

# 2026

# ILLINOIS

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## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 1) Heading of the Part: State Scholar Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2760
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2760.10	Amendment
2760.15	New Section
2760.20	Amendment
2760.30	Amendment
2760.40	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 25 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/25] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to add definitions of Approved high school and Third Semester Prior to Graduation, correct the class rank percentile formula, and also to revise and update language.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

Sarah Dulay

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2760  
STATE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Section	
2760.10	Summary and Purpose
<a href="#">2760.15</a>	<a href="#">Definitions</a>
2760.20	State Scholar Eligibility
2760.30	Program Procedures
2760.40	Institutional Procedures

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 25 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/25 and 20(f)].

SOURCE: Adopted at 3 Ill. Reg. 4, p. 38, effective January 26, 1979; amended at 4 Ill. Reg. 16, p. 118, effective April 7, 1980; rules repealed, new rules adopted at 5 Ill. Reg. 7251, effective June 26, 1981; amended at 6 Ill. Reg. 8413, effective June 30, 1982; codified at 7 Ill. Reg. 10878; amended at 9 Ill. Reg. 20877, effective January 1, 1986; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 3242, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 14137, effective August 10, 1987; amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 8654, effective July 1, 1989; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1760 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2760 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17868; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 10589, effective July 1, 1990; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11321, effective July 1, 1992; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10624, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10346, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8395, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9251, effective July 1, 1996; Old Part repealed and New Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11222, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11170, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9201, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9928, effective July 1, 2005; amended at 31 Ill. Reg. 9516, effective July 1, 2007; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10325, effective July 1, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 9776, effective July 1, 2009; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8447, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2760.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) The State Scholar Program ~~publicly and personally~~ identifies [and recognizes](#) graduating high school seniors who possess superior academic potential [and show](#)

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strong promise for success in pursuing higher education. Each student designated as a State Scholar receives an honorary Certificate of Achievement and may receive statewide recognition in the news media. ~~The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) provides the names of State Scholars to Illinois colleges and universities which actively seek State Scholars for admission.~~

- b) This Part establishes rules which govern the State Scholar Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in ~~General Provisions~~, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700, General Provisions.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2760.15 Definitions**

"Approved High School" – means a secondary school recognized by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) for participation in the State Scholar Program. Students who are not enrolled in an Illinois public school or recognized or registered Illinois non-public school are not considered to attend an approved high school. A student whose primary mode of instruction is a home school program is not considered to be enrolled in an approved high school, even if the student takes one or more courses at a recognized high school.

"Third Semester Prior to Graduation" – means the sixth semester at the end of a student's junior year.

(Source: Added at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2760.20 State Scholar Eligibility**

- a) To be considered for the State Scholar Program, ISAC will evaluate the superior academic potential of a high school student as measured by high school records and standardized test scores. An eligible student shall:
- ~~1)~~ demonstrate superior academic potential as measured by test scores and high school records;
  - ~~12)~~ be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700);

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- ~~23)~~ be a resident of Illinois;
  - 3) attend an approved high school;
  - 4) Complete the ACT or SAT between August 1 and June 30 of the student's junior year of high school; and
  - ~~54)~~ rank in the top one-half ~~upper half~~ of their ~~his/her~~ high school class at the end of the third semester prior to high school graduation. ~~from high school (normally the sixth semester); and~~
  - ~~5)~~ ~~attend an approved high school.~~
- b) Students do not need to complete an application to be considered for the State Scholar Program, but they must ~~To be considered for the State Scholar Program, a student must~~ take the ACT or the College Board's SAT Reasoning Test. ~~during the third or fourth semester prior to graduation from high school (e.g., for a student attending high school for the traditional eight semesters, the exam must be taken during the fifth or sixth semester).~~
- 1) A student may take one or a combination of these examinations during the designated period. A student may also take the same standardized test more than once.
  - 2) Students who, for any reason, are unable to take a test on a regular testing date should make special arrangements to be tested in accordance with the procedures of the testing service. Any special arrangements must take into account the test score submission deadline in subsection (a)(4).
  - 32) All scores from such tests taken during the designated period must be submitted to ISAC. ISAC will accept supplementary score reports of tests taken during the designated period upon the student's authorization to the test service. Such authorization by the student must be received by ISAC prior to selection processing and no later than August 1 preceding the student's senior year.
  - ~~43)~~ If a student submits scores from multiple examinations taken during the designated period, ISAC will use the highest score.

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- 54) When a student submits scores to ISAC, the student must report their~~his/her~~ academic level at the time the test was taken.
- e) ~~ISAC will accept supplementary score reports of tests taken during the designated period upon the student's authorization to the test service. Such authorization by the student must be received by ISAC before August 1.~~
- d) ~~Students who, for any reason, are unable to take a test on a regular testing date should make special arrangements to be tested in accordance with the procedures of the testing service. Any special arrangements must take into account the test score submission deadline in subsections (b) and (c).~~

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2760.30 Program Procedures**

- a) ISAC will provide to all approved high school partners a standardized data collection template that includes all the necessary data elements high schools must provide to ISAC to consider~~In order for its students to be considered for the State Scholar Program. These elements include the following:; a high school is to submit, in a format approved by ISAC, class ranks as of the third semester prior to graduation for students who desire to be considered for the Program. For high schools that cannot provide class ranks, non-weighted grade point averages as of the third semester prior to graduation must be provided.~~
- 1) Student directory data, which includes the student's name, home address, email address and date of birth;
  - 2) Unweighted grade point average (GPA) (required) and weighted GPA (optional, if available) following the third semester prior to graduation;
  - 3) Class ranks as of the third semester prior to graduation (optional, if available); and
  - 4) Disqualification codes for students that do not meet eligibility criteria for the State Scholar Program.
- b) Following the completion of the third semester prior to graduation but no later than July 1, high schools must submit all the required data to ISAC for the entire

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class of juniors that have attended the high school that academic year. High schools must not exclude any juniors from data sharing with ISAC.

c) Following the receipt of completed and validated data files from high schools, ISAC will begin processing the information to determine student eligibility.

1) Class ranks are calculated so that the class rank for the lowest ~~grade point average (GPA)~~ equals the total number of students being ranked. An equivalent term rank will be calculated for students graduating on a non-traditional schedule (see Section 2760.20(b)(2)).

Example: Class Rank	GPA
1	99.3
2	98.9
2	98.9
4	98.1
5	97.9
5	97.9
7	97.4

~~2) The equivalent term rank shall be provided for students planning to graduate in other than the traditional four years (see Section 2760.20(b)).~~

2b) Test scores submitted in accordance with this Part shall be converted to an Illinois Standard Test Score as follows:

A1) The ACT composite score shall be the Illinois Standard Test Score.

B2) SAT critical reading and math scores shall be added, and then converted to the Illinois Standard Test Score using the official ACT-SAT Concordance (SAT Critical Reading + Math (Score Range)) table available at ACT's website.

3e) High school class ranks submitted in accordance with this Part shall be converted to an Illinois Standard Rank Score as follows:

A1) First, determine the percentile of the class rank for each student in accordance with the following formula:

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$$\text{Percentile} = \left( \frac{\text{Size of Class} - (\text{Rank in Class} - 0.5)}{\text{Size in Class}} \right) \times 100$$

~~Percentile = [Size of Class MINUS (Rank in Class minus .5)] divided by Size of Class~~

B2) Then, use the table below to convert a percentile class rank to the Illinois Standard Rank Score.

Percentile	Illinois Standard Rank Score
99.75 - 99.99	30
99.54 - 99.74	29
99.19 - 99.53	28
98.62 - 99.18	27
97.73 - 98.61	26
96.42 - 97.72	25
94.53 - 96.41	24
91.93 - 94.52	23
88.50 - 91.92	22
84.14 - 88.49	21
78.82 - 84.13	20
72.58 - 78.81	19
65.55 - 72.57	18
57.94 - 65.54	17
50.00 - 57.93	16

4d) The formula used to determine State Scholar Program eligibility results in an~~A~~ Illinois Weighted Selection Score for each student. This score shall be computed by adding the Illinois Standard Test Score to the Illinois Standard Rank Score.

5) Notwithstanding the previous provisions in this Section, any student nominated by their school shall be designated a State Scholar if that student achieves a score at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the ACT, or the equivalent on a comparable examination, regardless of that student's class rank.

de) In any academic year, the number of State Scholars is approximately equal to ten percent of the estimated total number of Illinois high school graduates. ISAC

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annually establishes a minimum Weighted Selection Score to yield this result.

- f) ~~Notwithstanding the previous provisions in this Section, any student nominated by his or her school shall be designated a State Scholar if that student achieves a score at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the ACT, or the equivalent on a comparable examination, regardless of that student's class rank.~~
- eg) ISAC conducts multiple selection rounds for the State Scholar Program. A Certificate of Achievement and congratulatory letter are issued for each designated State Scholar after all selection rounds have concluded. ~~Subject to appropriation, each State Scholar who enrolls or is enrolled at least half-time in his or her first year at an Illinois institution of higher learning shall also receive a one-time grant of \$1,000 to be applied to tuition and mandatory fees. A student who has been awarded a Merit Recognition Scholarship may not be awarded a grant under this Part.~~
- fh) A listing of State Scholars shall be available upon request to ~~colleges,~~ members of the General Assembly and to the media.
- gi) High school officials and students have the right to appeal a State Scholar Program eligibility determination. ~~or student candidates~~
- 1) The high school official or student shall have a period of 60 days following the announcement of the State Scholars to appeal a student's status. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.70, Appeal Procedures.)
- A) High schools may appeal individual student or class eligibility determinations. Due dates, processes, required information and standardized data collection templates are available on the ISAC website.
- Bj) Students may appeal their own eligibility determination by providing additional information to ISAC. If an appeal concerning an applicant's eligibility is received, ISAC shall request the high school verify the reported data. If the conflict remains, ISAC shall conduct an audit of the high school's records in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.60.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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**Section 2760.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) Subject to appropriation, each State Scholar who enrolls or is enrolled at least half-time in their first year at an Illinois institution of higher learning shall also receive a one-time grant of \$1,000 to be applied to tuition and mandatory fees.
- b) Funds shall be remitted to institutions on behalf of recipients. If funds are insufficient to provide grants to all qualified students, ISAC shall allocate the appropriation according to proration.
- ~~cb)~~ Funds~~Scholarship funds~~ may be used to finance tuition and mandatory fee expenses for any term, including a summer term.
- ~~de)~~ The institution submits a request for payment to ISAC. The request must be received within one year after and including the date of the student's high school graduation.
- ~~ed)~~ Upon receipt of scholarship funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status. If the recipient is enrolled at least half time in their~~his or her~~ first year of college, the institution may credit the funds to the recipient's account.
- ~~fe)~~ To provide sufficient time for processing and vouchering through the State Comptroller's Office in Springfield, all payment requests, except for summer term, must be received by ISAC no later than July 1. Summer term payment requests must be received no later than July 31.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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- 1) Heading of the Part: Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2763
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2763.10	Amendment
2763.15	New Section
2763.20	Amendment
2763.30	Amendment
2763.40	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 50 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/50] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to reflect the changes for the program which were effective with the passage of P.A. 104-437, effective November 21, 2025. Also to add definitions for Approved K-12 public school district, Qualified student, and Qualified bilingual student.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

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TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
 SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
 CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## PART 2763

~~MINORITY~~ TEACHERS OF ILLINOIS (TI)(MTI) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Section

2763.10	Summary and Purpose
<u>2763.15</u>	<u>Definitions</u>
2763.20	Applicant Eligibility
2763.30	Program Procedures
2763.40	Institutional Procedures

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 50 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/50 and 20(f)].

SOURCE: Emergency rules adopted at 15 Ill. Reg. 15621, effective October 11, 1991, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on March 9, 1992; adopted at 16 Ill. Reg. 7048, effective April 21, 1992; emergency amendments adopted at 16 Ill. Reg. 16326, effective September 28, 1992, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on February 25, 1993; emergency amendment at 17 Ill. Reg. 175, effective January 1, 1993, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on May 30, 1993; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10585, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10325, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8361, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9221, effective July 1, 1996; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9221, effective July 1, 1996; old Part repealed, new Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11174, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11141, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9181, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10385, effective July 1, 2003; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 9155, effective July 1, 2004; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9934, effective July 1, 2005; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11678, effective July 1, 2006; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 9544, effective July 1, 2013; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8454, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. 13641, effective July 1, 2018; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 15044, effective January 1, 2020; amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 8480, effective July 1, 2021; amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 15332, effective January 1, 2022; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 9463, effective July 1, 2023; amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 4470, effective March 8, 2024; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2763.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) The ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois (TI)(MTI) Scholarship Program encourages

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academically talented ~~minority~~ students to pursue teaching careers ~~in as teachers at nonprofit Illinois~~ preschool, elementary and secondary schools located in Illinois public school districts experiencing teacher vacancy needs. ~~The program also aims to provide minority children with access to a greater number of positive minority role models.~~

- b) This Part establishes the rules which govern the TIMTI Scholarship Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in ~~General Provisions~~, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700, General Provisions.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2763.15 Definitions**

"Approved K-12 Public School District" - means a public school district in Illinois that has been identified by ISAC as having the following over the most recent 3 school years:

an average of at least 70% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch and

either an average teacher vacancy rate that exceeds the state vacancy rate or a number of teacher vacancies that exceeds the state vacancy number.

"Qualified Student" - means a student who meets the eligibility criteria outlined in 110 ILCS 947/50.

"Qualified Bilingual Student" - means a student who, in addition to meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in 110 ILCS 947/50, also demonstrates proficiency in a language other than English by receiving a State Seal of Biliteracy or receiving a passing score on an educator license target language proficiency test.

(Source: Added at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2763.20 Applicant Eligibility**

- a) A qualified applicant shall:
- 1) be a qualified ~~minority~~ student or a qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicant;

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- 2) be a resident of Illinois;
- 3) be a citizen or eligible noncitizen (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700)~~of the United States~~;
- 4) be a high school graduate or a State of Illinois High School Diploma recipient;
- 5) have been enrolled in a public school district in this State, at any point in kindergarten through grade 12 that meets the following criteria:
  - A) had an average of least 70% of students who were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch during the most recent 3 school years for which data is available from the State Board of Education; and
  - B) had either:
    - i) a 3-year average teacher vacancy rate at or above the 3-year statewide average teacher vacancy rate, excluding public school districts that had zero vacancies, in any school year among the most recent 3 school years for which data is available from the State Board of Education; or
    - ii) a number of teacher vacancies in the district at or above the statewide average number of teacher vacancies, excluding public school districts that had zero vacancies, in any school year among the most recent 3 school years for which data is available from the State Board of Education [110 ILCS 947/50];
- ~~6~~5) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis at an institution of higher learning and~~7~~
  - A) 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

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State Board of Education, including alternative teacher licensure;  
or

B) *if the applicant is 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

C) *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 to be a preschool, elementary or secondary school teacher. [110 ILCS 947/~~50506~~].*

~~76~~) if enrolled at the sophomore, junior, senior or graduate level, have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and

~~87~~) be maintaining satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution.

- b) In any academic year in which the qualified applicant accepts or receives financial assistance through the ~~Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2762)~~, Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2764), the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2765), or the Teach Illinois Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2768), the qualified applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance under this Part.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2763.30 Program Procedures**

- a) An application for a TI Scholarship~~an MTI scholarship~~ must be submitted annually and an applicant must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid® (FAFSA®) or ISAC's Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application). An ISAC application for the TI~~MTI~~ Scholarship Program and a FAFSA or Alternative Application must be completed and

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received by March 31<sup>st</sup> immediately preceding the regular school year for which the scholarship is being requested, in order to receive priority consideration for an award.

