

An Overview of ISAC's Teacher Programs

September 10, 2024



Agenda

- Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program (SETTW)
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
- Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program
- Guidance on Dual-Awardees
- Resources

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Purpose is to encourage current teachers and academically talented students to pursue careers in the area of Special Education
- Exempts recipients from the payment of tuition and mandatory fees for up to four calendar years at any of the public universities in Illinois
- Recipients must make a commitment to teach in Special Education at an Illinois school for at least two of the five years following graduation

SETTW Eligibility

- Student must be:
 - A U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen or meet the undocumented student criteria of the RISE Act
 - An Illinois resident
 - Enrolled or accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate or graduate student in an area of special education
 - Must be enrolled within 10 days after the beginning of the term for which the waiver was initially awarded
 - Meeting school's satisfactory academic progress criteria
 - In attendance on a continuous basis for up to four years
- Student must meet one of the following:
 - Graduated (or scheduled to graduate) from an approved high school in the academic year in which the award is made and perform in the upper half of the graduating class
 - Graduated from an approved high school prior to the academic year in which the award is made and not hold a valid teaching certificate
 - Hold a valid teaching license that's not in the discipline of special education
- Students who are General Educational Development (GED) Certificate recipients are not eligible for this waiver.

SETTW Eligibility

- Certified teachers who receive an "approval" through their school district to teach in a special education discipline are considered to be **seeking initial certification** in a special education discipline and may, therefore, apply for this waiver
- Teachers already certified in a special education discipline may **not** receive the tuition waiver
- A student cannot be a prior recipient of this waiver or be awarded the MTI Scholarship or the Golden Apple (GA) Scholars Program for the same academic year
- An applicant who is also eligible for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) must use the SETTW award first
- SETTW recipients, including those who are pursuing or have secured a position as a Speech-Language Pathologist, should take note that in order to fulfill the teaching requirements, their position must be that of a “teacher,” as certified by their employing school official
 - A “teacher” is defined as a person who provides direct classroom-type teaching or classroom-type teaching in a non-classroom setting
 - Accordingly, only if a Speech-Language Pathologist’s teaching position meets the above definition, and is certified as such by the school official, would the position be considered as fulfilling the SETTW teaching requirements

SETTW Application Process

- The application, which also serves as a promissory note, is accessible online via the ISAC Student Portal
 - Applicants must create a Student Portal account to complete the application
- The application is typically made available in December prior to the start of the next award year
- The priority application consideration date is March 1 for the upcoming award year
 - Applications submitted after March 1 are considered untimely
- Applicants have the option of electronically signing and submitting the application (preferred method), or they may print and sign the application by hand and mail it to ISAC
 - Paper applications must be received with an original ink signature and cannot be submitted via e-mail or Fax

SETTW Awarding

- Awards are not subject to annual appropriations
- ISAC awards 250 waivers annually as follows:
 - A maximum of 40 tuition waivers are awarded to qualified applicants who hold valid teaching certificates that are not in the discipline of special education
 - If more than 40 applicants qualify under these provisions, a lottery is used to select 40 recipients
 - If fewer than 40 applicants qualify under these provisions, the remaining waivers are awarded to the current year high school graduates
 - A minimum of 105 tuition waivers are awarded to qualified applicants who graduated from high school prior to the academic year in which the award is made
 - If more than 105 applicants qualify under these provisions, a lottery is used to select 105 recipients
 - A minimum of 105 tuition waivers are awarded to qualified applicants scheduled to graduate from an approved high school in the academic year in which the award is made and who perform in the upper half of their class according to performance-based academic data provided by the high school at the end of the sixth semester
 - Recipients for this group are selected from among qualified applicants based on the highest ACT or SAT test scores from the appropriate time period.
 - Any of the 145 tuition waivers not awarded under the provisions outlined in the two preceding bullets are awarded to this group.
 - If the number of applicants who qualify under these provisions is greater than the available number of tuition waivers to be awarded, a lottery is used to select the appropriate number of recipients.

SETTW Awarding

- An SETTW Notice of Eligibility will be sent by July 1st to each qualified applicant who is selected to receive a tuition waiver
- An SETTW Notice of Unavailable Waivers is sent to qualified applicants who are not selected
- Applicants who did not qualify for a waiver are sent an SETTW Notice of Ineligibility
- Applicants may also be sent an SETTW Notice of Disqualification or an SETTW Notice of Decline Receipt

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program > Determining Awards

Determining Awards for SETTW

{ISAC Rules, Part 2765.30}

ISAC awards 250 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waivers (SETTW) annually as follows:

- A maximum of 40 tuition waivers are awarded to qualified applicants who hold valid teaching certificates that are not in the discipline of special education. If more than 40 applicants qualify under these provisions, a lottery is used to select 40 recipients. If fewer than 40 applicants qualify under these provisions, the remaining waivers are awarded to the current year high school graduates.
- A minimum of 105 tuition waivers are awarded to qualified applicants who graduated from high school prior to the academic year in which the award is made. If more than 105 applicants qualify under these provisions, a lottery is used to select 105 recipients.
- A minimum of 105 tuition waivers are awarded to qualified applicants scheduled to graduate from an approved high school in the academic year in which the award is made and who perform in the upper half of their class according to performance-based academic data provided by the high

