <p><i>Professional Judgment and Application Correction</i> tabs are available on the <i>Student Detail: Eligibility</i> screen in the MAP system that will allow colleges to access a student’s Alternative Application record and update most of the information on the application, with the exception of the following data elements: ISAC ID Number, student e-mail address, parent e-mail address, and school choices/codes.</p> <p>When making a Professional Judgment adjustment, the option to perform a dependency override is associated with Section 3 of the application where you will have the option to provide/update parental data or continue with a dependency override.</p> <p>During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed to the next page until required information has been entered.</p>	
<p>Can a financial aid administrator make a professional judgment adjustment to a student’s Alternative Application record, or does it have to be submitted to ISAC?</p>		

# 2025-26 MAP Resources

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Monetary Award Program (MAP) > Formula > 2025-26 MAP Formula

## 2025-26 MAP Formula

[2025-26 MAP Start-up Formula](#)

Each year the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is responsible for adopting an allocation formula for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). The Commission approves a "start-up" formula that is used to begin making award announcements for students applying for the next academic year. Typically, once the Governor and General Assembly take final action on the budget, the Commission revisits the formula in June or July and takes action to approve a "recompute" formula.

Unless otherwise noted, all calculations should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar upward from .500 and downward from .499. Students who have been paid for 135 or more MAP Paid Credit Hours are not eligible for MAP.

### 2025-26 Start-up Formula

On [September 19, 2024](#), the Illinois Student Assistance Commission approved the 2025-26 (FY26) MAP start-up formula, which is outlined in Table One. The 2025-26 (FY26) MAP start-up formula, which is outlined in Table One. The following is being used in the 2025-26 (FY26) MAP start-up 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.

As was the case with FY25 recompute formula, and the 2025-26 MAP start-up formula mirrors the federal maximum award amount for students with a non-zero or zero Student Aid Index (SAI) to receive the same amount.

- Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- Program Overview
- Applying
- Suspense
- Eligibility
- Award Announcements
- Formula
  - 2024-25 MAP Formula
  - 2025-26 MAP Formula**
  - Hand Calculation Forms
  - Calculating MAP Awards
- MAP Paid Credit Hours

## MAP Hand Calculation Forms

ISAC provides paper-based worksheets by academic year, MAP awards for dependent and independent students.

[2025-26 Hand Calculation Forms – Start-up](#)

[2024-25 Hand Calculation Forms – Recompute](#)

[2024-25 Hand Calculation Forms – Start-up](#)

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Monetary Award Program (MAP) > Award Announcements

## MAP Award Announcements

### School Requirements

#### ISAC No Longer Reporting Default Status

Students who apply for financial aid [via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application)] and agree to share the information with ISAC are considered for a Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant. The announcement process begins with the college sending an award notification to eligible students indicating a calculated annual award amount. The inclusion of MAP grants in financial aid packages is critical information for students to make informed enrollment decisions. Potentially eligible students are Illinois residents with an SAI under 9000 who indicated a MAP-approved school as one of their school choices on the FAFSA or Alternative Application.

In order to ensure that all MAP recipients receive the same information about their award in a consistent manner, ISAC requires schools to announce MAP awards to the students enrolled at their institution - including the estimated amount of the award. Refer to the [School Requirements](#) section for details.

Links to various forms and notifications are available from the right-hand menu.

### School Requirements

## Monetary Award Program (MAP)

### Program Overview

### Applying

### Suspense

### Eligibility

### Award Announcements

[2024-25 MAP Q&A For Students \(HTML\)](#)

[2024-25 MAP Q&A For Students \(PDF\)](#)

[2024-25 MAP Rights & Responsibilities](#)

[2024-25 Required School-Issued Award Notification Language](#)

**[2025-26 Required School-Issued Award Notification Language](#)**

[Default Resolution Options](#)

# ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

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

Fax: 847-831-8549

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

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

# ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information, policy guidance and support to schools and other ISAC partners
- Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations
- Responds to school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

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

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## Partner Services Staff

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

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

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



# Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!