- 1) The ~~TIAn~~ application is available on ISAC's website. A list of the approved K-12 public school districts, needed for the application, will be updated annually from data furnished from the Illinois State Board of Education and posted on the ISAC website.
  - 2) If the ~~TIMTI~~ application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant. The applicant will then have an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the application will only be considered for processing as of the date when the application is complete and received by ISAC.
- b) When an appropriation for the ~~TIMTI~~ Scholarship Program for a given fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all qualified students, ISAC will allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal year to qualified students who submit a complete timely application, as specified in subsection (a) based on the following order of priority:
- 1) Funds will first be awarded to students who received the ~~TI Scholarship~~~~MTI scholarship~~ in the prior academic year and who remain eligible for the ~~TI Scholarship~~~~MTI scholarship~~. A student who received a scholarship in a previous academic year may not be disqualified from receiving a subsequent award if their public K-12 district is no longer on the list of approved public K-12 districts and may be considered a renewal if the student maintains all other conditions of eligibility. [110 ILCS 947/50]
  - 2) ~~Funds will next be awarded to qualified bilingual students based on appropriation levels: If funds remain after the awarding of scholarships under subsection (b)(1), at least 35 percent of the funds appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in each fiscal year shall be reserved for male qualified applicants. If ISAC does not receive enough applications from qualified male minorities on or before January 1 of each fiscal year to award 35% of the funds appropriated for these scholarships to qualified male minority applicants, then ISAC may award a portion of the reserved funds to qualified female minority applicants.~~

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- A3) *When at least \$2,850,000, but less than \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for TI Scholarships~~MTI scholarships~~, then to the extent allowed by the amount of funding that remains, at least 10% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual~~minority~~ applicants, with priority being given to qualified bilingual~~minority~~ applicants who are enrolled in an educator preparation program with a concentration in bilingual, bicultural education.*
- B4) *When at least \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for TI Scholarships~~MTI scholarships~~, then to the extent allowed by the amount of funding that remains, at least 30% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual~~minority~~ applicants, with priority being given to qualified bilingual~~minority~~ applicants who are enrolled in an educator preparation program with a concentration in bilingual, bicultural education. ~~[110 ILCS 947/50]~~*
- C) *For a fiscal year to which this subsection applies, if, on or after January 1 of that fiscal year, appropriated funds remain after awarding reserved funds then the Commission may, at its discretion, award a portion of the reserved funds to other qualified students. [110 ILCS 947/50]*
- 35) To the extent allowed by the amount of funding that remains after awarding to those applicants in the priority categories in subsections (b)(1) and (2) through (4), ISAC may award the remaining funds to other qualified applicants in the following order:-
- A) to students that demonstrate the most financial need;
- B) to students with the earliest date of received completed applications; and
- C) to students enrolled at or above the junior level.
- e) ~~When an appropriation for the MTI scholarship in any given fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all qualified applicants within any of the~~

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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~~categories in subsection (b), ISAC shall prioritize awards within that category in the following order:~~

- ~~1) to students that demonstrate the most financial need;~~
- ~~2) to students with the earliest date of received completed applications; and~~
- ~~3) to qualified applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.~~

- cd) No recipient may receive more than 8 semesters/12 quarters of scholarship assistance under this program.
- de) Scholarship funds are applicable towards up to two semesters/three quarters of study within a regular school year.
- ef) Qualified applicants may be required to furnish the postsecondary institution at which they are enrolled with a copy of their high school transcripts, any other documentation verifying high school graduation, or a copy of their State of Illinois High School Diploma.
- fg) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance under this Part, the qualified applicant must sign and submit a Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note ~~that is submitted~~ to ISAC. The Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note shall include the following requirements to commence within the one-year period following the termination of the program for which the recipient was awarded ~~stipulations~~:
- 1) the recipient pledges to fulfill a teaching service obligation ~~teach~~, on a full-time equivalent basis, offer ~~one~~ service year for each year or partial year of scholarship aid received, ~~or for any portion of a year for which aid was received~~, under this Part;
  - 2) the recipient ~~shall begin teaching within one year following the completion of the program for which the recipient received assistance under this Part, and~~ shall complete the required teaching service ~~teach~~ on a continuous basis until the service obligation is satisfied ~~for the required period of time~~;
  - 3) the teaching service obligation must be fulfilled in a location that meets the following criteria: ~~requirement will be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois~~

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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~~public, private or parochial preschool, elementary school or secondary school at which no less than 30 percent of the enrolled students are minority students, as certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).~~

- A) *a public school district in this State that had a 3-year average teacher vacancy rate at or above the 3-year statewide average teacher vacancy rate, excluding public school districts that had zero vacancies, in any school year among the most recent 3 school years for which data is available from the State Board of Education; or*
- B) *a public school district in this State in which the number of teacher vacancies in the district was at or above the statewide average number of teacher vacancies, excluding public school districts that had zero vacancies, in any school year among the most recent 3 school years for which data is available from the State Board of Education; or*
- C) ~~if~~ *if* a recipient received ~~a TI Scholarship~~ *an MTI scholarship* as a qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicant, the recipient may instead fulfill the teaching obligation in a transitional bilingual education program (as defined by Article 14 C of the School Code) or in a school in which at least 20 English learner students in the same language classification are enrolled;
- ~~4)~~ *if the teaching requirement is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan and the recipient must repay the entire amount of the scholarships prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of interest equal to five percent and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees;*
- ~~45)~~ the recipient agrees to provide ISAC with evidence of compliance with program requirements (e.g., responses to annual follow-up questionnaires, etc.); and
- ~~56)~~ the recipient promises to use the proceeds of the scholarship for educational expenses.

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- ~~gh~~) A recipient of a scholarship awarded under this Part shall not be in violation of the Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note~~agreement~~ entered into pursuant to subsection ~~(fg)~~ under the following conditions:
- 1) Periods~~during periods~~ in which the recipient:
    - ~~A1~~) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces;
    - ~~B2~~) is enrolled on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning;
    - ~~C3~~) is temporarily totally disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician;
    - ~~D4~~) is actively seeking but unable to find full-time employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection ~~(fg)~~(3) for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact;
    - ~~E5~~) is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to obtain licensure as a teacher in Illinois; or
    - ~~F6~~) is fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other programs administered by ISAC if the recipient cannot concurrently fulfill them in a period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.
  - 2) If prior to the 2025-2026 academic year, an individual received a scholarship under the former Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program and is fulfilling employment under the terms of that Teaching Agreement/Promissory note, the recipient may complete their entire teaching obligation at a school meeting the criteria described in that document and ISAC shall consider such employment to satisfy the terms of that recipient's agreement. [110 ILCS 947/50]

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- h) If the recipient does not complete the required teaching service obligation, all scholarship funds received shall convert to a loan and shall be repaid by the recipient under the conditions specified in this subsection:
- 1) The loan amount will be prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of interest equal to five percent and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees;
  - 2) A recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest of the following dates:
    - A) the first day of the first calendar month after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study leading to licensure as a teacher at the preschool, elementary or secondary level, but not before 6 months have elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment in such a course of study;
    - B) the date the recipient informs ISAC that the recipient does not plan to fulfill the teaching obligation; or
    - C) the day after the latest date upon which the recipient must have begun teaching after completing the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was awarded.
  - 3) The repayment period shall be completed within 10 years after the scholarship converts to a loan.
  - 4) If a recipient who enters into repayment under subsection (m) of the Act subsequently, within 5 years of entering repayment, begins to teach at a school meeting the description under subsection(f)(3), the amount owed by the recipient may be reduced in proportion to the amount of the teaching obligation completed. [110 ILCS 947/50]
- i) The 10-year loan repayment~~If a recipient is required to repay any portion of the scholarship, the repayment period shall be completed within 10 years after the scholarship converts to a loan. This 10 year period may be extended, and the recipient will not be required to make payments nor shall interest accrue on the loan,~~ if the recipient:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces;
  - 2) is temporarily disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician;
  - 3) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment, for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact;
  - 4) withdraws from a ~~program of teacher education~~ ~~course of study~~ leading to licensure as a teacher but is enrolled full-time in another academic discipline; or
  - 5) is pursuing a graduate course of study and is enrolled on a full-time basis for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years.
- j) ~~During the time a recipient qualifies for any of the extensions listed in subsection (i), the recipient shall not be required to make payments and interest shall not accrue.~~
- k) ~~A recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest of the following dates:~~
- 1) ~~the first day of the first calendar month after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study leading to licensure as a teacher at the preschool, elementary or secondary level, but not before six months have elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment in such a course of study;~~
  - 2) ~~the date the recipient informs ISAC that the recipient does not plan to fulfill the teaching obligation; or~~
  - 3) ~~the day after the latest date upon which the recipient must have begun teaching after completing the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was awarded.~~
- l) ~~If a recipient who enters into repayment under subsection (g) subsequently, within 5 years of entering repayment, begins to teach at a school meeting the description under subsection (g)(3), the amount owed by the recipient may be reduced in~~

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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~~proportion to the amount of the teaching obligation completed. [110 ILCS 947/50]~~

- ~~j~~m) A recipient shall not be required to repay the amount of the scholarships received under the following conditions:
- 1) ~~if~~ the recipient becomes permanently totally disabled as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician (see, e.g., 34 CFR 682.402(c)); ~~or~~
  - 2) ~~if~~ the recipient's representative provides ISAC with a death certificate or other evidence that the recipient has died; ~~or~~
  - 3) the recipient received a Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship during the 2024-2025 academic year and meets the following conditions:
    - A) would have remained eligible for the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship; and
    - B) does not meet the definition of a qualified student under the Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program; and
    - C) does not complete the teacher education program in which they were enrolled when receiving the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship.
- n) ~~If the MTI Program does not expend at least 90% of the appropriated amount in a given fiscal year for three consecutive years and ISAC does not receive enough applications by January 1 each year from the groups identified for reserved funds, then up to 3% of appropriated funds for the next three fiscal years shall be allocated to increase awareness of the program and for the recruitment of Black males. ISAC will make a recommendation to the General Assembly by January 1 of the following fiscal year regarding whether the amount allocated to increasing awareness and recruitment should continue beyond the three year period. [110 ILCS 947/50]~~

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2763.40 Institutional Procedures**

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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- a) The institution shall submit eligibility information for qualified applicants in sufficient time for ISAC to make award announcements.
- b) ~~TIMTI~~ awards are paid directly to the approved institution of record that certifies to ISAC that the applicant is an eligible recipient.
  - 1) ISAC will annually establish priority claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform schools of the required priority dates.
  - 2) Late payment requests will result in delayed processing of payments. Payment requests are processed in the sequence of receipt by ISAC and as funds are available.
  - 3) Institutions may submit their payment requests beginning 10 days prior to the start of classes for the term for which payment is being requested.
- c) *ISAC shall disburse scholarship funds in two or three installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the scholarship, except that multiple disbursements shall not be required in cases where the applicant's eligibility is not determined until the final term of the regular school year for which the scholarship is being awarded or when a student is attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed the student's cost of attendance. [110 ILCS 947/50]*~~ISAC shall disburse scholarship funds in two or three installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the scholarship, except that multiple disbursements shall not be required in cases where the applicant's eligibility is not determined until the final term of the regular school year for which the scholarship is being awarded or when a student is attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed the student's cost of attendance.~~
- d) Funds shall be remitted by ISAC to institutions on behalf of the recipients.
- e) Upon receipt of scholarship funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the institution may credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient.
- f) Upon receipt of the scholarship funds, if the recipient has withdrawn from enrollment for the terms for which the award was intended, the institution shall

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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return the amount of the scholarship payment to ISAC.

- g) Scholarship Amount
- 1) ~~TI Scholarships~~ MTI scholarships are applicable ~~only~~ toward the recipient's total cost of attendance at a qualified Illinois institution of higher learning, up to a maximum of \$7,500. ~~tuition and fees and room and board charges or commuter allowances, if applicable.~~
  - 2) The annual scholarship amount shall be computed by the institution and the amount of teacher scholarship assistance awarded to a qualified applicant, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, shall not exceed the total cost of attendance. If the amount of the teacher scholarship exceeds the total cost of attendance, it shall be reduced. ~~must be the lesser of:~~
    - A) ~~tuition and fees plus room and board expenses charged by the institution;~~
    - B) ~~tuition and fees plus the standard commuter allowance for students living off-campus; or~~
    - C) ~~\$5000; unless at least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for the MTI Program, then, \$7,500 in that year and in each fiscal year thereafter.~~
  - 3) ~~The total amount of MTI scholarship assistance awarded to a qualified applicant in a given regular school year, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.~~
  - 34) A qualified applicant may receive ~~grant~~ assistance under the TI Scholarship ~~MTI Program~~ only up to the amount by which the qualified applicant's cost of attendance exceeds the amount of the Monetary Award Program grant (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735).
- h) To provide sufficient time for processing and vouchering through the State Comptroller's Office in Springfield, all payment requests must be received by ISAC no later than July 1.

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- i) *Each institution that participates in the TI Scholarship~~MTI Program~~ shall ~~ensure~~~~host an annual information session about the program for teacher candidates of color and require~~ that each scholarship~~program~~ recipient enrolled at the institution ~~meets~~~~meet~~ with an academic advisor at least once per academic year ~~in an effort~~ to facilitate on-time completion of the student's educator preparation program. [110 ILCS 947/50]*

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

# 2026

# ILLINOIS

# REGISTER

Rules of  
Governmental Agencies



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May 15, 2026

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- 1) Heading of the Part: General Provisions
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2700.15	Amendment
2700.20	Amendment
2700.30	Amendment
2700.40	Amendment
2700.50	Amendment
2700.55	Amendment
2700.70	Amendment
2700.80	Amendment
2700.90	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947]; Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq., as amended by P.L. 105-244); and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to update and make additions to the definitions section, including: Application Receipt Date, Armed Forces, Educational Institution, Eligible Program, and deletions of terms not used, such as Chargeback and Co-maker. Also updates were made in the General Institutional Eligibility Requirements and General Applicant Eligibility Requirements.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)]

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and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues

- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

847-831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:

- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
- B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
- C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None

- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None

- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026

- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2700  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

## Section

2700.10	Summary and Purpose
2700.15	Incorporations by Reference
2700.20	Definitions
2700.30	General Institutional Eligibility Requirements
2700.40	General Applicant Eligibility Requirements
2700.50	Determining Applicant Eligibility
2700.55	Use, Security and Confidentiality of Information
2700.60	Audits and Investigations
2700.70	Appeal Procedures
2700.80	Contractual and Consortium Agreement Requirements
2700.90	Consumer Protection Requirements

**AUTHORITY:** Implementing the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947]; Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq., as amended by P.L. 105-244); and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].

**SOURCE:** Adopted at 9 Ill. Reg. 20783, effective January 1, 1986; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 3167, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 14099, effective August 10, 1987; amended at 12 Ill. Reg. 11510, effective July 1, 1988; amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 8626, effective July 1, 1989; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1700 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17854; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 10538, effective July 1, 1990; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11206, effective July 1, 1992; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10541, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10282, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8343, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9170, effective July 1, 1996; amended at 21 Ill. Reg. 11066, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11072, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 23 Ill. Reg. 7550, effective July 1, 1999; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9121, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 8383, effective July 1, 2001; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 9980, effective July 1, 2002; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10320, effective July 1, 2003; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9884, effective July 1, 2005; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11600, effective

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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

July 1, 2006; amended at 31 Ill. Reg. 9478, effective July 1, 2007; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10269, effective July 1, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 9742, effective July 1, 2009; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 8543, effective July 1, 2010; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 9497, effective July 1, 2013; amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 13356, effective July 1, 2014; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8390, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 40 Ill. Reg. 1963, effective January 7, 2016; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 7269, effective July 1, 2019; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 15003, effective January 1, 2020; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 20164, effective January 1, 2021; amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 8430, effective July 1, 2021; peremptory amendment at 45 Ill. Reg. 10794, effective August 16, 2021; amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 12048, effective July 1, 2022; emergency amendment at 46 Ill. Reg. 14572, effective August 8, 2022, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired January 4, 2023; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 1020, effective January 5, 2023; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 9433, effective July 1, 2023; amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 12551, effective August 1, 2024; amended at 49 Ill. Reg. 14249, effective October 16, 2025; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2700.15 Incorporations by Reference**

- a) The Commission incorporates by reference 34 CFR 600, 668, 674, 675, 676, 682, 685 and 690 (July 1, 2019). No incorporation by reference in this Section includes any later amendment or edition beyond the date stated. The Code of Federal Regulations is available online.
- b) Copies of the appropriate material are available for inspection at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission offices at:

1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield IL 60015-5209

500 West Monroe, Springfield IL 62704-1876

~~100 West Randolph, Suite 3-200, Chicago IL 60601-3219~~

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.20 Definitions**

"Academic Level" – The classification of a student as a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student.

"Academic Year" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, a 12-month period of time, normally from August or September of any year through August

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

or September of the ensuing year. In relation to the Federal Family Education Loan Program, academic year is defined at section 481(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and at 34 CFR 668.3.

"Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid" or "Alternative Application" – The FAFSA substitute application for State student aid and benefits under the Retention of Illinois Students and Equity (RISE) Act that may be used only as an alternative to the FAFSA, when appropriate, and shall be substituted accordingly for the FAFSA when FAFSA is referenced in ISAC rules. This application is appropriate for use by an applicant *who is an Illinois resident and who is not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid, including, but not limited to, an eligible noncitizen* applicant as defined in this Section. [\[110 ILCS 986/15\(a\)\]](#)

~~"Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Receipt Date" – The date upon which ISAC receives an applicant's initial Alternative Application for an academic year. For a paper Alternative Application sent through the U.S. Postal Service, the receipt date will be the postmark date.~~

"Alternative Loan" – Any educational loan made or purchased by ISAC other than a loan made pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1071), or any other federal statute providing for federal insurance of education loans to borrowers.

"Applicant" – Any individual who requests ISAC consideration for a scholarship, grant, tuition waiver, or [loan repayment program](#)~~guaranteed or alternative loan.~~

["Application Receipt Date" – The date upon which the Department of Education receives an applicant's initial FAFSA for an academic year or ISAC receives an applicant's initial Alternative Application for an academic year. For paper FAFSA and Alternative Applications, the receipt date will be the postmark date.](#)

"Approved High School" – *Any public high school located in this State; and any high school, located in this State or elsewhere (whether designated as a high school, secondary school, academy, preparatory school, or otherwise) which in the judgment of the State Superintendent of Education provides a course of instruction at the secondary level and maintains standards of instruction substantially the equivalent of those public high schools located in this State.* ~~(Section 10 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act~~ [\[110 ILCS 947/10\]](#)~~)~~

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"Armed Forces" – The United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, ~~and~~ Coast Guard and Space Force.

"Blanket Certificate of Loan Guaranty" – A process that permits an eligible lender to make loans without receiving prior approval from ISAC for individual loans to eligible borrowers enrolled in eligible programs at eligible institutions, as authorized by section 428(n) of the HEA.

~~"Chargeback" – Payment of tuition by the community college district of a student's residence to the community college district of a student's attendance. (See 110 ILCS 805/6-2.)~~

"Citizen" – One who, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, is a native-born or naturalized citizen of the United States of America.

"College Savings Bond" – A State of Illinois general obligation, zero coupon bond, issued pursuant to the Baccalaureate Savings Act [110 ILCS 920] as a long-term education savings instrument.

~~"Co-maker" – One of the 2 individuals who are joint borrowers either on a Federal PLUS Loan (parent borrowers) that was certified prior to January 1, 1995 or on any Federal Consolidation loan (married borrowers) and who are equally liable for repayment of the loan. (See 34 CFR 682.200.)~~

"Commission" – The 10 member Illinois Student Assistance Commission created by Section 15 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].

"Compound Accreted Value" – An amount equal to the original amount plus an investment return accrued to the date of determination at a semiannual compounding rate that is necessary to produce the yield at maturity indicated on the official statement that was issued when the college savings bonds were sold. The "Compound Accreted Value at Maturity" will be equal to \$5,000 or an integral multiple thereof.

"Concurrent Registration" – The simultaneous enrollment at 2 or more higher education institutions.

"Consolidation" – A federal program under which a borrower may receive a single new loan that refinances one or more outstanding qualified education loans

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under new terms and conditions, as authorized by section 428C of the HEA.

"Consortium Agreement" – The written agreement between two or more ISAC-eligible institutions whereby the host institution provides part of the education program of students enrolled at the home institution, as codified in Section 2700.80.

"Consumer" – *Any person who purchases or contracts for the purchase of educational planning services.* [815 ILCS 616/15]

"Contractual Agreement" – The written agreement between an eligible institution and a school or organization that is not eligible for participation in ISAC-administered programs whereby the non-eligible institution serving as the host institution provides part of the education program of students enrolled at the ISAC-eligible home institution, as codified in Section 2700.80.

~~"Correctional Officer" – An employee of the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) who is assigned to a security position with the Department, and who has responsibility for inmates of any correctional institution under the jurisdiction of the Department.~~

"Correspondence Course" – A home study course provided by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, including examinations on the materials, to students who are not physically attending classes at the institution, as defined at 34 CFR 600.2.

"Co-signer" – A person who is secondarily liable for the repayment of an Alternative Loan.

"Cost of Attendance" – This term has the same meaning as defined at section 472 of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087*ll*).

"Cumulative Grade Point Average" – The average grade earned throughout a student's applicable secondary or postsecondary educational program. The calculation shall be consistent with the institution's established policy or practice and shall be the same as that completed for admission, placement or other similar purposes.

"Default Status" – The failure of a borrower or endorser (if any) to make an

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installment payment when due or to meet other terms of the promissory note as defined at 34 CFR 682.200.

"Delinquency" – This term has the same meaning as defined at 34 CFR 682.411(b).

"Dependent Student" – A scholarship, loan, tuition waiver or grant applicant or recipient who is not classified as an independent student.

"Disbursement" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, a disbursement occurs on the payment voucher date. ~~In relation to the Federal Family Education Loan Program, disbursement is the process of transferring loan proceeds as defined at 34 CFR 682.200.~~

"Displaced Energy Worker" – *An energy worker who has lost employment due to the reduced operation or closure of a fossil fuel power plant or coal mine.* [20 ILCS 735/10-30]

"Distance Education" – A type of education that meets the definition of distance education found at 34 CFR 600.2 that uses one or more technologies to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructors and that provides substantive interaction between the students and the instructors.

"ED" – The acronym for the United States Department of Education.

"Educational Institution" – Unless otherwise qualified, any secondary or postsecondary educational organization that enrolls students who participate in ISAC programs, including those that are not required to meet the definition of "institution of higher learning" or "eligible institution" as defined in Section 10 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].

"Educational Lender" – An institution or organization that meets the lender eligibility criteria outlined in 23 Ill. Adm. Code ~~2720.25 for FFELP Loans and~~ 2721.40 for alternative loans, or that is otherwise recognized by ISAC as an institution or organization that makes educational loans to students for postsecondary educational expenses.

"Educational Planning Service Provider" – *Any person or entity engaging in or holding itself out as engaging in the business of providing educational planning*

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*services in exchange for any fee or compensation or any person who solicits or acts on behalf of any person or entity engaging in or holding itself out as engaging in the business of providing educational planning services in exchange for any fee or compensation. "Educational Planning Service Provider" does not include any of the following:*

*An institution of higher learning, as defined in the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, and the individuals employed by that institution where educational planning services are provided as part of the financial aid or career counseling services offered by the institution,*

*Public entities and their officers while acting in their official capacities, or*

*Persons acting on behalf of a consumer under court order or as a legal representative. [815 ILCS 616/15]*

"Educational Planning Services" – *College and career preparatory planning services, including, but not limited to, advice regarding and assistance with college and career searches; college application preparation or submission; financial aid application planning, preparation, or submission; and scholarship searches and applications. [815 ILCS 616/15]*

"EFT" – The acronym for electronic funds transfer.

"Eligible Noncitizen" – A noncitizen who is eligible for federal student assistance pursuant to section 484 of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1091); or a noncitizen or person who is not a permanent resident of the United States, who does not meet the eligibility criteria for federal student assistance pursuant to section 484 of the HEA but who meets all of the following criteria:

the individual resided with a parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in this State;

the individual graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in this State;

the individual attended school in this State for at least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in this State;

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the individual provides an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so; and

the individual has not established a residence outside of this State.

"Eligible Program" – A program of organized instruction or study of a certain length provided by an institution of higher learning that leads to an academic, professional, or vocational degree or certificate, or other recognized education credential that satisfies the requirement of a grant or scholarship administered by ISAC.

"Endorser" – A person fitting the definitions found at 34 CFR 682.200 or 34 CFR 685.102(b) who is secondarily liable for the repayment of a federal student loan.

"Enrolled" – The status of a student who has completed the institution's registration requirements and is attending classes.

"Executive Director" – The chief executive officer of ISAC.

"FAFSA" – The acronym for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

~~"FAFSA Receipt Date" – The date reported by ED's processor as the date upon which it receives an applicant's initial FAFSA for an academic year. For paper FAFSA's sent through the U.S. Postal Service, this is the date of physical receipt at the processor, not the postmark date.~~

"Federal Regulations" – Refers to regulations promulgated by ED and codified at 34 CFR 600.

"FFELP" – The acronym for the Federal Family Education Loan Program, as authorized by section 421 of the HEA, including subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, Federal SLS Loans and Federal Consolidation Loans. No subsequent loans have been permitted to be made under the program after June 30, 2010 following the passage of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

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~~"Fire Officer"—For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term means a firefighter who is employed by, or in the voluntary service of, this State or any public entity in this State.~~

"Foreign Missionary" – An individual who is assigned duty outside of the United States by an organization that engages in educational, philanthropic, humanitarian or altruistic works. The missionary organization must be exempt from the payment of federal taxes and must have been engaged in placing foreign missionaries for at least 5 years. Examples of such missionary organizations include, but are not limited to, the following: Peace Corps, Evangelical Alliance Mission, etc.

"Full-time Student" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, an individual enrolled for 12 or more credit hours, for either a semester or quarter term. ~~In relation to the Federal Family Educational Loan Program, full-time student is defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).~~

"Gift Assistance" – Student assistance funds in the form of a scholarship, grant or tuition waiver, including, but not limited to, federal, State, institutional and private aid.

"Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois" – A private, not-for-profit program under the auspices of the Golden Apple Foundation that recruits, prepares and provides financial assistance to high school graduates to pursue postsecondary education for careers as teachers for particular Illinois schools.

"Good Moral Character" – An applicant is of good moral character if the applicant will benefit from postsecondary instruction and is allowed to enroll at an approved postsecondary institution.

"Graduating Class" – The students who will complete the high school's program of instruction and graduate within an academic year.

~~"Guaranteed Loan"—Loan assistance through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) that includes the subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan, the Federal PLUS Loan, the Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), and the Federal Consolidation Loan programs.~~

"Half-time Student" – In relation to scholarship and grant programs, an individual

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enrolled for 6 or more credit hours (but fewer than 12 credit hours) for either a semester or quarter term. ~~In relation to the Federal Family Education Loan Program, half time student is defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).~~

"HEA" – The acronym for the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1070).

"Holder" – An organization authorized by ED and ISAC to purchase or retain possession of guaranteed loans. These organizations operate as commercial and educational lenders or secondary markets and may purchase ISAC-guaranteed loans from approved lenders.

"Home Institution" – The institution of higher learning where the student is enrolled in a degree or certificate program and is the institution of record in a consortium or contractual agreement.

"Host Institution" – The institution where part of a student's program requirements is being taken through either a consortium or contractual agreement with a home institution.

"IBHE" – The acronym for the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the administrative agency created by the Board of Higher Education Act [110 ILCS 947/205].

"IDAPP" – The acronym for ISAC's Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program as authorized by the Education Loan Purchase Program Law [110 ILCS 947/125 through 170].

"Independent Student" – This term has the same meaning as defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).

"Institution" – Unless otherwise qualified, any secondary or postsecondary educational organization that enrolls students who participate in ISAC programs.

"Institution of Higher Learning" – An educational organization whose main campus is physically located in Illinois that provides:

at least a 2-year program of collegiate study in liberal arts or sciences directly applicable toward the attainment of a baccalaureate degree;

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an associate degree directly applicable toward the attainment of a baccalaureate degree;

a program that is directly applicable toward the attainment of a certificate or other credential; or

a program in health education directly applicable toward the attainment of a certificate, diploma, or an associate degree; and

is operated:

by the State; or

publicly or privately, not for profit; or

for profit, provided it:

offers degree programs that have been approved by the IBHE for a minimum of 3 years under the Academic Degree Act [110 ILCS 1010];

enrolls a majority of its students in these degree programs; and

maintains accredited status with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

*For otherwise eligible educational organizations that provide academic programs for incarcerated students, the term "institution of higher learning" shall specifically exclude academic programs for incarcerated students [110 ILCS 947/10]*~~For otherwise eligible educational organizations that provide academic programs for incarcerated students, the term "institution of higher learning" shall specifically exclude academic programs for incarcerated students (Section 10 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act).~~ For eligible institutions with campuses in multiple states, the term "institution of higher learning" shall include only those campuses located in Illinois.

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"Institution of Record" – The postsecondary institution at which a student is enrolled and seeking a degree or certificate. This institution assumes primary responsibility for certification of eligibility for ISAC-administered programs and for requesting payment from ISAC.

"ISAC" – The acronym for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the administrative agency created by Section 15 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947] to administer student assistance programs.

"ISBE" – The acronym for the Illinois State Board of Education, the administrative agency created by the School Code [105 ILCS 5].

~~"Lender" – An organization authorized by ISAC to make educational loans to students.~~

"Mandatory Fees" – The charges assessed by an institution that are required to deliver educational services to students for each term, regardless if a student is attending either on campus or through distance education. Application, graduation, laboratory, breakage, and add/drop fees, as well as program administrative fees for out-of-state or foreign study are specifically excluded. For the purposes of ISAC's rules, tuition is not a mandatory fee.

"MAP" – The acronym for the Monetary Award Program administered by ISAC, as authorized by Section 35 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act and codified at 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735.

"Master Check" – A single check representing the loan proceeds for more than one borrower.

"Minority Student" – *A student who is either Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups in Africa); Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race); Asian American (a person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, including Pakistan, and the Pacific Islands, including, among others, Hawaii, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia); or Native American (a person who is a member of a federally or state recognized Indian tribe, or whose parents or grandparents have such membership) and to include the native people of Alaska* [\[110 ILCS 947/50\(a\)\]](#)~~(Section 50(a) of the Higher Education Student~~

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~~Assistance Act).~~

"Occupational or Career and Technical Certificate" – A credit award for satisfactory completion of a prescribed curriculum intended to prepare an individual for employment in a specific field.

"Parent" – This term has the same meaning as defined at 34 CFR 668.2(b).

"Pell Grant" – A federal gift assistance program administered by ED in accordance with section 401 of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1070a).

"PLUS" – The federal program that provides loans to graduate students or parents of certain undergraduate students, as authorized by section 428B of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1078-2) and Sections 80 through 175 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].

~~"Police Officer" – For the purposes of ISAC's rules, this term means a law enforcement officer who is employed by, or in the voluntary service of, this State or any public entity in this State.~~

"Qualified Applicant" – An individual who meets the eligibility requirements of the gift assistance program for which the applicant is applying.

"Qualified Bilingual Minority Applicant" – *A qualified student 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 [110 ILCS 947/50(a)]*~~(Section 50(a) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act).~~

"Regular School Year" – An 8 to 9 month period of time that includes 2 semester terms or 3 quarter terms. The regular school year excludes summer terms. Terms that begin after April 15 and ~~ends~~ before September 16 are considered summer terms.

"Remedial Courses" – The course work that prepares a student for study at the postsecondary level and is necessary for the student to pursue the eligible

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postsecondary program.

"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 member of the U.S. Armed Forces will be a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resided in Illinois immediately prior to entering the U.S. Armed Forces, returned (or plans to return) to Illinois within 6 months after and including the date of separation and can demonstrate (pursuant to Section 2700.50(f) and (g)) that the applicant's domicile was the State of Illinois throughout such enlistment.

An applicant who is a foreign missionary will be a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resided in Illinois for 6 continuous months immediately prior to entering missionary service, returned (or plans to return) to Illinois within 6 months after the conclusion of missionary service, and can demonstrate (pursuant to Section 2700.50(f) and (g)) that the applicant's domicile was the State of Illinois throughout the missionary

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service.

The dependent-applicant shall be a resident of Illinois notwithstanding the parents' temporary physical absence from Illinois provided the parents would be a resident of Illinois under the preceding 2 paragraphs.

The spouse-applicant shall be a resident of Illinois immediately upon physically occupying a dwelling within the State of Illinois provided it can be demonstrated that the applicant's absence from the State was the result of residing with the spouse during enlistment or missionary service outside of Illinois and that the spouse-applicant's domicile continues to be the State of Illinois.

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 will be considered a resident~~Resident~~ of Illinois for the purpose of ISAC gift assistance in accordance with Section 2700.50(e)(3).

"Rules" – The rules of ISAC codified at 23 Ill. Adm. Code: Subtitle A, Chapter XIX.