SETTW Waiver
Program Overview
Eligibility
Applying
Determining Awards
SETTW Notice Of Eligibility
SETTW Notice Of Unavailable Waivers
SETTW Notice Of Disqualification
SETTW Notice Of Decline Receipt
SETTW Notice Of Ineligibility
SETTW Rights & Responsibilities

SETTW Tuition Waiver Process

- Once waivers are awarded, the tuition waiver certification functionality will be made available to colleges via the SETTW system in the GAP Access portal
- Colleges must certify each student's eligibility and their enrollment in a special education discipline
- If a student is not eligible, a disqualified reason must be selected
 - When a student is certified as ineligible, the award will be de-obligated and the waiver will be awarded to another eligible applicant for the same academic year
- Once a tuition waiver certification has been submitted in the SETTW system, corrections cannot be made by the school
- Any certification corrections that are needed must be submitted by sending an e-mail request to isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

SETTW Tuition Waiver Process

- The waiver certification process must be completed for all newly-awarded students and students who have transferred
- Students who applied for MTI and GA are identified with a “Y” indicator in the Dual Awarded columns to warn schools of a potential conflicting scholarship
 - Students cannot receive both SETTW and MTI or GA during the same award year
- The Transfer Indicator will be populated with a “T” when the student has received benefits in a prior term or year at a different school and has transferred to your institution
 - The Transfer Term column will show the term the student can begin using the SETTW benefits
 - The term indicator will show a 1 (fall), 2 (spring), or 3 (summer)

Administration School Programs

SETTW Certification List: View

Select School and School Code Go

Home Student **Certification** Enrollment Status Verification

List Filter Add Cust

Entries displayed 100

SSN	Last Name	First Name	School Code	Dual Awarded MTI	Dual Awarded GA	Certified	Academic Level	Disqualified Reason	Transfer Indicator	Transfer Start Term
AAA-XX-XXXX						- Select -	- Select -	- Select -		
AAA-XX-XXXX							Graduate	- Select -		
AAA-XX-XXXX						- Select -	- Select -	- Select -		

To view the Student's full SSN click on the padlock.

View Report Excel Report

SETTW Tuition Waiver Process

- If a student is ineligible to receive an SETTW award, one of the following Disqualification Reasons must be selected from the drop-down list:
 - The recipient did not enroll within ten days after the beginning of the term for which ISAC initially awarded the waiver
 - The recipient is enrolled at this school, but is not seeking an initial special education teacher licensure
 - The recipient accepted the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program or the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program rather than the SETTW Program
 - Recipient declined the tuition waiver
 - Recipient is not an Illinois resident
 - Recipient is not a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen
 - Recipient is not making satisfactory academic progress
 - Recipient is in default on a student loan, or owes a refund on any state or federal grant

Certified	Academic Level	Disqualified Reason
N	- Select -	- Select -

- Select -

- The recipient did not enroll within ten days after the beginning of the term for which ISAC had initially awarded the waiver
- The recipient is enrolled at this school but is not seeking an initial special education teacher licensure
- The recipient accepted the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program or the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program rather than the SETTW Program
- Recipient declined the tuition waiver
- Recipient is not an Illinois resident
- Recipient is not a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Recipient is not making satisfactory academic progress
- Recipient is in default on a student loan, or owes a refund on any state or federal grant

SETTW Leave of Absence

- A recipient must remain enrolled on a continuous basis during the regular school year for four years, unless granted a leave of absence
- A recipient must complete his or her course of study within six years, including any approved leave of absence.
- The institution approves all leave(s) of absence.
- A recipient may be granted a leave of absence by the president of the institution, or his/her designee, for any of the following reasons:
 - Earning funds to defray the recipient's educational expenses;
 - Illness of the recipient or a member of the recipient's immediate family, as established by the sworn statement of a licensed physician; or
 - Military service
- A leave of absence granted for military service shall not be considered part of the six years within which a recipient must complete a degree.

SETTW Leave of Absence (LOA) Form

- The SETTW Leave of Absence (LOA) Form is not required to be submitted to ISAC
- However, the start and end dates and type of LOA granted must be listed on the Tuition Waiver Conversion Form submitted during the annual Enrollment Status Verification process.
- Schools should keep any forms and documentation in the student's file.

**ILLINOIS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER TUITION WAIVER (SETTW)
LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA) FORM**

Date: ____/____/____

Recipient Name: _____ SSN: _____

Prior Name: _____

Address: _____

I understand that my leave of absence will be granted for a maximum of two years, unless granted for military service. I will notify the university when the condition(s) that qualified me for the leave ends. I will provide the university and ISAC with my name change and/or my permanent home address change. I have read and understand the terms of the leave of absence as stated on the SETTW promissory note and hereby certify that I do meet the conditions.

Date: ____/____/____

Recipient Signature _____

UNIVERSITY USE ONLY

Recipients may apply for a leave of absence only after they have been enrolled for the first term of the year awarded.

