




Comparison of Teacher Education Programs

	<i>Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program (ISAC program) </i>	<i>Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program (ISAC program) </i>	<i>Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program (ISAC program)</i>	<i>Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program (ISAC/Golden Apple program)</i>	<i>TEACH Grant Program (Federal program)</i>
Priority Application Deadline Date and Eligible Colleges	March 31 prior to start of the academic year (must reapply each year) at an ISAC-approved Illinois public or private college	March 1 prior to start of the academic year (must apply only once) at an ISAC-approved Illinois public four-year college offering a concentration in special education	Priority date set and announced each year when application is made available. Public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institutions	Applications must be received by the deadline date, prior to the student's high school graduation or during their freshman or sophomore year in college - Illinois public and private colleges	No deadline date – eligibility determined by FAFSA completion for attendance at any college participating in the TEACH Grant Program
Enrollment Requirements	At least half time as an undergraduate or graduate student	Register in a special education program as an undergraduate or graduate student within 10 days of the beginning of the term following receipt of the waiver	Enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time basis (at least 3 credit hours)	Full time as an undergraduate	No minimum enrollment requirement as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate student
Award Amount (cannot exceed the cost of attendance)	Up to \$7,500 per year for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters to cover tuition, fees, room and board	Exemption from paying tuition and mandatory fees for up to 4 calendar years at one of the public four-year colleges in Illinois that offer a concentration in special education	Up to \$7,500 toward the total cost of attendance for an academic year	Tuition assistance up to \$23,000	Up to \$4,000 per year for undergraduate and/or post-baccalaureate study
Awarding Criteria	Funds awarded to timely renewal applicants first, and then in date received order until funds are exhausted, with a priority given to timely applicants who demonstrate financial need and those in junior status and above; at least 35% of allocated funds reserved for male students (on January 1 of each year reserved funds may be awarded to female applicants), and at least 30% of allocated funds reserved for qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority given to those enrolled in an educator preparation program with a concentration in bilingual, bicultural education	210 awards given each year to students enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students seeking initial certification in any area of special education; 40 awards given each year to certified teachers (not already certified in special education).	Funds awarded to timely applicants first, and then in date received order until funds are exhausted, with awarding prioritized based on applicants' SAI, from lowest to highest	Golden Apple Foundation selects high school and college students each year, according to their guidelines	None
Program of Study	Seeking certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary or secondary school level or pursuing additional course work needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification. If already licensed to teach, be seeking additional teaching endorsement or a master's degree, or have received a College and Career Pathway Endorsement and be seeking teacher licensure.	Seeking initial teacher certification in a special education discipline	Seeking an undergraduate degree or certificate in the field of early childhood education. As of 2024-25, students who already have bachelor's degrees in early childhood education are not eligible.	Seeking initial certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary, middle or secondary level or pursuing additional course work needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification	Enrolled in coursework necessary to begin career in teaching
Teaching Commitment	Teach full time (one year for each year in which scholarship assistance was received) in a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school with at least 30% minority enrollment; begin teaching within one year following termination of the academic program of study funded by the scholarship, and teach full time on a continuous basis until the obligation is fulfilled	Begin teaching on a full-time basis, in the field of special education, within one year following graduation from or termination of enrollment in a teacher education program, at a recognized nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, elementary, or secondary school in Illinois, and continue teaching for at least two of the five years immediately following	Students must intend to work in the early childhood field, in a congregate care setting, with young children birth to five	Begin teaching within two years following completion of degree or certificate program in a nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, or a public elementary or secondary school of need in Illinois, as defined by the Golden Apple Foundation, and continue teaching for at least five years	Teach full time in a high-need field** in a public or private elementary or secondary school or educational service agency that serves low-income students for at least four years within eight calendar years after completing program of study for which grant was received
Repayment (if teaching commitment not fulfilled)	Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date	Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date	None	Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date	Conversion to Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan with interest rate equal to current Direct loan rate, accrues from disbursement date

* ISBE - Illinois State Board of Education
 ** High-need fields are identified on the TEACH Grant Program page at studentaid.ed.gov
 Students cannot receive an award from more than one ISAC teacher program during the same term