"Satisfactory Academic Progress" – An institutional policy that establishes minimum standards of academic performance. For purposes of ISAC-administered programs, the standards must be at least as stringent as those required by ED pursuant to section 484 of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1091).

"Service Academy" – *The U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Military Academy or the U.S. Naval Academy* [\[110 ILCS 947/30\(a\)\]](#)~~(Section 30(a) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act).~~

"SLS" – The acronym for the federal Supplemental Loans for Students Program, as authorized by section 428A of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1078-1). No SLS loans have been made for periods of enrollment beginning on or after July 1, 1994.

"Special Education" – A postsecondary educational program designed to teach persons how to meet the needs of all children designated as physically disabled, with specific learning disabilities, or requiring extraordinary special education

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services and facilities. (See 105 ILCS 5/14-1.02 and 7.20a.) These programs prepare persons for meeting the needs of children who exhibit disabilities or exceptional characteristics ranging from very mild to very severe. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 226, Special Education.) Such a program prepares a student to teach children with disabilities or children with learning disabilities. (See 105 ILCS 5/14-1.02 and 1.03a.)

"Stafford" – The federal subsidized and unsubsidized loan programs as authorized by sections 427, 428 and 428H of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1078).

"State of Illinois High School Diploma" – A diploma received after successfully completing high school equivalency testing or an alternative method of credentialing as defined in Section 3-15.12 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5].

"Student Aid Index" – An eligibility index number used to determine a student's eligibility for some financial aid programs. Student Aid Index, as described at Section 474 of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087oo), is used to determine a student's eligibility for ISAC programs that have a need component.

"Student Beneficiary" – An individual designated as the recipient of a College Savings Bond Bonus Incentive Grant.

"Teacher Education Program" – An undergraduate postsecondary course of study that, upon completion, qualifies a student to be certified as a pre-school, elementary or secondary teacher by a state board of education or its equivalent (including the Illinois State Board of Education). For a student who has completed less than 4 semesters/6 quarters of postsecondary study, this includes a postsecondary course of study that leads to a teacher education program.

"Teacher Shortage Discipline" – An academic discipline in which a shortage of teachers exists in Illinois, as designated by the Illinois State Board of Education.

"Term" – A unit of time for student attendance, including, but not limited to, a quarter or semester.

"Tuition" – The charge for instruction assessed by an institution.

"Verification" – Procedures implemented by postsecondary institutions to verify the eligibility of applicants. The procedures are established by [Subpart](#) [subpart E](#)

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of 34 CFR 668 and by ISAC's rules.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.30 General Institutional Eligibility Requirements**

- a) ISAC Program Participation Agreement
  - 1) All institutions shall execute an ISAC Program Participation Agreement in order to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs.
  - 2) The ISAC Program Participation Agreement shall identify the ISAC programs under which the institution's students may receive benefits.
  - 3) The ISAC Program Participation Agreement shall include provisions requiring institutions to comply with federal and State laws and regulations.
  - 4) The ISAC Program Participation Agreement may be modified or terminated in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790, Limitation, Suspension and Termination Proceedings.
- b) With respect to ISAC student assistance programs, institutions shall develop and maintain procedures to verify the consistency and accuracy of information received from their enrolled recipients. For the purposes of receiving ISAC funds, institutions should verify those items that confirm eligibility for ISAC administered programs.
- c) Institutions shall be subject to possible limitation, suspension or termination of eligibility for failure to comply with federal and State laws and regulations and for failure to maintain the standards required by this Section for initial participation. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790.)
- d) Postsecondary institutions that participate in specific gift assistance programs, as determined by ISAC, shall annually submit to ISAC a copy of their tuition refund policy. The submissions shall not be considered ISAC approval of the policies.
- e) Postsecondary institutions that participate in MAP are required to have in place or establish a program, determined by the institution, that is intended to improve

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MAP recipients' success, retention and completion in higher education at that institution. Institutions shall ~~biennially~~ **annually** submit to ISAC retention, completion and graduation rate data as well as advising and support program information. This information is intended to enhance ISAC's ability to evaluate and improve MAP effectiveness and will be shared in the required biennial MAP Evaluation Report prepared by ISAC.

- f) Postsecondary institutions that participate in specific gift assistance programs, as determined by ISAC, shall annually report their tuition and fee charges, as well as initial MAP advance payment requests, to ISAC on or before June 1 preceding each academic year.
- 1) Failure to report any cost changes by the deadline will cause the prior year's charges to be used as part of the calculation process for gift assistance benefits. Failure to report the assessment of a fee charge by the deadline will result in that fee charge being ineligible for payment under ISAC gift assistance programs.
  - 2) The report shall match specific fee charges with the gift assistance programs that may finance the fee. These categorizations by the institution shall not be considered ISAC approval.
  - 3) The Illinois National Guard Grant and the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Programs may finance only a portion of certain fee charges. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730.30(a) and 2733.30(e).)
    - A) Example: One fee finances both tuition and text book expenses. Only the portion of the fee that is attributable to tuition expenses may be financed with program benefits.
    - B) Institutions with such a fee shall certify what percentage of the fee is eligible to be financed with program benefits. Certification shall be performed by the institution's chief fiscal officer.
- g) Postsecondary community college institutions with chargeback and interdistrict agreements in place that meet all Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) guidelines for chargeback approval can charge tuition at the in-district rate for applicable students. (See 110 ILCS 805/6-2.)

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- h) Institutions shall submit additional reports, data and information to ISAC as may be requested. These inquiries include, but are not limited to, surveys, enrollment confirmations and evaluation instruments.
- ~~i)~~ Additional institutional eligibility requirements are contained in subsequent Parts of ISAC's rules.
- ~~i)~~ ~~Postsecondary institutions may apply to participate in ISAC guaranteed loan programs in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2720.~~
- j) Postsecondary institutions may apply to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs in accordance with this subsection (j).
- 1) The Commission approves participation in ISAC gift assistance programs for an institution rather than for specific academic programs within an institution.
  - 2) Prior to applying for participation in ISAC gift assistance programs, the institutional applicant must have authority to operate a postsecondary institution in Illinois. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.)
  - 3) Institutional applicants that are fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and have degree-granting authority may be approved to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs provided the institution meets and maintains the requirements of subsections (j)(4)(C) and (D).
  - 4) Public or private not for profit institutional applicants that do not meet the requirements of subsection (j)(3) may be approved to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs if the institution has:
    - A) obtained candidate status for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation.
    - B) applied for and is seeking degree-granting authority.
    - C) obtained at least 3 letters indicating the transferability of academic credit from the applicant institution to other institutions. The

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letters must be from institutions that are approved to participate in the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

- D) an adequate number of qualified persons to administer their responsibilities under ISAC's rules for gift assistance programs. In determining whether an institution employs an adequate number of qualified persons, the Commission considers the number of students aided, the number of programs in which the institution participates, the number of applications evaluated, the amount of funds administered, and the financial aid delivery system used by the institution.
- 5) Institutional applicants must also supply ISAC with audited financial statements, prepared by an independent third party in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, to establish financial responsibility. (See, e.g., 34 CFR 668.15.)
- 6) Once approved to participate in ISAC gift assistance programs by the Commission, an institution shall receive provisional eligibility for a minimum of 5 academic years. An institution with provisional eligibility must petition the Commission for full eligibility. Full eligibility will be granted if the institution meets the requirements of subsection (j)(3) and if there are no outstanding audit exceptions.
- k) As a condition of eligibility for participation in ISAC student assistance programs, postsecondary institutions shall have a valid Program Participation Agreement with ED (see section 487 of the HEA (20 U.S.C 1094)) and shall report their Office of Postsecondary Education Identification (OPE-ID) number to ISAC.
- l) In order to begin and to continue participation in ISAC-administered student assistance programs, institutions must also demonstrate administrative capability and financial responsibility, as defined by federal regulations. (See, e.g., 34 CFR 668.15 and 668.16.) An institution's failure to meet and maintain those standards can lead to limitation, suspension or termination proceedings. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790.)
- m) Institutions that have been assigned multiple main OPE-ID numbers will be

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considered separate entities by ISAC. Different campus codes associated with the same main OPE-ID number will not be considered separate entities.

- n) An institution shall notify ISAC of its Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) in order to receive payment pursuant to any ISAC-administered program.
- o) When an approved institution has a change of ownership resulting in a change of control, a change of location, or a change of name as defined by federal regulations, the institution's Program Participation Agreement with ED may be terminated. After an institution has undergone a change of status affecting its participation in any Title IV federal student financial aid programs, the institution may have its eligibility with ISAC reinstated by the execution of a new Program Participation Agreement with ED (see, e.g., 34 CFR 600.31) and by the submission and Commission approval of a new application for participation with ISAC.
- p) In any program in which ISAC is required by law to participate with approved high schools and/or institutions of higher learning or educational agencies to create awareness of programs offered by any of the foregoing institutions or the State (such as the Public University Uniform Admission Pilot Program Act [110 ILCS 118]), ISAC and the institution will coordinate. Measures that may be taken by the institution may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1) providing ISAC an institutional contact to serve as the liaison with ISAC to coordinate outreach efforts;
  - 2) timely providing ISAC with the necessary program information or materials for timely communications to the applicable Illinois residents; and
  - 3) developing an outreach plan prior to deployment and then reviewing the efficacy of the plan periodically thereafter to ensure that:
    - A) ISAC and the institution's outreach efforts are appropriately distributed regionally and demographically; and
    - B) outreach materials and programs are up-to-date and appropriate.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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**Section 2700.40 General Applicant Eligibility Requirements**

- a) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, an applicant with a defaulted loan made pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act is not eligible for benefits under ISAC-administered programs.
  - 1) Eligibility for federally-guaranteed loans may be reinstated in accordance with federal regulations and the following provisions:
    - A) Eligibility for federally-guaranteed loans will be reinstated when:
      - i) the debt has been paid in full;
      - ii) the borrower has made a "satisfactory repayment arrangement," in accordance with 34 CFR 682.200;
      - iii) the borrower's prior defaulted loan has been rehabilitated, in accordance with 34 CFR 682.405; or
      - iv) the borrower has made payments on a defaulted loan to consolidate that loan in accordance with 34 CFR 682.201.
    - B) Borrowers are eligible to use subsections (a)(1)(A)(ii) and (iii) only one time.
    - C) Eligibility for ISAC-administered gift assistance will be reinstated for current and future terms when the applicant has maintained a satisfactory repayment record for at least 6 consecutive months or has met the requirements of subsection (a)(1)(A). Factors to be considered by ISAC in evaluating the repayment record include: the amount of the debt, the amount of the payments received by ISAC, the employment status of the applicant, and the frequency of the applicant's contact with ISAC.
  - 2) A qualified applicant for Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) assistance (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733) shall be permitted one term of assistance during which a satisfactory repayment record, as defined by subsection (a)(1)(C), must be established. If such a repayment record is not established, additional

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assistance shall be denied until a satisfactory repayment record is established.

- b) No applicant shall receive ISAC-administered assistance if the applicant owes a refund for any ISAC-administered gift assistance, a Federal Pell Grant, or a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) (20 U.S.C. 1070(b)).
- c) An applicant shall, upon request, provide documentation to establish and verify eligibility. (See Section 2700.50.) Failure to supply adequate documentation will result in the denial of student assistance benefits.
- d) When an institution verifies applicant data, they may delay the disbursement of ISAC-administered funds until verification is completed if the data being verified can affect the student's eligibility for the funds. Institutions shall not delay disbursing ISAC-administered funds when the data being verified does not bear on the student's eligibility for the funds.
- e) An applicant who has received financial assistance based on fraudulent data shall be denied ISAC-administered assistance until full restitution has been made to ISAC for any fraudulently-obtained funds, and may also be subject to prosecution by the Illinois Attorney General, United States Department of Justice and/or an Illinois State's Attorney.
- fe) Applicants with a Social Security Number (SSN) must submit it at the time of applying.
- gf) Recipients who cease to be residents of Illinois after notification of eligibility may complete the academic year with the assistance awarded.
- hg) Unless otherwise provided, benefits under gift assistance programs are subject to the limits of dollars appropriated to ISAC by the Illinois General Assembly and approved by the Governor.
- ih) When gift assistance eligibility is limited to a specified number of term payments, the eligibility cap is calculated in accordance with this subsection.
  - 1) For each semester term of full-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed 6 eligibility units. For each quarter term of full-time payment

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benefits, the recipient is assessed 4 eligibility units.

- 2) For each semester term of half-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed 3 eligibility units. For each quarter term of half-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed 2 eligibility units.
  - 3) For each semester or quarter term of less than half-time payment benefits, the recipient is assessed one eligibility unit.
  - 4) Sixty eligibility units are the equivalent of payments for 10 semesters/15 quarters of full-time benefits.
  - 5) Forty-eight eligibility units are the equivalent of payments for 8 semesters/12 quarters of full-time benefits.
- j) Except as provided in a program's statute or codified administrative rules ~~for grants pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730 (Illinois National Guard Grant Program) (ING Grant) and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733 (Illinois Veteran Grant Program) (IVG Grant)~~, an applicant must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the institution's policy.
- k) Except for MAP, ING and IVG benefits ~~Grants~~, ISAC gift assistance benefits for courses utilizing distance education are limited to students enrolled in eligible degree or certificate programs that are defined as eligible to receive Title IV, HEA program funds. (See 34 CFR 668.38.)
- l) Except for ING and IVG benefits ~~Grants~~, students enrolled in academic programs while incarcerated are ineligible for ISAC gift assistance benefits.
- m) For the purpose of determining the timeliness of an individual's application, the receipt ~~postmark~~ date of an application submitted electronically shall be the date on which ISAC receives that individual's submission of complete application data.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility**

- a) The evaluation of applicant eligibility is the responsibility of both ISAC and the institution.

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- b) No applicant is announced eligible for assistance by ISAC unless the application establishes prima facie eligibility. ISAC consults with other appropriate State and federal agencies in the process of reviewing application data.
- c) Institutions shall determine (in accordance with ISAC's rules or federal regulations) whether an applicant is eligible for ISAC gift assistance based upon enrollment in a particular academic program and the eligibility criteria of the ISAC gift assistance being sought.
- d) Specific eligibility criteria for each ISAC gift assistance program can be found in its respective Section of [each program's](#) ~~this~~ Part.
- e) The institution is required to verify the residency of all applicants to ISAC gift assistance programs for which Illinois residency is a requirement.
  - 1) An institution is not required to verify residency if:
    - A) The applicant received payment of a MAP award during the previous academic year; or
    - B) The applicant was enrolled in an ISAC-approved MAP institution or an ISAC-approved Illinois high school ([see Sections 2700.20 and 2700.30](#)) for the preceding consecutive 12 months prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested.
  - 2) Notwithstanding the exceptions named in subsection (e)(1), the institution shall verify residency:
    - A) When an applicant has changed dependency status during the academic year to become an independent student; or
    - B) If the institution has any information that indicates the applicant may not be a resident of Illinois.
  - 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

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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.
- 4) Data from one or more of the documents listed in this subsection (e)(4) may provide proof that an applicant (or parent) is an Illinois resident, as defined in Section 2700.20. The institution may choose to request documents that are in addition to, or instead of, those listed. For an independent student applicant, the dates recorded on the documents must indicate the applicant has resided in Illinois for the relevant 12 continuous, full months.
- A) Illinois high school or college transcript
  - B) Illinois driver's license
  - C) Utility or rent bills in the applicant's (or parent's) name
  - D) Illinois auto registration card
  - E) Residential lease in the applicant's (or parent's) name
  - F) Wage and tax statements (IRS Form W-2)
  - G) Statement of benefits history from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

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- H) State of Illinois identification card issued by the Secretary of State
  - I) Statement of benefits from the Illinois Department of Employment Security
  - J) Statement of benefits from the Social Security Administration
  - K) Illinois voter's registration card
  - L) Property tax bill
  - M) IRS Form 1099-Miscellaneous Income Statements
- 5) If an applicant is a resident of Illinois, but the institution cannot document this fact, the applicant or the institution may verify residency through ISAC's appeal process. (See Section 2700.70)
- f) For all other eligibility criteria, if the institution has any information or a good faith belief that indicates that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements of ISAC-administered programs ~~or if an applicant is selected for verification in conjunction with federal student assistance~~, that applicant shall be verified for ISAC-administered programs. A selected applicant must be verified for ISAC programs even if the applicant is ineligible for federal student assistance.
- g) By requesting payment for ISAC gift assistance programs, the postsecondary institution is certifying that the applicants are eligible for the assistance being sought.
- h) If an institution subsequently determines a student is no longer eligible for all or part of the awarded assistance, the institution must inform ISAC and submit the appropriate refund within 60 days after the receipt of payment or the end of a term, whichever is later.
- i) Institutions may request first term payment even though verification is not yet complete. If, after verification, an ISAC payment adjustment is appropriate, institutions must submit the appropriate refund. If verification is not completed within 60 days after the conclusion of the regular school year, the institution shall return the first term payment to ISAC. For other than the first term of eligibility in

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an academic year, the verification process must be completed before the institution may request payment.