The president of this university, or his/her designee, granted the above student a leave of absence. This LOA extends the requirement to remain enrolled for four (4) continuous years, not to exceed six (6) years total. The leave of absence is granted for the following reason:

a) Earning funds to defray the recipient's educational expenses;
Date Last Enrolled ____/____/____ Anticipated Date of Enrollment ____/____/____

b) Illness; or
Date Last Enrolled ____/____/____ Anticipated Date of Enrollment ____/____/____

c) Military Service*
Date Last Enrolled ____/____/____
Branch of Service: _____ Number of years: _____
Anticipated Date of Enrollment: ____/____/____

* **A leave of absence granted for military service shall not be considered part of the years within which a recipient must complete a degree.**

We are retaining the Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Conversion Form (TWCF) and will notify ISAC when the recipient returns from the leave of absence and resumes enrollment.

University _____ School Code: _____
Approved by: _____ Date: ____/____/____
Signature _____
Title _____

Send ISAC copy to: D-2A, School Services
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015-5209
866.247.2172
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC use
Application Date: _____
Status: _____

SETTW Teaching Requirements

- Recipients must teach two years on a full-time basis in the field of special education
- The teaching obligation must be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school beginning within one year immediately following graduation or termination of enrollment and continuing for two of the subsequent five years
- If teaching requirements are not fulfilled, the assistance received converts to a loan
 - Recipient must repay the entire amount of the award prorated according to the fraction of the obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and any reasonable collection fees
 - Interest begins to accrue on the date the repayment obligation begins
- Repayment is to be completed within 10 years after the assistance converts to a loan
 - For SETTW recipients who were awarded a waiver prior to July 1, 2014, the repayment term is five years

2024-25 SETTW Program News

- Tuition waivers have been awarded and students have been notified
- Schools may now complete the tuition waiver certification process.
- If a qualified applicant is eligible for both the SETTW and the MAP grant, the SETTW award must be used first.
- Each of the public universities with students who were awarded 2024-25 tuition waivers have been sent an e-mail from ISAC.
 - Certify each student's eligibility within 60 days of the date on which the email is received
- If subsequent 2024-25 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send similar e-mail messages to impacted institutions.

SETTW Resources

[Home](#) > [ISAC Gift Assistance Programs](#) > [Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver \(SETTW\) Program](#)

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

Program News

(last updated August 6, 2024)

[2024-25 Certification](#)

[2024-25 Award Determination](#)

[2024-25 Application](#)

[Enrollment Status Verification](#)

2024-25

Certification

Functionality to certify eligibility for 2024-25 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program newly-awarded students – as well as transfer students – is available in the SETTW system.

Each of the twelve Illinois public universities with students who were awarded 2024-25 tuition waivers has been sent an e-mail from ISAC, with instructions to certify each student's eligibility via the SETTW system within 60 days of the date on which the e-mail is received.

If subsequent 2024-25 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send similar e-mail messages to impacted institutions.

Further details are provided at the [Tuition Waiver Process](#) page and in the [Tuition Waiver Certification Process User Guide](#).

SETTW Waiver

[Program Overview](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[Applying](#)

[Determining Awards](#)

[Tuition Waiver Process](#)

[Leave Of Absence](#)

[Enrollment Status Verification](#)

[Program Requirements](#)

[Program Comparisons](#)

[Electronic Processing](#)

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

MTI Scholarship Program

- Available to minority students enrolled in a teacher education program
 - Undergraduate or graduate student
- Requires a one-year teaching commitment for each year the scholarship is received
 - Converts to a loan if commitment is not met
- Students may qualify for up to \$7,500 per year
 - Subject to appropriation
- Can receive for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters (4 years)
- An MTI applicant who is also eligible for a Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant may use the MAP award first
- Can be used for tuition, fees, room and board or commuter charges
 - Cannot exceed Cost of Attendance

MTI Eligibility Criteria

- To qualify for the MTI Scholarship, an applicant must be a:
 - Minority student or a qualified bilingual minority applicant
 - Resident of Illinois
 - U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen or meet the “undocumented student” criteria of the Illinois RISE Act
 - High school graduate or the recipient of a General Educational Development (GED) certificate

MTI Eligibility Criteria

- To qualify for the MTI Scholarship, an applicant must:
 - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis as an undergraduate or graduate student at an Illinois institution of higher education, **and**
 - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a course of study which, upon completion, qualifies the student to be licensed as a preschool, elementary or secondary school teacher by the Illinois State Board of Education, including alternative teacher licensure; **or**
 - If already licensed to teach, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a course of study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a master's degree in an academic field in which the applicant is teaching or plans to teach; **or**
 - Have received one or more College and Career Pathway Endorsements (pursuant to Section 80 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act) and commit to enrolling in a course of study leading to teacher licensure, including alternative teacher licensure

MTI Eligibility Criteria

- To qualify for the MTI Scholarship, an applicant must:
 - If enrolled at the sophomore, junior, senior or graduate level, have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
 - Maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution
 - Not be in default on any student loan nor owe a refund or repayment on any state or federal grant
 - Have not previously received 8 semesters or 12 quarters of the MTI Scholarship
 - Not be awarded an SETTW or Golden Apple Scholars Program for the same academic period for which the MTI Scholarship is received

MTI Application Process

- The MTI Application/Promissory Note is accessible online via the ISAC Student Portal
 - Applicants must create a Student Portal account to complete the online application
- The application is typically made available in December prior to the start of the next award year
- The priority application consideration date is March 31 for the upcoming award year
 - Applications submitted after March 31 are considered untimely
- Students must also submit the corresponding year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Alternative Application by the March 31 deadline for priority consideration
- Applicants have the option of electronically signing and submitting the application (preferred method), or they may print and sign the application by hand and mail it to ISAC

RISE Act - Eligible Applicants

- Students who may be eligible for MTI through the RISE Act must create an Alternative Application Student Profile before they can complete the MTI application process
- The Alternative Application does not necessarily have to be completed first; however, a Student Profile must be created so that ISAC can assign an ISAC ID number to eligible applicants who do not have Social Security Numbers
- Applicants who may already have an ISAC Student Portal Account will need to use a different e-mail address for their Alternative Application Student Profile
 - The same email cannot be used for both ISAC accounts
- A student's ISAC ID number will remain the same for all award years and should be used for all ISAC programs for which the student applies

MTI Process

- Application
 - Application/Promissory Note made available in December prior to the award year
 - Student completes application online
 - Creates a student record in the MTI system in GAP Access
- Certification
 - Applicant data is provided to schools in the MTI system
 - Schools must certify student's eligibility status, verify enrollment and provide the Student Aid Index
 - Generates a notification to applicants
- Award Determination
 - Students with a completed certification are considered for an award
- Notification
 - ISAC sends letters to MTI students
 - Schools receive award eligibility information in GAP Access
- Payment
 - Schools submit payment requests in the MTI system
 - ISAC authorizes payment and provides result reports to schools
 - Payment sent to the schools from the Comptroller's office
 - Schools credit student accounts

MTI Student List

- The *Student List Eligibility: View* in the MTI system provides a list of students who have submitted an MTI application to ISAC and listed your school as the college the student plans to attend
- The list will initially appear in alphabetical order, however, you may use the Filter, Sort and Columns functionality to customize your view as needed.
- In addition to the applicant data, the Student List Eligibility: View screen includes the application complete date, application status, and icons to indicate eligibility issues.
- The list also displays if a student has bilingual certification and if the student was awarded the GA or SETTW program

MTI 2024-2025: Student List Eligibility: View

Home **Student** Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Filter Sort Columns

Entries displayed 100

#	Sel	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	DOB	Male	Units	School Code	Application Complete	Applicant Category	Certified Eligible	Certified Date	Academic Level
---	-----	-------------	-----------	------------	-----	------	-------	-------------	----------------------	--------------------	--------------------	----------------	----------------

Academic Level	Award Amount	Award Date	Awarded GA	Awarded SETTW	Bilingual Certification	SAI
----------------	--------------	------------	------------	---------------	-------------------------	-----

MTI Certification Process

- A Certification record is created in the MTI system when the application process has been completed
- Only records that need to be certified display on the Certification List: View screen.
- Colleges are expected to enter certification data for each record, indicating whether the applicant is eligible or ineligible, then save and submit their entry to ISAC
- A complete application and a complete and eligible Certification record are required for consideration for an award
- **All Certifications available in the MTI system must be completed regardless of whether the school certifies a student as eligible or ineligible.**
- The only way an applicant will receive a notification letter from ISAC is if the Certification is submitted

MTI Student Certification Process

- The Certification List: View screen includes all applicants for whom ISAC has received a complete MTI application with your college listed on the application.
- To access the Certification Data screen to certify a student, click on the student's name or SSN.

MTI 2024-2025: Certification List: View

Select School and School Code

Home Student **Certification** Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Filter

Entries displayed 100

#	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	School Code	Applicant Category	Eligible	Transfer
1	XXX-XX-							
2	XXX-XX-					Untimely New		
3	XXX-XX-							
4	XXX-XX-					Timely New		

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

View Report Excel Report

MTI Student Certification Process

- Once you click on the student's name or SSN, the Certification Data pop-up box will appear.

The screenshot shows the 'Certification Data' pop-up box with the following fields and options:

- Eligible:** A dropdown menu with 'Yes' and 'No' options. A red box highlights the dropdown arrow.
- Academic Level:** A dropdown menu with options: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Graduate. A red box highlights the dropdown arrow.
- Anticipated Terms:** A dropdown menu with options: 1, 2, 1 & 2. A red box highlights the dropdown arrow.
- Is the student bilingual:** A dropdown menu with 'Yes' and 'No' options. A red box highlights the dropdown arrow.
- Bilingual Type:** A dropdown menu with options: State Seal of Bilingualty, Passed educator licensure proficiency test, All of the above. A red box highlights the dropdown arrow.
- Bilingual program:** A dropdown menu with options: Bilingual educator preparation program, Other. A red box highlights the dropdown arrow.
- Career Pathway Endorsement:** A dropdown menu with 'Yes' and 'No' options. A red box highlights the dropdown arrow.
- SAI:** A text input field. A red box highlights the input field.
- Ineligible Reason:** A dropdown menu.
- Buttons:** 'Save/Submit' and 'Close' buttons are highlighted with red boxes.

Red arrows point from the text boxes to the corresponding fields in the form.

- If **“Yes”** is selected for the Eligible field, you must enter the required data (highlighted in red) and then click on the Save/Submit button to complete the certification process for that student record.