- j) When an institution adjusts an applicant's eligibility pursuant to Title IV, Part F, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1087kk et seq.), the institution shall retain documentation that demonstrates the appropriateness of the adjustment.
- k) If an institution erroneously certifies an applicant to be eligible, or a student is otherwise determined to be ineligible for ISAC gift assistance programs, ISAC will recover the erroneous payment from the institution.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.55 Use, Security and Confidentiality of Information**

The personally identifiable information of an ISAC program applicant, participant or anyone named in any materials related to program participation, or personally identifiable information of an individual that ISAC accesses, receives or maintains in relation to its research or other activities, is considered confidential personal information and shall be governed by applicable State and federal privacy laws. All educational institutions, lenders, holders, servicers, employers, and other entities participating in ISAC-administered programs or activities shall be expected to know and comply with all applicable federal and State laws that govern the privacy, use, access and security of the confidential information. (See, e.g., the Data Processing Confidentiality Act [30 ILCS 585], the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. ~~USC~~ 1232g), the Identity Protection Act [5 ILCS 179] and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. ~~USC~~ 6801-6809).) The confidential information shall not be sold or used, shared or accessed for any purpose other than that which is directly related to the purpose for which the confidential information was provided to the participating entity. Participating entities shall be responsible for implementing appropriate security procedures to protect the integrity of the confidential information when accessed, stored, transmitted or received. This Section shall not apply to the publication of the names of State Scholars pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2760.30.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.70 Appeal Procedures**

- a) Complainants (including applicants, institutions and lenders) may appeal an ISAC administrative decision in accordance with this Section. Complainants must

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submit their appeal within 60 days after and including the date of an administrative decision by ISAC. If a complainant fails to pursue an appeal within 60 days after and including the date of an administrative decision, including administrative decisions rendered under subsections (d) and (e) of this Section, the complainant forfeits all appeal rights.

- b) All appeals shall be submitted in writing, must specifically invoke the use of ISAC's appeal process and must indicate the specific issues to be reviewed. Each complainant shall be sent a written response within 15 working days after and including the date of receipt of their appeal.
  - 1) A complainant may submit any evidence which the complainant believes relevant to the issue appealed. If ISAC is not able to make a determination based on the information provided, the complainant may be requested to supply additional written materials related to the issue (e.g., income tax returns, ISAC correspondence).
  - 2) The standard of review is whether, based on the manifest weight of the evidence, the administrative decision being appealed is consistent with statutes, rules and regulations relevant to the issue appealed.
- c) At the complainant's discretion, a complainant may be represented by legal counsel. Except for appeals pursuant to Section 2700.50(eg)(54) (Illinois residence) and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2760.30 (State Scholar designations), applicant appeals shall not be written or submitted by a lender or an institution. A lender or an institution may advise an applicant on appeal issues and opportunities.
- d) The complainant shall submit an appeal directly to the appropriate ISAC manager. An appeal may be pursued through the appropriate sequence of ISAC's administrative levels culminating with an appeal to the Executive Director. (See 2 Ill. Adm. Code 5375.Appendix A, Organization Chart.)
- e) Adjudicatory hearings are available for complainants who have first used the procedures of subsection (d) of this Section. A hearing shall be requested, in writing, within 60 days after the date of the Executive Director's appeal decision.
  - 1) Within 30 days after the receipt of a hearing request, the Executive Director shall schedule a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790.140, Hearings.

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- 2) The independent hearing officer shall issue a decision based upon what transpired at the hearing, in accordance with and subject to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790.70, Decisions.
- f) The hearing officer's disposition, as provided for by 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2790.70(c), is considered the final administrative decision as defined by the Administrative Review Law [735 ILCS 5/Art. III]. The complainant shall be sent written notice of the final administrative decision within ten working days after the disposition of the appeal.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.80 Contractual and Consortium Agreement Requirements**

- a) The primary purpose of a course of study in a contractual or consortium agreement must be educational and must lead to, and be required for, a degree or health education certificate in a published course of study offered by the home institution.
- b) Contractual Agreement requirements
  - 1) All contractual agreements must involve programs approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) or the appropriate state accrediting agency and, if applicable, licensing agency.
  - 2) The home institution is responsible for all the administration of ISAC student aid including, but not limited to, disbursements, refunds, maintenance of financial aid records and student eligibility determinations for students attending the host institution consistent with the requirements in 34 CFR 668.5(c).
  - 3) A home institution may enter into a contractual agreement with a host institution only if the home institution does not have faculty and specific educational facilities available within the institution to offer the approved programs.
  - 4) Only courses required for these programs that are included in the published curriculum of the home institution will be eligible for ISAC

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payment except in relation to study abroad programs as provided in 34 CFR 668.5(B).

- 5) The home institution must ensure that the percentage of all students enrolled in the host institution who will receive tuition assistance through a contractual agreement meets the requirements of 34 CFR 668.5(a) and does not exceed:
  - A) 25% if the host and home institutions are owned or controlled by the same entity; or
  - B) 50% if they are not<sup>5</sup> owned or controlled by the same entity.
- c) Consortium Agreement requirements
  - 1) Both the home and host institutions must be ISAC eligible institutions; and
  - 2) The consortium agreement must be consistent with 34 CFR 668.5(a).

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2700.90 Consumer Protection Requirements**

- a) *The primary purpose of the Educational Planning Services Consumer Protection Act (the Act) is to protect consumers who enter into agreements with educational planning service providers. [815 ILCS 616/10]*
- b) All entities acting as educational planning service providers shall be expected to know and comply with all provisions of the Act.
- c) ISAC will make available on its ~~Internet~~-website the most current disclosure of free support.
- d) *ISAC may, in the name of the people of the State of Illinois, through the Attorney General, file a complaint for an injunction in the circuit court to enjoin such person from engaging in unlawful violations of the Act. [815 ILCS 616/40(d)]*

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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- 1) Heading of the Part: Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2751
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2751.10	Amendment
2751.15	Amendment
2751.20	Amendment
2751.30	Amendment
2751.40	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 65.125 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/65.125] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to add a definition of Close to Completion and revise language relating to renewal applicant awarding.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

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Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

847-831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
  - A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

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TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2751  
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY (ECACE)  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Section

2751.10	Summary and Purpose
2751.15	Definitions
2751.20	Applicant Eligibility
2751.30	Program Procedures
2751.40	Institutional Procedures

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 65.125 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/65.125 and 20(f)].

SOURCE: Adopted at 49 Ill. Reg. 14291, effective October 16, 2025; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2751.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program was created to address the shortage of qualified early childhood educators by encouraging the pursuit of credentials and advancement of already-held degrees in early childhood education, with an aim toward building a strong, well-prepared workforce.
- b) This Part establishes the rules which govern the ~~Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity~~ (ECACE) Scholarship Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2751.15 Definitions**

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"Close to completion" means an applicant that has 30 semester hours (or the equivalent) or less remaining until program completion regardless of path, program, status, institution, or sector.

*"Incumbent workforce" means an individual or a group of individuals working or having worked in the early childhood industry, including family child care and center-based care settings, Preschool for All school-based settings, and Head Start, that serves children from birth to age 5 and includes teachers, assistant teachers, directors, family child care providers, and assistants. [110 ILCS 28/10]*

"Licensed facility" means a program or a facility that is licensed by the State to provide child care or day care services.

"License-exempt facility" means a program or facility that is not required to be licensed by the State to provide child care and day care services and may include programs operated by public or private elementary school systems, high schools or ~~institutions~~~~institution~~ of higher learning; and programs conducted on federal government premises.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2751.20 Applicant Eligibility**

A qualified applicant shall:

- a) be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700)~~or meet the undocumented student criteria of the RISE Act;~~
- b) be a member of the incumbent workforce, currently working or having worked in the early childhood field in a licensed or license-exempt facility that serves children from birth to age 5;
- c) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment, on a full- or part-time basis (at least 3 credit hours), at the undergraduate level at a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institution;
- d) be pursuing at least one of the following or similarly approved Gateways to Opportunity entitled programs:

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- 1) an Associate of Applied Science degree (or related certificate) in early childhood education or an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood education;
  - 2) a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with or without a Professional Educator License; and
- e) be maintaining satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2751.30 Program Procedures**

- a) An application for the [ECACE Scholarship Program is available on ISAC's website and scholarship](#) must be submitted annually. ~~An and an~~ applicant must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or the Alternative Application [for Illinois Financial Aid \(Alternative Application\)](#) to receive a valid Student Aid Index (SAI). [Applicants must submit an Eligibility Verification Form, obtained from the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies \(INCCRRA\) Gateways to Opportunity Registry to confirm employment history and current membership in the Registry as of the date of the ECACE application.](#) ~~The ECACE application is available on ISAC's website. In order to receive priority consideration for an award, both applications, including all required documentation, must be completed and received by a priority date established each year by the Commission that will precede the academic year for which the scholarship is being requested.~~
- b) [In order to receive priority consideration for an award, both applications, including all required documentation, must be completed and received by a priority date established each year by the Commission that will precede the academic year for which the scholarship is being requested.](#)
- ~~c~~b) If the scholarship application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant. The applicant will then have an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the application will only be considered for processing as of the date when the application is complete and received by ISAC.

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- de) Award funds shall be applicable to an applicant's total cost of attendance for an award year after other financial aid received, up to a maximum of \$7,500.
- ed) Within the constraints of annual appropriation levels, two semester or three quarter term payments are made directly to the institution.
- fe) ISAC shall select recipients from among those who have submitted complete applications and have supplied required information, including qualified timely renewal and new applicants.
- gf) Awarding priority shall be given to renewal applicants, meaning those who were paid an ECACE benefit in the previous award year, who continue to meet the eligibility requirements. If there is remaining funding after all renewal applicants, awarding priority shall next be given to those who were paid an ECACE benefit in the years prior to the award year immediately preceding the current award year. For example, if all 2024-25 renewal recipients receive a 2025-26 award and funds remain, recipients of an award in the 2023-24 award year, who continue to meet the eligibility requirements and are close to completion of their program would be prioritized next for an award. Applicants ~~are also~~will be prioritized for awarding based on their SAI from the FAFSA or Alternative Application, from lowest to highest.
- hg) The total number of awards in a given fiscal year is contingent on available funding. If funding is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants, awards will be based on the date the completed application is received by ISAC.
- ih) Each qualified applicant who is selected to receive an award shall be notified by ISAC. Applicants not receiving the award will also be notified.
- ji) The total amount of funds awarded to a qualified recipient in any given academic year, when added to other financial aid available to the qualified recipient for that year, shall not exceed the cost of attendance. If the amount of financial aid to be awarded to a qualified student exceeds the institution's cost of attendance, the ECACE ~~Scholarship~~scholarship shall be reduced by the amount by which the cost of attendance is exceeded.
- kj) ISAC pays award funds directly to the institution of record in the name of the recipient.

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- ~~1~~k) *Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any academic year, each qualified recipient must sign an agreement to pledge to continue or return to teaching or providing direct services in the early childhood care and education field in the State of Illinois after completion of their program of study. [110 ILCS 947/65.125(e)]*

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2751.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) The institution shall submit eligibility information for qualified applicants in sufficient time for ISAC to make award announcements.
- b) ISAC awards funds paid directly to the approved institution of record that certifies to ISAC that the applicant is an eligible recipient.
  - 1) ISAC will annually establish priority claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform schools of the required priority dates.
  - 2) Late payment requests will result in delayed processing of payments. Payment requests are processed in the sequence of receipt by ISAC and as funds are available.
  - 3) Institutions may submit their payment requests beginning 10 days prior to the start of classes for the term for which payment is being requested.
- c) ISAC shall disburse funds in two or three installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the scholarship. Multiple disbursements shall not be required in cases where the applicant's eligibility is not determined until the final term of the academic year for which the scholarship is being awarded or when a student is attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed the student's cost of attendance.
- d) Funds shall be remitted by ISAC to institutions on behalf of the recipients.
- e) Upon receipt of the funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the institution may credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient.

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- f) Upon receipt of the funds, if the recipient has withdrawn from enrollment for the terms for which the award was intended, the institution shall return the amount of the scholarship payment to ISAC during the final year-end reconciliation process.
- g) The scholarship is applicable toward the applicant's full cost of attendance. The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded to a qualified applicant in an award year, when added to other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.
- h) To provide sufficient time for processing and vouchering through the State Comptroller's Office, all payment requests must be received by ISAC no later than July 1.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES

- 1) Heading of the Part: Public University Direct Admission Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2777
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2777.10	New Section
2777.15	New Section
2777.20	New Section
2777.30	New Section
2777.40	New Section
2777.50	New Section
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing the Public University Direct Admissions Program Act [110 ILCS 117] and authorized by Sections 20 and 25 of that Act.
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: Rules are being established for this new program created by P.A. 104-15.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Does this proposed rule contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

847-831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed rule: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the rule: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Rules begins on the next page:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2777  
PUBLIC UNIVERSITY DIRECT ADMISSION PROGRAM

## Section

2777.10	Summary and Purpose
2777.15	Definitions
2777.20	Participant Eligibility
2777.30	Institutional Eligibility
2777.40	Program Procedures
2777.50	Institutional Procedures

AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by Sections 20 and 25 of the Public University Direct Admission Program Act [110 ILCS 117].

SOURCE: Adopted at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2777.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) The Public University Direct Admission Program aims to simplify the college application and admission process and reduce barriers to postsecondary education at Illinois institutions of higher education, particularly for historically underserved students. The program provides every eligible high school senior an offer of admission to Illinois public universities and community colleges, and it offers a transfer pathway to Illinois public universities for all community college students.
- b) *The Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the State Board of Education, shall establish and administer a direct admission program. [110 ILCS 117/15(a)] ISAC shall collect student or parent/guardian consents, manage student direct admissions information, determine eligibility under participating institutional admissions standards, notify students and institutions, and provide financial aid information and support. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to grant ISAC the authority to establish any admissions criteria, supersede the authority of public universities and community colleges to make or revoke*

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES

admissions decisions, or require enrollment at any of the public institutions of higher education in Illinois.

- c) This Part establishes rules that govern the Public University Direct Admission Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

**Section 2777.15 Definitions**

"Access and outreach campaign" means the process by which qualifying students will be informed of their opportunity to apply to University of Illinois at Chicago and/or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). [110 ILCS 998/1010]

"Common application" or "common app" means a third-party, online college application platform that allows students to apply for admission to multiple participating postsecondary institutions using a single standardized application.

"Direct admission" means an *automatic offer of general admission into a public university or community college to qualified high school seniors in this State and to public community college students in this State who qualify to transfer to a public university.* [110 ILCS 117/15]

"Direct admissions information" means a student's name, home address, birth date, telephone number, email address, cumulative grade point average (GPA), and high school. [110 ILCS 117/10]

"Directory information" means a high school student's name, home address, birth date, and telephone number. [105 ILCS 5/10-20.5a]

"Eligible high school senior" means a student enrolled in grade 12 at an Illinois public high school who *meets the GPA standards for general admission for first time admission* submitted to ISAC by participating public universities and Illinois community colleges. [110 ILCS 117/15]

"Eligible transfer student" means a student enrolled at an Illinois public community college who *has earned at least 30 graded, transferable semester*

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES

*credit hours and meets the minimum GPA requirement for admission submitted to ISAC by participating public universities. [110 ILCS 117/15]*

"Opt-in form" means an electronic consent form developed and maintained by ISAC that allows a student, or the student's parent or guardian, to authorize the sharing of the student's direct admissions information among ISAC, education agencies, high schools, postsecondary institutions, and application platforms for purposes of the Public University Direct Admission Program.

"Program" means the statewide Public University Direct Admission Program established under the Act.

"Public community college" means an institution as defined in the Illinois Public Community College Act [110 ILCS 805] and governed by the Illinois Community College Board.

*"Public university" means the University of Illinois at Springfield, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, or any other public university established or authorized by the General Assembly after the effective date of this Act. [110 ILCS 117/10]*

**Section 2777.20 Participant Eligibility**

- a) A student receiving benefits from the Public University Direct Admission Program must:
- 1) Be enrolled as a high school senior student at an educational institution located in Illinois and seeking admission as a college freshman at a public university or community college;
  - 2) Be enrolled as a community college student at an educational institution located in Illinois and seeking transfer to a public university;
  - 3) Meet the general admissions qualifications to be accepted for admission into Illinois public universities and community colleges; and

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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- 4) For high school students, provide consent during the student's junior year, and for community college students, provide consent when applicable, to authorize the disclosure of the student's direct admissions information to ISAC. Consent is provided via the opt-in form. If the student is 18 years of age or older, they provide consent to participate. If the student is under 18 years of age, the consent is provided by the parent.
- b) *Students who apply to a public university or community college pursuant to this Act must not be required to pay an application fee by any public university or community college as part of the direct admission program. [110 ILCS 117/15 (k)]*

**Section 2777.30 Institutional Eligibility**

Illinois public institutions are eligible to participate in the Public University Direct Admission Program in the following ways:

- a) Direct Admission
  - 1) Direct general admission may be offered to qualified freshmen and transfer students for the following public universities: University of Illinois at Springfield, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University.
  - 2) Direct admission to public community colleges. *All public community colleges in this State are open-access institutions* available to district residents, so all community colleges are included in this Program. [110 ILCS 117/15]
- b) Access and Outreach  
The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) shall participate by offering qualifying students information on how to apply and shall not provide direct admission under the Program.

**Section 2777.40 Program Procedures**

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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## a) Opt-In Form

- 1) ISAC shall develop, maintain, and annually post an electronic opt-in form that allows a student, or the student's parent or guardian, to consent to the disclosure and redisclosure of the student's direct admissions information for purposes of administering the Program. The opt-in form will also collect student directory information.
- 2) The opt-in form may be completed by or on behalf of a high school student attending a public, private or home school in Illinois, as well students attending Illinois community colleges.
- 3) The opt-in form shall be available annually no later than August 15 and shall remain available throughout the academic year, closing in May. Additional information, including submission deadlines, shall be posted on the One Click College Admit website.
- 4) Students are under no obligation to participate in the Program or consent to share information. If consent to share information is provided by the student or the student's parent or guardian, ISAC may, *as needed for the administration of the direct admission program, redisclose the student's direct admissions information to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), high schools, public universities for which the student qualifies under the direct admission program, UIUC and/or UIC if the student qualifies under Section 20, the community college district where the student resides and, if applicable, a third party that operates a statewide student application portal.* [110 ILCS 117/15(1)]

## b) Data Collection

- 1) Data collection of direct admissions information for high school students shall proceed according to the cycle set forth below:
  - A) By December 1, ISAC will collect from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) student roster information for all high school juniors. High school administrators and counselors will be able to see the list of students who have opted in to the Program using the

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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opt-in form once available via the ISAC Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access portal.

- B) By February 1, ISAC will collect from UIC and UIUC admissions criteria to identify which qualified students will be provided information on how to apply to UIC and/or UIUC.
  - C) By March 1, ISAC will collect from the public universities GPA general admissions requirements for ISAC to use in the matching process for both incoming freshmen and community college transfer students.
  - D) Following the completion of the third semester prior to graduation but no later than July 1, ISAC will collect from high school administrators and counselors the direct admissions information for all high school juniors who consented to participate.
- 2) Data collection for community college students will commence at the conclusion of a regular school year:
- A) By July 1, community colleges will provide direct admissions information for those students who consented to participate and have met the 30-hour transferable credit hour requirement to ICCB.
  - B) By August 1, ISAC will collect the list of community college students from ICCB.
- c) Direct Admission Matching Process
- 1) High School Seniors
    - A) Beginning July 1, 2026, and each July 1 thereafter, ISAC shall use data collected from school districts to:
      - i) Determine which high school seniors meet the standards for general admission at the participating public universities;

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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- ii) Determine which in-district community college each high school senior can attend based on the student's address; and
  - B) Beginning in September, ISAC shall send one complete file of matched students to Common App in the requested layout. ISAC will also make this list available to high school officials, public university and community college staff in GAP Access.
- 2) Community College Students
- A) Beginning in August, ISAC will match student GPAs with the requirements for general admission to the public universities.
  - B) Beginning in September, ISAC shall send one complete file of matched students to ICCB in the requested layout. ISAC will also make this list available to public university and community college staff in GAP Access.
- d) Access and Outreach Matching Process
- 1) Beginning July 1, ISAC will determine which high school seniors meet the requirements for application to UIC and/or UIUC. ISAC will notify UIC, UIUC and IBHE when this specific matching process is complete.
  - 2) Beginning in September, ISAC will send one complete file to UIC and UIUC with the direct admissions information of students who meet the qualifying criteria for application.
- e) Student Notifications
- 1) High School Seniors  
Beginning in September, Common App will email high school seniors their direct admission offers and if applicable, invitations to apply to UIC and/or UIUC. *Under the direct admission program, a public community college shall offer admission to all students who are residents of the community college district. All correspondence shall also indicate the student's acceptance to the community college assigned based on the student's residence.* Notifications will also include a link to ISAC's

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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website for information on its financial aid services and program. [110 ILCS 117/(d) and (e)]

- 2) Community College Students  
Beginning in September, ISAC will notify community college students of their direct admission offers and provide information on next steps.
- f) ISAC will partner with institutions, high schools, IBHE and ICCB to share information about ISAC programs and services, including State gift assistance programs, support for financial aid application completion, scholarship searches, and other financial aid-related information.

**Section 2777.50 Institutional Procedures**

- a) Opt-In Form Notification  
Each high school shall notify its students and their parents or guardians of the Program and the availability of the Opt-In Form at the time of school registration or at other appropriate times prior to the end of a student's junior year.
- b) Data Sharing
  - 1) Data sharing by high schools for high school seniors and by institutions for community college students shall occur in accordance with the timelines and procedures set forth in Section 2777.40.
  - 2) Admission criteria information sharing from public institutions, UIC and UIUC shall also occur in accordance with the timelines and procedures set forth in Section 2777.40. UIC and UIUC will also provide ISAC with the content of the communication to be shared with students describing how to request information regarding the application process.
- c) Admission Review and Decisions
  - 1) *A public university or community college may verify applicant information, including transcripts, Illinois residency, and high school graduation in determining eligibility for enrollment.* [110 ILCS 117/15(j)]
  - 2) *A public university or community college may revoke admission if an applicant does not meet the public university's or community college's*

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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*direct admission criteria as specified in this Act before enrolling at the public university or community college. [110 ILCS 117/15(j)]*

- d) Student Notification
- 1) Students will be informed of admissions decisions via the Common App or through ISAC. However, each public university and community college may also notify qualified students of their offer of direct admission. [110 ILCS 117/15]
  - 2) *Community college students who have not completed a degree prior to transfer shall be notified by the public university in which they are enrolled to consult the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act to determine if they are eligible for reverse transfer of credits for the purpose of obtaining an associate degree. [110 ILCS 117/15(f)]*

# 2026

# ILLINOIS

# REGISTER

Rules of  
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REVENUE, DEPARTMENT OF

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 1) Heading of the Part: Public Information, Rulemaking and Organization
- 2) Code Citation: 2 Ill. Adm. Code 5375
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
5375.10	Amendment
5375.210	Amendment
5375.220	Amendment
5375.APPENDIX A	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 5-15(a) of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act [5 ILCS 100/5-15(a)] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to add language for a student member of the Commission to receive a stipend and delete references to the Chicago office location. An update is also made to the organizational chart.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

Sarah Dulay

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

## TITLE 2: GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

## SUBTITLE F: EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

CHAPTER ~~XVI~~<sup>XIV</sup>: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## PART 5375

## PUBLIC INFORMATION, RULEMAKING AND ORGANIZATION

## SUBPART A: PUBLIC INFORMATION

Section  
5375.10 Information

## SUBPART B: RULEMAKING

Section  
5375.100 Rulemaking Procedures

## SUBPART C: ORGANIZATION

Section  
5375.210 The Commission  
5375.220 Agency Organization  
5375.230 Procedures for Persons Desiring to Address the Commission at a Commission Meeting

5375.APPENDIX A Organization Chart

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 5-15(a) of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act [5 ILCS 100/5-15(a)] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].

SOURCE: Adopted at 3 Ill. Reg. 4, p. 38, effective January 26, 1979; amended at 4 Ill. Reg. 16, p. 118, effective April 17, 1980; amended at 4 Ill. Reg. 34, p. 208, effective August 9, 1980; amended at 6 Ill. Reg. 8413, effective June 30, 1982; rules repealed and new rules adopted at 8 Ill. Reg. 2505, effective February 10, 1984; amended at 8 Ill. Reg. 17022, effective September 5, 1984; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 17836, effective October 16, 1987; transferred from Chapter XII, 2 Ill. Adm. Code 5275 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIV, 2 Ill. Adm. Code 5375 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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Ill. Reg. 17867; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 7497, effective April 22, 1992; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 11384, effective August 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 15073, effective November 15, 1996; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9189, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 8530, effective July 1, 2010; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 5840, effective April 1, 2012; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 1768, effective February 1, 2013; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

## SUBPART A: PUBLIC INFORMATION

**Section 5375.10 Information**

- a) The public can obtain information about the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and its programs by contacting one of ISAC's offices located in Deerfield, ~~Chicago~~ or Springfield. General information is also available at ISAC's Website.
- b) Requests for inspection or copying of ISAC's public records may be submitted as a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request made in accordance with ISAC's rules. (See 2 Ill. Adm. Code 5376.)

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

## SUBPART C: ORGANIZATION

**Section 5375.210 The Commission**

- a) The Commission was created by the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/15]. Commission members are called "Commissioners". Commissioners are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate (see 110 ILCS 947/15(a)). Senate confirmation of a person appointed by the Governor to be a Commission member is a necessary prerequisite to becoming a member. However, while a gubernatorial appointment is pending Senate approval, the Commissioner designee will be invited to attend and observe Commission meetings at ISAC's expense, but shall not vote.
- b) The Governor designates one member of the Commission, other than the student member, to serve as Chairman (see 110 ILCS 947/15(a)).
- c) A Vice-Chairman shall be elected by a vote of the Commission. A new election for Vice-Chairman shall occur whenever the term of the incumbent Vice-

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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Chairman expires or whenever the Governor designates a new Chairman.

- d) The Chairman of the Commission presides at Commission meetings. The Vice-Chairman shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, a member designated by the Chairman shall preside at the Commission meetings. In the absence of such a designation by the Chairman, the most senior member based on length of service since original appointment shall preside at a Commission meeting if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are not in attendance.
- e) The Commission shall convene at least one time per year. All Commission meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act [5 ILCS 120].
- f) Six members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. All official acts of the Commission require a majority vote in a meeting at which quorum is present.
- g) The Commission shall adopt a schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar year, including the date, time and place of each scheduled meeting (See 5 ILCS 120/2.02).
- h) The Chairman may convene a special meeting in order to discuss matters that require consideration or action before the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Commission. If the Chairman is unavailable, the Vice-Chairman may convene the special meeting. Notice must be posted ~~publicly~~~~publically~~ at least 48 hours before such meeting is convened in accordance with the procedures described in the Open Meetings Act [5 ILCS 120/2.02]. Matters for consideration at a special meeting must be limited to those matters described in the notice. In the event that the Commission must convene an emergency meeting, notice shall be given as soon as practicable. Any action taken by the Commission at a meeting convened under this subsection without notice must be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Commission.
- i) If members of the Commission are unable to physically attend a meeting of the Commission for reasons set forth in the Open Meetings Act [5 ~~ILCS~~~~ILSC~~ 120/7] and if a quorum of the Commission is otherwise physically present, a majority of members physically present may approve by vote the attendance of members by video or audio conference. Members of the Commission unable to physically attend a meeting shall, if possible, provide advanced notice to the Secretary.

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- j) Matters on which the Commission shall deliberate and vote include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 1) Formula for determining grant eligibility for the Monetary Award Program (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735);
  - 2) Budget requests that are submitted to the General Assembly for appropriation;
  - 3) The budget for the operations of the Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program and College Illinois!<sup>®</sup> 529 Prepaid Tuition Program;
  - 4) Investment policies, contract pricing and fees, and appointment of investment advisory panel members, investment managers and marketing agent for the College Illinois!<sup>®</sup> 529 Prepaid Tuition Program;
  - 5) Issuance of bonds or other securities pursuant to Section 145 of the Education Loan Purchase Program Law [110 ILCS 947/145];
  - 6) The amount of the federal default fee, to be charged to the borrowers (or absorbed by the Commission) on guaranteed student loans (see 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2720.80);
  - 7) Promulgation of rules, in accordance with Section 5375.100;
  - 8) Appointment of, and the salary and terms of employment of, the Executive Director of the Commission; and
  - 9) Delegation of authority to the Executive Director and other ISAC staff to execute and deliver contracts, agreements and similar instruments.
- k) The Chairman (or other presiding officer) has full authority to determine all procedural issues incident to a Commission meeting. In the absence of a resolution adopted by the Commission to the contrary, meetings will be conducted in accordance with the most recently published edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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- l) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, however, the student member of the Commission may receive a stipend in an amount and manner determined by the Commission. All members ~~but~~ shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performing their duties, in accordance with the rules and guidelines established for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by members of boards and commissions of the government of the State of Illinois. For out-of-state travel by a Commissioner, expense reimbursement shall be withheld unless approved in advance by the Chairman.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 5375.220 Agency Organization**

- a) The Commission has delegated to ISAC staff the responsibility for the administration of all ISAC programs. Final actions and decisions of the Executive Director pertaining to applicants, institutions and lenders may be appealed to an independent hearing officer, otherwise known as an administrative law judge, as defined in Article 10 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.70 for administrative appeal procedures relating to the matters set forth in this subsection (a))
- b) The locations and telephone numbers for ISAC offices are as follows:
- 1) 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, Illinois 60015-5209, (847)948-8500;
  - 2) ~~100 W. Randolph St., Suite 3-200, Chicago, Illinois 60601-3219, (312)814-6334; and~~
  - 23) 500 West Monroe, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Springfield, Illinois 62704-1876, (217)782-6767.
- c) ISAC's organizational structure is illustrated on the chart labeled Appendix A.