MTI Student Certification Process

- If **"No"** is selected for the Eligible field, you must select an Ineligible Reason and then click on the Save/Submit button to complete the certification process for that student record.

Certification Data

Eligible:

Academic Level:

Anticipated Terms:

Is the student bilingual:

Bilingual Type:

Bilingual program:

Career Pathway Endorsement:

SAI:

Ineligible Reason:

Yes
No

Reached max number of years allowed

Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen

Student is not accepting MTI

Not an Illinois resident

Not a minority

Not a HS grad/no GED

GPA not at least 2.5 on 4.0 scale (soph or above)

Defaulted student loan

Not enrolled in participating school

Not enrolled

Not enrolled at least half time

Conflicting scholarship

Not enrolled in teacher program

Not making satisfactory academic progress

MTI Certification Data Definitions

- **Qualified Bilingual Minority Applicant**

- A qualified bilingual minority applicant is one who demonstrates proficiency in a language other than English by receiving:
 - a [State Seal of Biliteracy](#) from the [State Board of Education](#), or
 - receiving a passing score on an [educator licensure target language proficiency test](#).
- Resource Links:
 - isbe.net/Pages/Home.aspx
 - isbe.net/sealofbiliteracy
 - isbe.net/Pages/Educator-License-with-Stipulations.aspx
- Related Illinois Administrative Rules --
 - ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/02300680sections.html
 - ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000100R.html
 - Definitions -- "State Seal" or "Seal" means the State Seal of Biliteracy created by Section 2-3.159 of the Code and this Part.
 - ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html

MTI Certification Data Definitions

- **State Seal of Biliteracy**

- The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school, district, or state in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.
- Illinois provides two awards: Seal of Biliteracy for those with a "high level of proficiency" - for most languages, this level is Intermediate High (4/5 on the AP Exam). A secondary award is the Commendation Toward Biliteracy (Intermediate-Low).
- Students must meet the language proficiency criteria in both English and the second language. The second language may be a home language, learned in school or through travel or outside means. Schools can find the State Seal of Biliteracy on both the student's diploma and transcript. Illinois state universities, by state law, are required to provide university credit for Seal recipients.
- For more information on testing and recognition information, visit the ISBE Seal of Biliteracy page isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx

MTI Certification Data Definitions

- **Career Pathway Endorsement**

- Pursuant to Section 80 of the [Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act](#), school districts may award College and Career Pathway Endorsements to high school graduates. Students earn endorsements by completing an individualized learning plan, a career-focused instructional sequence, and professional learning opportunities. The endorsements incentivize career exploration and development, particularly in high-demand career fields.
- To earn a college and career pathways endorsement, students will have followed an individualized learning plan, career-focused instruction, career exploration activities and 60 hours of supervised career development experiences.
- For more information:
 - isbe.net/pathwayendorsements
 - media.advanceillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/04001239/Facts-about-HB5729-FINAL.pdf

MTI Awarding

- All timely, certified applicants are considered in the initial awarding
- When appropriated funds are insufficient to provide scholarships for all qualified applicants, available funds will be awarded to qualified students who submit complete timely applications based on the following priority order:
 - Scholarships will first be awarded to renewal applicants who continue to meet all of the program's eligibility requirements
 - If funds remain after all qualified renewal applicants have been awarded, then at least 35% of appropriated funds will be reserved for male qualified applicants, with priority given to qualified Black male applicants
 - If enough applications are not received on or before January 1 of each fiscal year to award 35% of available funds to male qualified minority applicants, then a portion of the reserved funds will be awarded to female qualified minority applicants
 - Based on appropriation, at least 10% of funds will be reserved for qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority given to those who are enrolled in an educator preparation program with a concentration in bilingual, bicultural education
- If funding is insufficient to award all qualified applicants within any of the priority categories above, then awards within that category will be prioritized as follows:
 - to students that demonstrate the most financial need
 - to students with the earliest date of received complete applications, and
 - to qualified applicants enrolled at or above the junior level

MTI Payment Request Processing

- Payment requests are completed online by the colleges and submitted to ISAC in GAP Access
 - Payment is requested per term
- After schools submit a payment request, a Payment Results Report is made available in GAP Access
 - Will include all students for whom payment was claimed
 - Can be viewed online, printed or saved and will remain available for the entire academic year
- The total amount of MTI assistance awarded to an eligible applicant in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available, cannot exceed the cost of attendance
 - An MTI recipient who is also eligible for a MAP grant may use the MAP award first for tuition and mandatory fees

MTI Teaching Requirements

- MTI recipients must teach on a full-time basis one year for each academic year for which an award was received
- The teaching obligation must be fulfilled at:
 - a nonprofit Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school, at which no less than 30% of the enrolled students are minority students as certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), or
 - if the scholarship was awarded to a qualified bilingual minority applicant, in a transitional bilingual education program or in a school in which at least 20 English learner students in the same language classification are enrolled
- The percentage of an Illinois school's enrolled students meeting minority status requirements can be found at ISBE's eReport Card Public Site
- Teaching must begin within one year following termination from the program of study funded by the scholarship and continue until the teaching obligation is fulfilled

School Requirements for MTI Program

- Each institution that participates in the MTI Scholarship Program must host an annual information session about the program for teacher candidates of color
 - The intent of the session is to create an awareness of the MTI program for students who may be interested in pursuing a teaching degree and who may be eligible for the program
 - The session should include information about the program's eligibility criteria, the application process, program benefits, and the teaching requirements associated with the program, and direct students to isac.org
- Each recipient of the MTI program who is enrolled at the institution is expected to meet with an academic advisor at least once per academic year
 - The purpose of the meeting is to provide guidance and support to the MTI recipient in an effort to facilitate on-time completion of the student's educator preparation program

2024-25 MTI Program News

- **Colleges are being asked to complete MTI certifications as soon as possible so that the first round of MTI awarding can take place**
- Continue certifying eligibility throughout the award year, to ensure that your students will be included in the awarding process.
- **All certification records available in the MTI 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.
- The online MTI application remains available
 - Priority consideration date was March 31, 2024
 - Certification records are added to the MTI system as long as applications continue to be received
- Reminder emails and follow-up calls will start this week to schools in an effort to get as many certifications completed so awarding and payment processing can begin

MTI Resources

Home › ISAC Gift Assistance Programs › Minority Teachers Of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

Program News

(last updated August 20, 2024)

[2024-25 Program Funding](#)

[2024-25 Certification](#)

[2024-25 Application](#)

[2023-24 Reconciliation – Due to ISAC Notifications](#)

[Enrollment Status Verification](#)

2024-25

Program Funding

The 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) appropriation for the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship is \$8,000,000.

Certification

An [August 5 e-Message](#) announces that colleges may certify eligibility for the 2024-25 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program via the [MTI system](#). The MTI system is available to enter certification data each Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. (CT).

A Certification record is created in the MTI system when an MTI application is complete. All Certifications available in the MTI system must be completed regardless of whether the school certifies a student as eligible or ineligible. The only way an applicant will receive a notification letter

Minority Teachers Of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

Program Overview

Eligibility

Applying

Certification

Award Determination

MTI Payment

Enrollment Status Verification

Program Requirements

Program Comparisons

MTI Electronic Processing

Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Program

GA Program

- Encourages academically talented Illinois students to pursue teaching careers, especially at high-need, hard-to-staff schools
- Scholarship provides assistance with tuition, fees, and room and board or a commuter allowance
- Recipients may Qualify for up to \$2,500 during their first or second year of being a Scholar, and up to \$5,000 during their third, fourth or fifth year
- Scholars may receive the scholarship for the equivalent of four academic years (eight semesters or 12 quarters)
- The total number of scholarships awarded each year is contingent upon the funds appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly
- Eligibility criteria, application and awarding is handled by the Golden Apple Foundation: goldenapple.org/scholars

GA Program Eligibility Criteria

- To qualify, students must:
 - Earn a bachelor's degree at one of the 53 Illinois universities that participate in the program and obtain Illinois teacher licensure
 - Agree to teach on a full-time basis, for a period of not less than five years at a non-profit Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, or an Illinois public elementary or secondary school
 - Begin teaching within two years of the completion of your degree or certificate program for which the assistance was awarded
- The Golden Apple Foundation monitors compliance with the teaching commitment requirements for each Scholar

GA Program Eligibility Criteria

- To qualify for the program, applicants must:
 - be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act
 - be a resident of Illinois (if dependent, both the student and parent/guardian must be residents of Illinois)
 - be a high school graduate or a recipient of a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate
 - not be in default on any student loan nor owe a refund or repayment on any state or federal grant
 - meet the satisfactory academic progress standards at the school
 - be enrolled at a four-year institution designated by the Foundation as a participating Illinois university on at least a half-time basis as a freshman through a senior
 - have earned a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale if enrolled at the sophomore, junior or senior level

GA Program Eligibility Criteria

- To qualify for the program, an applicant must:
 - have not received 8 semesters or 12 quarters of the Golden Apple Scholarship
 - have entered into a program agreement and promissory note with the Golden Apple Foundation and ISAC
 - be enrolled in a postsecondary course of study leading to an initial teacher licensure or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approval to teach including alternative teacher licensure
 - have participated in all required programs and adhered to the residential guidelines and standard of conduct as a designated Golden Apple Scholar of the Foundation
 - have not been awarded an Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) or the MTI Scholarship for the same academic period for which the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program is requested.

GA Program Application Process

- Students apply online directly to the Golden Apple Foundation at <https://www.goldenapple.org/scholars#apply>
 - Application collects references, transcripts, personal statements and information about extracurricular activities and honors/awards
 - Process includes Scholar interviews with the Foundation for qualified applicants
- Teachers, counselors, principals may also submit a student referral to the Foundation
 - The Foundation will contact the student to provide information on how to apply
- Students may apply as a:
 - High school senior
 - College freshmen or sophomore at partner universities in Illinois
 - Community college students in Illinois

GA Certification Process

- An Initial Certification record is created in the Golden Apple system when a list of applicants is provided to ISAC by the Golden Apple Foundation
- The Foundation will certify an applicant's eligibility each term
 - If the applicant meets all the eligibility criteria, the applicant is awarded at the time a record is certified
- Colleges can view the status of an applicant on the Student Eligibility List: View screen once that information is made available in the GA system
- Colleges are not responsible for certifying initial eligibility for GA recipients
- The role of the college starts with payment processing.