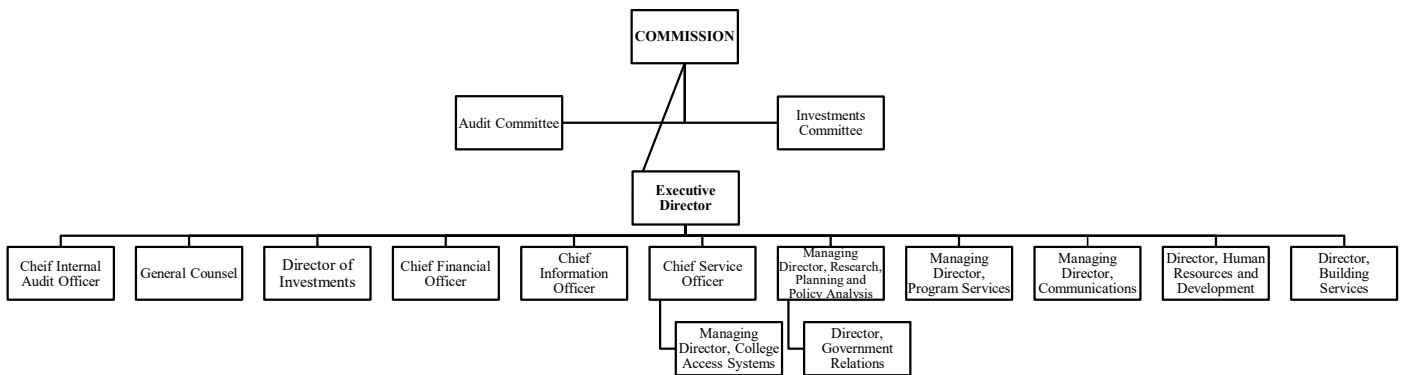
(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

**Section 5375.APPENDIX A Organization Chart**

**ISAC Executive Division**

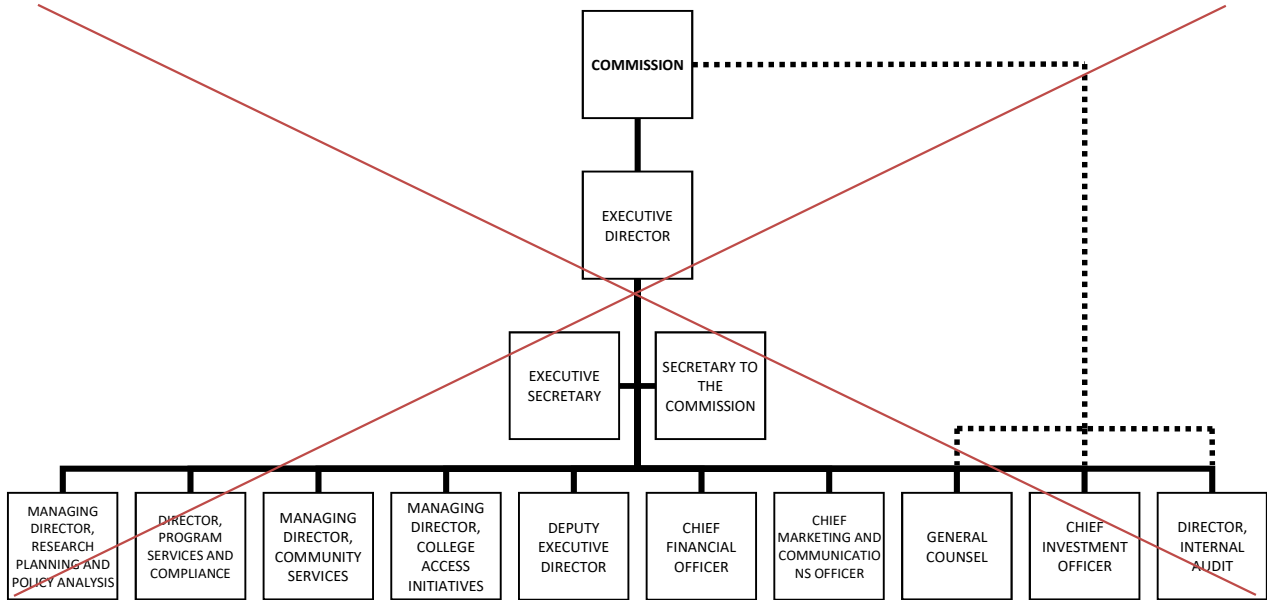


ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

~~ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION~~

~~ORGANIZATIONAL CHART~~



(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 1) Heading of the Part: Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2730.10	Amendment
2730.20	Amendment
2730.30	Amendment
2730.40	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 45 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/45] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to update the fees that a recipient is responsible for paying and updating the benefit usage.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2730  
ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD (ING) GRANT PROGRAM

## Section

2730.10	Summary and Purpose
2730.20	Applicant Eligibility
2730.30	Program Procedures
2730.40	Institutional Procedures

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 45 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/45 and 20(f)].

SOURCE: Adopted at 3 Ill. Reg. 4, p. 38, effective January 26, 1979; rules repealed at 6 Ill. Reg. 8239, effective June 30, 1982; new rules adopted at 6 Ill. Reg. 8413, effective June 30, 1982; codified at 7 Ill. Reg. 10877; amended at 8 Ill. Reg. 17016, effective September 5, 1984; amended at 9 Ill. Reg. 20827, effective January 1, 1986; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 3202, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 12 Ill. Reg. 11531, effective July 1, 1988; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1730 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17857; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 10567, effective July 1, 1990; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11254, effective July 1, 1992; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10563, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10303, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9187, effective July 1, 1996; old Part repealed and new Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11119, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11100, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9148, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 8406, effective July 1, 2001; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 10013, effective July 1, 2002; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10338, effective July 1, 2003; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9904, effective July 1, 2005; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11623, effective July 1, 2006; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10305, effective July 1, 2008; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 9408, effective July 1, 2012; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 9504, effective July 1, 2013; emergency amendment at 37 Ill. Reg. 15439, effective September 3, 2013, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 2891, effective January 15, 2014; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8415, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 41 Ill. Reg. 8121, effective July 1, 2017; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 11008, effective July 1, 2020; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 9458, effective July 1, 2023; amended at 49 Ill. Reg. 14272, effective October 16, 2025; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Section 2730.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) As described in this Part, eligible recipients are entitled to an exemption from payment of tuition and certain fees at State universities and community colleges. If funds appropriated for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) are insufficient to reimburse public postsecondary institutions for all recipients, the obligation to pay is transferred to the institution.
- b) This Part establishes rules which govern the Illinois National Guard ([ING](#)) Grant Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2730.20 Applicant Eligibility**

- a) Students must file an [Illinois National Guard \(ING\) Grant](#) application annually indicating the institution to be attended. No payment will be authorized for any applicant until a current application is on file.
  - 1) Qualified applicants will receive an eligibility letter from ISAC for each academic year following the filing of the application. Ineligible applicants will receive written notification from ISAC of their ineligibility to receive program benefits.
  - 2) ISAC will verify application data in consultation with the Illinois Department of Military Affairs (DMAIL) when reviewing an application. Changes to a recipient's National Guard status must be reported to ISAC by DMAIL.
  - 3) To receive an ~~ING~~[Illinois National Guard](#) Grant, a qualified applicant must notify the institution of the qualified applicant's eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which a grant is requested.
- b) A qualified applicant must:
  - 1) be in active status in the Illinois Army or Air National Guard and served

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for at least one year in the Illinois National Guard; or

- 2) have been active in the Illinois National Guard for at least five consecutive years, had studies interrupted by being called to federal active duty for at least six months, and be within the 12--month period immediately following discharge from the Illinois National Guard.
- c) Eligibility is not available to those persons who are members of the inactive Illinois National Guard.
- d) Recipients must maintain an acceptable grade point average as determined by the institution pursuant to a published policy.
- e) Changes of address, name, status with the Illinois National Guard or institution of attendance must be reported in writing to ISAC.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2730.30 Program Procedures**

- a) The recipient is exempt from paying the following:
  - 1) *tuition*;
  - 2) *registration fees*;
  - 3) *graduation fees*;
  - 4) *general activity fees*;
  - 5) *matriculation fees*; and
  - 6) *term fees*.
- b) The recipient is responsible for payment of other fees, including the following:
  - 1) *book rental fees*;
  - 2) *laboratory and supply fees*;

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- 3) air flight fees;
  - 4) *hospital and health insurance fees*;
  - 5) room and board;
  - 6) parking fees;
  - 7) student union fees;
  - 8) athletic fees;
  - 9) proficiency or placement exam fees and other similar fees; ~~and~~
  - 10) service fees; and
  - 11) *any fees established by institutions for the operation and maintenance of buildings where income is pledged to pay university or community college bonds. [110 ILCS 947/45];*
- c) Benefits are applicable to both undergraduate and graduate enrollment. There is no minimum credit-hour enrollment requirement. Benefits are applicable for noncredit courses.
  - d) Benefits are limited to use only at Illinois public senior universities and at any Illinois public community college.
  - e) Within the constraints of appropriation levels, two semester or three quarter term payments and one summer term payment are made directly to the institution after it officially certifies to ISAC that the applicant has registered and is attending classes. No seminars or other special terms are covered under the grant. Summer term is considered the final term of the academic and fiscal year.
  - f) Benefits for eligible recipients who have completed less than 10 years of active-duty service in the Illinois National Guard are limited to the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment.

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g) Benefits for eligible recipients who have completed over 10 years of active-duty service in the Illinois National Guard are limited to the equivalent of six academic years of full-time enrollment.

1) Benefits for an academic year shall be determined on the basis of credit hours in which the qualified applicant enrolls. Each credit hour (and noncredit hour for which benefits are used) will be converted to "eligibility units" according to the following chart:

Number of Hours	Semester School	Quarter School
12 or more hours	12 units	8 units
9 - 11.99 hours	9 units	6 units
6 - 8.99 hours	6 units	4 units
3 - 5.99 hours	3 units	2 units
0 - 2.99 hours	1 unit	1 unit

2) When a qualified applicant becomes eligible to receive educational assistance under Section 2730.40(b), the number of units used will be calculated as follows:

- A) Multiply the percentage of the tuition and fee charges exempted by the ING Grant by the number of credit hours attempted.
- B) Convert the result to eligibility units, as described in the table in subsection (g)(1).

3) Eligible recipients who have completed less than 10 years of active-duty service in the Illinois National Guard may continue to reapply and accumulate up to 120 units. Eligible recipients who have completed over 10 years of active-duty service in the Illinois National Guard may continue to reapply and accumulate up to 180 units. Full program benefits may be extended for one additional term if the recipient has accumulated fewer than the maximum number of eligibility units but does not have enough units remaining for the number of hours in which the recipient is enrolled for the term.

4) If an eligible recipient withdraws from enrollment after the expiration of the tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period, the recipient shall receive

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a grant for costs incurred up to the term award, provided the institution's tuition refund policy indicates the recipient has incurred charges in the amount of the claim.

- 5) In the event that the recipient withdraws from a course or courses prior to the end of a term, a refund will be made according to the institution's refund withdrawal policy and eligibility units will be adjusted accordingly.
  - 6) The eligibility units used for a noncredit course shall be the same as the number of eligibility units used for a credit course having the same number of total faculty contact hours.
- h) If a current year applicant is discharged, transferred to the inactive Illinois National Guard, or has membership extended by the Illinois National Guard, ISAC will send a revised eligibility letter or ineligibility letter to the applicant. In the case of discharge, a copy of the letter will be sent to the institution of record.
- i) Except as otherwise provided in this Part, if a recipient ceases to be an active status member of the Illinois National Guard during a term, benefits cease, and the student is responsible for the unpaid costs attributed to the remainder of the term. If an applicant becomes eligible during a term, in accordance with Section 2730.20(b), benefits will be prorated for that portion of the term for which the applicant is eligible, provided the application is submitted by the deadlines. Costs are prorated on the basis of the institution's scheduled days of instruction minus institutionally scheduled holidays and examination periods.
- Calculation: Total tuition cost divided by total instructional days = cost per day x days of eligibility = total proration.
- j) If the recipient of a grant awarded under this Part ceases to be a member of the Illinois National Guard, but has been active in the Illinois National Guard for at least five consecutive years and had studies interrupted by being called to federal active duty for at least six months, then that recipient shall continue to be eligible for a grant for one year after discharge from the Illinois National Guard, provided that the recipient has not already received the exemption from tuition and fees for the equivalent of four years of full-time enrollment under this Part.
- k) Out-of-state residents will receive tuition and applicable fee benefits equivalent to those received by in-state residents at the Illinois institution; recipients attending

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out-of-district community colleges will receive tuition and applicable fee benefits equivalent to those at the in-district rate. Recipients shall not be responsible for paying the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition nor will they be responsible for paying the difference between in-district and out-of-district tuition. Institutions are permitted to require documentation of residency in order to determine in-district or out-of-district payment.

- ~~t) If a student is eligible for both an Illinois National Guard Grant and a MAP grant, the Illinois National Guard benefits must be used first. A student cannot decline an Illinois National Guard Grant in favor of using MAP.~~
- ~~m) If a recipient of the grant fails to complete the military obligation according to the agreement, all proceeds received must be repaid to the Illinois Department of Military Affairs. DMAIL will collect the funds, which will be used by ISAC for the purpose of this Part.~~

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2730.40 Institutional Procedures**

- ~~a) If a student is eligible for both an ING Grant and a MAP grant, the ING Grant benefits must be used first. A student cannot decline an ING Grant in favor of using MAP.~~
- ~~ba) The institution must establish a qualified applicant's initial eligibility before requesting payment from ISAC. A valid ING Illinois National Guard Grant eligibility letter may be used for this purpose.~~
- ~~cb) If a student is eligible for, and has indicated to the institution the intent to receive, educational assistance through the Post-9/11 GI Bill (38 U.S.C., Chapter 33), the institution must first apply Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the student's financial aid award. ING Grant benefits can then be used to cover the remaining ING Grant eligible tuition and fees.~~
- ~~de) Institutions must report benefits usage to ISAC regardless of the availability of appropriated funds to pay institutions. To enable ISAC to accurately track a recipient's use of eligibility units, institutions Institutions must report the total number of hours for which payment is being requested (including credit and noncredit hours), even if the ING Grant is paying only a portion of the charges for~~

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~~a course due to a withdrawal. so that ISAC can accurately track the recipient's use of eligibility units.~~

- ~~d~~) ING Grants are paid directly to the approved institution of record that certifies to ISAC that the applicant is an eligible recipient.
- 1) ISAC will annually establish priority claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform institutions of the required priority dates. For the fall term, the priority claim date will be during the month of December; for the spring term, the priority claim date will be during May or June; for the summer term, the priority claim date will be during the month of July or August.
  - 2) Late payment requests will result in delayed processing of payments. Payment requests are processed in the sequence of receipt by ISAC and as funds are available.
  - 3) Institutions may submit payment requests beginning 10 days prior to the start of classes for the term for which payment is being requested.
- ~~e~~) Claims will be paid as follows:
- 1) first semester and first quarter claims received by the designated deadline date will be paid, or prorated if funding is insufficient to pay all claims in full;
  - 2) if funds remain after first semester and first quarter claims are paid, then second semester and second and third quarter claims received by the designated deadline date will be paid, or prorated if funds remaining are insufficient to pay all such claims in full;
  - 3) if funds still remain after the preceding claims are paid, summer term claims received by the designated deadline date will be paid, or prorated if remaining funds are insufficient to pay all summer claims in full;
  - 4) in the event that funds are not exhausted by summer term payments, claims received after the designated deadline dates will be paid or prorated; and

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- 5) timely claims for the difference between in-district/state and out-of-district/state tuition for recipients who do not qualify for chargebacks will be considered for payment at the same time, and in the same priority order, as all other timely claims, in accordance with the provisions of this subsection (~~f~~e).
- ~~g~~f) Payments on behalf of a recipient will be made to only one institution per term. For any institution that has a concurrent registration opportunity, the same payment policy will be in effect as that used in the Monetary Award Program. (See: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735.40(~~j~~h).)
- ~~h~~g) Institutions are required to reconcile payments, both payment data and actual funds, received through the ING Grant and, as applicable, submit all necessary corrections to student records on a timely basis.
  - 1) Within 30 days after and including the date of receiving payment of any ING Grant funds claimed pursuant to this Section, the institution shall credit the ING Grant funds against the recipients' tuition and eligible fee charges for the appropriate term.
  - 2) Within 30 days after the end of an academic term during which ING Grant funds are credited to recipients' tuition and eligible fee charges, institutions must reconcile data received from ISAC as a result of payment claim processing against the eligibility status throughout that term for each student for whom payment claims were made. In reconciling the data with student eligibility, an institution must determine whether:
    - A) The amount of the claim applied to a student's tuition and eligible fee charges exceeded the amount that the student was eligible to receive for any reason, including as a result of billing errors or retroactive withdrawals; or
    - B) The amount of the claim applied to a student's tuition and eligible fee charges was less than the amount that the student was eligible to receive for any reason, including as a result of billing errors or retroactive withdrawals; or

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- C) The amount of the claim applied to a student's tuition and eligible fee charges equaled the amount that the student was eligible to receive.
- 3) Any institution that determines that the amount of a claim applied to a student's tuition and ~~the eligible~~ **mandatory** fee charges listed in Section 2730.30(a) either exceeded the amount that the student was eligible to receive or was less than that amount must submit an accounting of all such adjustments to ISAC within 30 days following the end of the applicable term.
- 4) For any claims determined to exceed the amount that the student was eligible to receive, the amount in excess paid for the claims shall be remitted to ISAC within 45 days after the end of the applicable term unless the payment is received after the end of the regular school year. If the payment of claims is made after the end of the regular school year, the institution shall have 60 days following receipt of the payment to complete reconciliation and remit any funds due to ISAC.
- 5) Award payments made in the name of one recipient cannot be applied to another recipient at the same institution. A refund of the payment made must be submitted to ISAC, and a supplemental request for payment must be processed for the proper recipient.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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- 1) Heading of the Part: Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2733.10	Amendment
2733.20	Amendment
2733.30	Amendment
2733.40	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 40 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/40] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to align language with Part 2730, Illinois National Guard (ING) Program.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