GA Determining Award Amounts

- When the Foundation certifies that an applicant is eligible to receive a scholarship, an award will display on the Student Eligibility List: View screen
- The amount of each award is determined by the number of years the applicant has been a Golden Apple Scholar (“Year in Program”)
- Award amounts are as follows:
 - The maximum annual award for those in their first or second year of being a Scholar is \$2,500.
 - Semester schools will receive \$1,250 per term.
 - Quarter schools will receive \$834 for the first quarter, \$833 for the second quarter, and \$833 for the third quarter per term.
 - The maximum annual award for those in their third, fourth or fifth year of being a Scholar is \$5,000.
 - Semester schools will receive \$2,500 per term.
 - Quarter schools will receive \$1,667 for the first quarter, \$1,667 for the second quarter, and \$1,666 for the third quarter per term.
- Communication to applicants regarding their award status is done by the Golden Apple Foundation.

GA Student Eligibility List: View Screen

GA 2024-2025: Student List Eligibility: View

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
--	-----	-------------	-----------	------------	-----	---------	-------------	------------------	--------------------	-------------	----------------	-----------------------------	-------------	---------------

GA Payment Request Processing

- Payment processing is done using the GA system in GAP Access portal.
- School staff must have the appropriate level of access to submit payment requests in GAP Access
- Colleges can request payment for individual students via the GA Student Detail: Payment screen or in batches for a group of students via the GA Payment Request Entry screen
- Submitting payment requests is a two-step process, which involves generating the request and then submitting the request
- By submitting a payment request to ISAC via the GA system, a college is certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria
- A Payment Result Summary and Invoice Detail Report can be viewed or printed by selecting the report tab in the GA system the day after a payment request has been processed

GA Payment Request Processing

- The “Annual Award Amount To Date” field is updated each term based on the information provided to ISAC by the GA Foundation

GA 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	Term Number	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount To Date	Term Award Amount	School Code
1			1	xxx-xx-			2500.00	2500.00	

Student Detail: Payment

Certification File Upload Payment Reports

Current SSN

Deferred Scholar
N

Annual Award Amount To Date
2500.00

Terms 1-Fall

School Code

Request

Academic Level

Enrollment Status

Ineligible Reason

Requested Amount

Award Amount

2500.00

The **Annual Award Amount To Date** is the amount that the Golden Apple Foundation has certified/awarded a student up to the current date.

The Foundation certifies/awards a student for **ONLY ONE TERM AT A TIME**.

For example: If we are currently in the Fall term, then the **Annual Award Amount To Date** is reflecting the Fall term amount only, not the entire award year.

If the same student is then certified/awarded for the Spring term, then the **Annual Award Amount To Date** will increase to reflect the two term amounts combined.

GA Teaching Requirements

- Scholars agree to teach for five years in an Illinois School of Need
- The five-year teaching commitment must start within two years after completion of the degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded
- If the student is unable or unwilling to fulfill the teaching commitment, the award converts to a loan
 - The recipient must repay the entire amount of the award prorated according to the fraction of the obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and any reasonable collection fees
 - Interest begins to accrue on the date the repayment obligation begins
- Repayment is to be completed within 10 years after the assistance converts to a loan

2024-25 Golden Apple Program News

- Fall payment processing is expected to begin soon
 - Watch the FAA Message Board and for an e-Message announcement once payment processing begins
- Please note that the Annual Award field in the GA system shows the Annual Award Amount To Date
 - The Golden Apple Foundation only certifies/awards a student for one term at a time
 - For example: in 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
- Be sure to watch for students who may have been awarded more than one ISAC teacher program and confirm which program the student wants to receive
 - Indicators are provided in the GAP Access system

GA Resources

Home › ISAC Gift Assistance Programs › Golden Apple Scholars Of Illinois Program ›

Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program

Program News

(last updated August 20, 2024)

[2024-25 Program Funding](#)

[2023-24 Reconciliation – Due to ISAC Notifications](#)

2024-25

Program Funding

The 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) appropriation for the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program is \$10,750,000.

2023-24

Reconciliation – Due to ISAC Notifications

Notifications detailing the outstanding amount that must be refunded to ISAC for 2023-24 Golden Apple awards were e-mailed to financial aid directors in early August. Review the information in the notification and return the appropriate amount – along with a completed [Gift Assistance Programs Refund Check Form](#) – no later than September 30, 2024.

Details about [returning funds to ISAC](#) and the [payment offset and reconciliation](#) process are provided in the [Refunds and Unpaid Claims](#) section of the [Processes](#) area.

Golden Apple Scholars Of Illinois Program

[Program Overview](#)

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

[Application, Certification And Award Determination](#)

[Payment](#)

[Program Comparisons](#)

[GA Electronic Processing](#)

Students Eligible for Multiple ISAC Teacher Programs

- If a student is eligible for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple in the same award year, the student must choose which program they would like to use
 - A student cannot receive the benefits of two of these programs in the same award year
 - ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept
 - These letters include a deadline date to return the form
- The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship can be used with any of these programs in the same award year
- If a student decides to change which program benefit he/she wants to receive:
 - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made
 - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for MTI before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple
- Program teaching obligations
 - SETTW requires a two-year teaching commitment
 - Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment
 - MTI has a one-year teaching commitment for each year that the scholarship is received
 - These programs will convert to a loan that the student must repay if the teaching commitment is not met.

Ways to View Students Awarded GA, SETTW & MTI

Administration School Programs

MTI Student List Eligibility: View

Select School and School Code


Home Student Certification Payment Reports File Extrac

List Filter Sort Columns

Entries displayed: 100

#	Sch	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	DOB
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

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

Administration School Programs

MTI Student Detail: Eligibility

Home Student Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Eligibility Application Update Student Update School Update Payment

Person Details

Current SSN

Go

Address

Date of Birth

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code		
Enrolled	Y	Y
DFG	38204	38204
Wage or Distribution	N	N
Academic Level	Technician	Technician
Transfer	N	N
Indigible Payment		
Award Amount	0.00	0.00
Term Payment Amount	0.00	0.00
Term Units	0	0
Residual Amount	0	0

Award Date: 01/19/2023

Annual Award Amount: 0.00

Award Defines Date: 02/01/2023

Eligibility

Application Received Date: 03/07/2022

Application Complete Date: 03/07/2022

Default: N

Male: No

Applicant Category	Timely Nair	Ethnicity	Asian American
Application Withdrawn Date	---	Residence	Y
Certification Date	07/19/2022	Citizenship	U.S. Citizen
Last Update	02/14/2023	Alias ID	---
Total Units	0	Awarded GA	Y
Bilingual Application	---	Awarded SETTW	---
Bilingual educator preparation program	---		

MTI Student Eligibility List: Sort

Home **Student** Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Filter **Sort** Columns

Unselected

Applicant Category

Application Complete

Award Amount

Award Date

Awarded GA

Awarded SETTW

Certified Date

DOB

Default

Male

Selected

Last Name

First Name

Selected checkboxes will be sorted descending. Unchecked checkboxes will be sorted ascending.

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

- Scroll all the way over using the scroll bar at bottom of screen

Using the "Sort" tab, you can create a list of students who have been awarded MTI, sorted by Award Date

You can also create a list of students who have been awarded GA or SETTW

After selecting your Sort options, click on the "List" tab to view the sorted list of students

Administration School Programs

MTI Student List Eligibility: View

Select School and School Code

Home **Student** Certification Payment Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

Filter **Sort** Columns

Entries displayed: 100

DOB	Male	Default	Units	School Code	Application Complete	Applicant Category	Certified Eligible	Certified Date	Academic Level	Award Amount	Award Date	Awarded GA	Awarded SETTW	Bilingual Certification	EFC
	Yes	N	0			Incomplete						Y			
	Yes	N	0		05/17/2022	Untimely New	Y	07/19/2022	Freshman	0	09/28/2022				0
	No	N	0		05/17/2022	Untimely New	Y	07/19/2022	Junior	0	01/19/2023				0
	No	N	0		03/07/2022	Timely New	Y	07/19/2022	Freshman	0	01/19/2023	Y			39224
	No	N	0		05/19/2022	Ineligible						Y			
	No	N	0			Incomplete						Y			

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

Dual-Awarding Students with MTI & Golden Apple

MTI Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports File Extraction Enrollment Status Verification

List Eligibility **Payment**

Current SSN **Go**

Annual Award Amount 7500.00

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

GA Student Detail: Payment

Home Student Certification File Upload **Payment** Reports

List Eligibility **Payment**

Annual Award Amount 0.00

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

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

Upcoming Webinars on ECACE

- **Wednesday, September 11, 2 p.m. -- *A Review of the ECACE Scholarship Program for FAAs and Other Financial Aid Options for Early Childhood Education Students***
This webinar is intended for financial aid administrators and will begin with a review of the ECACE Scholarship Program and the changes that have been implemented by ISAC for the 2024-25 award year as it transitions to a state-funded program. In addition, representatives from ISAC, INCCRRA and CELWS will share information about other financial aid options that may be available to assist students who may not qualify for or receive the ECACE Scholarship.
- **Wednesday, September 18, 2 p.m. & Wednesday, September 25, 10 a.m. -- *A Review of the ECACE Scholarship Program and Other Financial Aid Options for Early Childhood Education Students***
This webinar is intended for a broader, more general audience and is for anyone who works with or support students who are pursuing a degree or credentials in early childhood education, which may include faculty, financial aid staff, counselors, institutional staff, employers, and navigators. It will begin with ISAC providing an overview of the ECACE Scholarship and changes made to the program for the 2024-25 award year as it transitions to a state-funded program, followed by a review of other state and federal financial aid options for students. Representatives from ISAC, INCCRRA and CELWS will be on hand to share information and answer questions about their programs.
- You may join by using this link <https://illinois.webex.com/meet/kimberly.eck> or visit ISAC's [Partner Training page](#) in the [E-Library](#) on the day of the webinar for more information.

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

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

ISAC's Partner Services Department

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

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

Partner Services Staff

Stephanie Claudio, Stephanie.Claudio@illinois.gov

Kim Eck, Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov

Daniela Rios, Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov

Sherry Schonauer, Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov

Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!