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1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: This rule was not included on either of the 2 most recent agendas because: It was determined that after making needed changes to Part 2730, Illinois National Guard (ING) Program, which was included in the January 2026 agenda, we would need to make complementary changes to this Part for program alignment.
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

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TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2733  
ILLINOIS VETERAN GRANT (IVG) PROGRAM

Section	
2733.10	Summary and Purpose
2733.20	Applicant Eligibility
2733.30	Program Procedures
2733.40	Institutional Procedures

**AUTHORITY:** Implementing Section 40 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/40 and 20(f)].

**SOURCE:** Emergency rule adopted at 10 Ill. Reg. 14322, effective August 20, 1986 for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired January 16, 1987; adopted at 11 Ill. Reg. 3207, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 12 Ill. Reg. 11536, effective July 1, 1988; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1733 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17858; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 10571, effective July 1, 1990; emergency amendments at 15 Ill. Reg. 15613, effective October 11, 1991, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired March 9, 1992; emergency amendment at 15 Ill. Reg. 18778, effective January 1, 1992, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 6880, effective April 14, 1992; amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11261, effective July 1, 1992; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10570, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 10309, effective July 1, 1994; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9200, effective July 1, 1996; old Part repealed and new Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11139, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11114, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 23 Ill. Reg. 7575, effective July 1, 1999; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9166, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 8418, effective July 1, 2001; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 10020, effective July 1, 2002; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10342, effective July 1, 2003; emergency amendment at 28 Ill. Reg. 12932, effective September 15, 2004, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 2462, effective February 1, 2005; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9912, effective July 1, 2005; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11646, effective July 1, 2006; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10313, effective July 1, 2008; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 9426, effective July 1, 2012; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 9522, effective July 1, 2013; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8425, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. 13628, effective July 1, 2018; emergency amendment at 43 Ill. Reg. 10804, effective September 18, 2019, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 2893, effective February 1, 2020;

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amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 11019, effective July 1, 2020; amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 12066, effective July 1, 2022; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 2447, effective February 6, 2023; amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 4450, effective March 8, 2024; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2733.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) As described in this Part, eligible Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) recipients are entitled to be exempt from paying tuition and certain fees at Illinois public postsecondary institutions. If appropriated Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) funds are insufficient to reimburse institutions for all eligible recipients, the obligation to pay is transferred to the institution.
- b) This Part establishes rules that govern the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)~~IVG~~ Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2733.20 Applicant Eligibility**

- a) An applicant must file an IVG application with ISAC for assistance under this Part. ISAC will issue a notice of eligibility to each qualified applicant.
- b) To receive an Illinois Veteran Grant, a qualified applicant must notify the institution of the qualified applicant's eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which a grant is requested.
- c) A qualified applicant shall be any member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a reserve component of the Armed Forces, or the Illinois National Guard who has served at least one year of federal active-duty~~active-duty~~ service and whose service has been characterized as honorable, provided the applicant:
  - 1) was a:
    - A) resident of Illinois at the time of entering federal active-duty~~active-duty~~ service or within 6 months prior to entering the service; or
    - B) student at an Illinois public university or community college at the time of entering federal active-duty~~active-duty~~ service; and

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- 2) established or plans to establish Illinois residency within 6 months after leaving federal ~~active-duty~~ ~~active-duty~~ service, or if married to a person in continued military service:
  - A) applied for this grant within 6 months after and including the date that the spouse was stationed within Illinois; or
  - B) established Illinois residency within 6 months after and including the date that the spouse was separated (if the spouse was stationed outside Illinois).
- ~~d~~b) To use benefits, a qualified applicant meeting the requirements of subsection ~~(c~~a) must reside in Illinois while enrolled unless federal active duty is being served during the time of enrollment or the qualified applicant is residing with a spouse in continued military service who is currently stationed outside of Illinois.
- ~~e~~e) An applicant who does not meet the residency requirements in subsection ~~(c~~a) may be a qualified applicant if the applicant:
  - 1) resides in Illinois at the time of application and while enrolled; and
  - 2) has been a resident of Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years at some point since leaving federal active duty.
- ~~f~~d) Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a reserve component of the Armed Forces, or the Illinois National Guard who has served at least one year of federal ~~active-duty~~ ~~active-duty~~ service and who meets the Illinois residency requirements of this Section is a qualified applicant if the service was characterized as honorable. An honorable discharge may *include a discharge under other than honorable conditions or general discharge under honorable conditions if only due to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity but does not include a bad conduct discharge or a dishonorable discharge.* [5 ILCS 70/1.44] If the applicant is still in service, the individual shall be subject to verification of continued eligibility for assistance under this Part after each period of federal ~~active-duty~~ ~~active-duty~~ service.
- ~~g~~e) A recipient must maintain an acceptable grade point average as determined by the institution pursuant to a published policy.

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- h) An individual is not a qualified applicant unless the individual's service was characterized as honorable for the most recent period of federal active-duty~~active duty~~ service.
- i) An individual is not a qualified applicant if the individual's federal active-duty~~active-duty~~ service was for less than one year unless:
- 1) the applicant's separation from such service for medical reasons directly connected with such service was characterized as honorable; or
  - 2) the applicant's separation prior to August 11, 1967 was characterized as honorable; or
  - 3) the applicant's federal active-duty~~active-duty~~ service, which included service in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country, was characterized as honorable. As used in this Section, "time of hostilities in a foreign country" means *any action by the Armed Forces of the United States that is recognized by the issuance of a Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order and in which the Armed Forces expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential executive order.* [20 ILCS 947/40]
- j) Members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) are not eligible for assistance under this Part.
- k) Applicants are not eligible if their only service has been attendance at a service academy.
- l) In order to establish eligibility for this grant, an individual shall submit to ISAC an application and documentation of all periods of service.
- 1) An applicant should submit a copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty (DD Form 214) or Discharge Certificate, which can be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center or the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, or other documentation as required.
  - 2) If the applicant does not have a copy of the DD Form 214, the applicant

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should submit documentation that provides the following information: date of entry, date of separation, character of service, total active service, home or place of entry into the service, and home or place of separation from the service. The documentation must have been issued by the United States Department of Defense (DD) or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

- 3) If the applicant is a member of the Armed Forces at the time of application, a letter from the commanding officer shall be submitted. This letter must:
  - A) indicate that the applicant is a member of the Armed Forces at the time of application;
  - B) include character of service;
  - C) include the veteran's home of record at the time of original enlistment;
  - D) state the individual's length of time in each period of federal ~~active-duty~~ active-duty service; and
  - E) state the expiration date of the current enlistment.
- 4) The definition of "Resident of Illinois" contained in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.20 does not apply to the Illinois Veteran Grant Program; rather, for the purposes of this program, residency is established as stated in subsections (~~ca~~) and (~~db~~) or (~~ee~~). If the applicant's DD Form 214 does not indicate Illinois residency when entering and/or separating from the Armed Forces, and when any other residency requirement is being verified, residency may be verified by providing one or more of the documents listed in this subsection (~~lj~~)(4). ISAC may choose to request documents in addition to, or instead of, those listed. The dates recorded on the documents must indicate the applicant has resided in Illinois for the required period.
  - A) Illinois driver's license issued during the relevant 6 month period;
  - B) Illinois high school or college transcripts demonstrating attendance

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during the relevant 6 month period;

- C) Utility bills/rent receipts in the applicant's name for the relevant 6 month period;
- D) Illinois motor vehicle registration issued during the relevant 6 month period;
- E) Residential lease in the applicant's name for the relevant 6 month period;
- F) Statement of benefits history from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for the relevant 6 month period;
- G) Statement of benefits from the Illinois Department of Employment Security for the relevant 6 month period;
- H) State of Illinois identification card issued during the relevant 6 month period; or
- I) Letter of employment verified by certification in accordance with Illinois law (see 735 ILCS 5/1-109) and printed on company letterhead.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2733.30 Program Procedures**

- a) ~~An applicant must apply to ISAC for assistance under this Part. ISAC will issue a Notice of Eligibility to each qualified applicant.~~
- b) ~~To receive an Illinois Veteran Grant, a qualified applicant must notify the institution of the qualified applicant's eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which a grant is requested.~~
- ae) Benefits are applicable to both undergraduate and graduate enrollment. There are no minimum credit hour enrollment requirements and benefits are applicable for noncredit courses.

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- b**) Benefits are limited to use only at Illinois public universities and Illinois public community colleges.
- c**) Costs exempted by the IVG:
- 1) The recipient is exempt from paying costs as follows:
    - A) tuition and fees that meet the definition of tuition (see 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.20);
    - B) mandatory fees (see 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.20).
  - 2) A qualified applicant who has previously received benefits under this Part for a non-mandatory fee shall continue to receive benefits covering those fees while enrolled in a continuous program of study. The qualified applicant shall no longer receive a grant covering non-mandatory fees if the applicant fails to enroll during an academic term, unless federal active duty is being served. The non-mandatory fees include the following:
    - A) instructional fees not meeting the definition of tuition;
    - B) application fees;
    - C) graduation and transcript fees;
    - D) proficiency exam, College Level Exam Program (CLEP), placement exam and similar fees;
    - E) off-campus and other extension course fees;
    - F) air flight instructor and athletic fees; and
    - G) matriculation, service and other registration type fees.
- d**) Recipients attending out-of-district community colleges receive tuition and fee benefits equivalent to those at the in-district rate. Recipients shall not be responsible for paying the difference between in-district and out-of-district tuition. Institutions are permitted to require documentation of residency in order to determine in-district or out-of-district payment.

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eg) Benefits are limited to the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment, which is measured in eligibility units. Recipients may accumulate up to 120 eligibility units.

- 1) To determine the amount of eligibility a recipient has used, credit hours (and noncredit hours for which benefits are used) will be converted to eligibility units according to the following table:

Number of Hours	Semester Term	Quarter Term
12 or more hours	12 units	8 units
9 - 11.99 hours	9 units	6 units
6 - 8.99 hours	6 units	4 units
3 - 5.99 hours	3 units	2 units
up to 2.99 hours	1 unit	1 unit

- 2) When a qualified applicant becomes eligible to receive educational assistance under Section 2733.40(b), the number of units used will be calculated as follows:
- A) Multiply the percentage of the tuition and mandatory fee charges covered by the IVG by the number of credit hours attempted.
- B) Convert the result to eligibility units, as described in the table in subsection eg(1).
- 3) Full program benefits may be extended for one additional term if the recipient has accumulated fewer than 120 eligibility units but does not have enough units remaining for the number of hours in which the recipient is enrolled for the term.
- 4) In the event that a recipient withdraws from a course prior to the end of a term, a refund will be made according to the institution's refund withdrawal policy and eligibility units will be adjusted accordingly.
- 5) The eligibility units used for a noncredit course shall be the same as the number of eligibility units used for a credit course having the same number of faculty contact hours.

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- 6) If, for any reason, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) terminates or suspends a veteran educational benefits program, assistance under this Part shall cease six months following this action. This does not include veterans who have begun receiving educational benefits under this Part. In the event that the VA resumes terminated or suspended educational benefits, all current rules will be enforced.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2733.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) If a student is eligible for both an IVG and a Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant, the IVG benefits must be used first. A student cannot decline IVG benefits in favor of using MAP.
- b) If a student is eligible for, and has indicated to the institution the intent to receive educational assistance through, the Post-9/11 GI Bill (38 U.S.C. [3301, 3311-3327](#) ~~Chapter 33~~), the institution must first apply Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the student's financial aid award. IVG benefits can then be used to cover the remaining IVG eligible tuition and mandatory fees.
- c) A notice of eligibility from ISAC must be used by the institution to establish a qualified applicant's initial eligibility.
- d) Institutions shall submit a payment request to ISAC.
- e) Institutions must report benefits usage to ISAC regardless of the availability of appropriated funds to pay institutions. To enable ~~So that~~ ISAC to can accurately track ~~at~~ the recipient's use of eligibility units, institutions must report the total number of hours (including credit and noncredit hours) for which payment is being requested, even if IVG is paying only a portion of the charges for a course due to a withdrawal.
- f) ISAC will annually establish priority claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform institutions of the required priority dates. For the summer term, the priority claim date will be during the month of September; for the fall term, the priority claim date will be during the month of December; for the spring term, the priority claim date will be during the month of May.

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- g) The reimbursement to institutions for ~~IVG Illinois Veteran Grants~~ is contingent upon available funding. Should General Assembly appropriations be insufficient to pay all claims, institutions will be reimbursed in accordance with this subsection:
- 1) summer term claims received by the deadline date designated in subsection (f) will be paid, or prorated if funding is insufficient to pay all claims in full;
  - 2) if funds remain after summer term claims are paid, first semester and first quarter claims received by the designated deadline date will be paid, or prorated if funding is insufficient to pay all claims in full;
  - 3) if funds remain after first semester and first quarter claims are paid, then second semester/second and third quarter claims received by the designated deadline date will be paid, or prorated if funds remaining are insufficient to pay all such claims in full;
  - 4) if funds remain after second semester/second and third quarter claims are paid, claims received by ISAC after the designated deadline dates will be paid or prorated; and
  - 5) timely claims for the difference between in-district/state and out-of-district/state tuition for recipients who do not qualify for chargebacks will be considered for payment at the same time, and in the same priority order, as all other timely claims, in accordance with the provisions of this subsection (g).
- h) Institutions are required to reconcile payments, both payment data and actual funds, received through IVG and, as applicable, submit all necessary corrections to student records on a timely basis.
- 1) Within 30 days after and including the date of receiving payment of any IVG funds claimed pursuant to this Section, the institution shall credit the IVG funds against the recipient's tuition and mandatory fee charges for the appropriate term.

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- 2) Within 30 days after the end of an academic term during which IVG funds are credited to recipient's tuition and mandatory fee charges, institutions must reconcile data received from ISAC as a result of payment claim processing against the eligibility status throughout that term for each student for whom payment claims were made. In reconciling the data with student eligibility, an institution must determine whether:
  - A) The amount of the claim applied to a student's tuition and mandatory fee charges exceeded the amount that the student was eligible to receive for any reason, including as a result of billing errors or retroactive withdrawals; or
  - B) The amount of the claim applied to a student's tuition and mandatory fee charges was less than the amount that the student was eligible to receive for any reason, including as a result of billing errors or retroactive withdrawals; or
  - C) The amount of the claim applied to a student's tuition and mandatory fee charges equaled the amount that the student was eligible to receive.
- 3) Any institution that determines that the amount of a claim applied to a student's tuition and mandatory fee charges either exceeded the amount that the student was eligible to receive, or was less than that amount, must submit an accounting of all such adjustments to ISAC within 30 days following the end of the applicable term.
- 4) For any claims determined to exceed the amount that the student was eligible to receive, the amount in excess paid for the claims shall be remitted to ISAC within 45 days after the end of the applicable term unless the payment is received after the end of the applicable term. If the payment of claims is made after the end of the applicable term, the institution shall have 60 days following receipt of the payment to complete reconciliation and remit any funds due to ISAC.
- 5) Award payments made in the name of one recipient cannot be applied to another recipient at the same institution. A refund of the payment made must be submitted to ISAC, and a supplemental request for payment must be processed for the proper recipient.

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(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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- 1) Heading of the Part: Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2735.20	Amendment
2735.30	Amendment
2735.35	Amendment
2735.40	Amendment
2735.50	Amendment
2735.70	New Section
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 35 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/35] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to add the Alternative Application, updating MAP paid credit hours, receiving of MAP grants before expiration of withdrawal/tuition refund period, and adding section on the MAP Refund Fund.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

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Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

(847)831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

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TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2735  
MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM (MAP)

## Section

2735.10	Summary and Purpose
2735.20	Applicant Eligibility
2735.30	Program Procedures
2735.35	Dislocated Workers
2735.40	Institutional Procedures
2735.50	Advance Payment Option
2735.60	Contractual Agreement Requirements (Repealed)
<a href="#">2735.70</a>	<a href="#">MAP Refund Fund</a>

## 2735.APPENDIX A      Advance Payment Formula

**AUTHORITY:** Implementing Section 35 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/35 and 20(f)].

**SOURCE:** Adopted at 9 Ill. Reg. 20857, effective January 1, 1986; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 3225, effective January 29, 1987; amended at 11 Ill. Reg. 14134, effective August 10, 1987; amended at 12 Ill. Reg. 11546, effective July 1, 1988; transferred from Chapter IX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1735 (State Scholarship Commission) to Chapter XIX, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735 (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) pursuant to P.A. 86-168, effective July 1, 1989, at 13 Ill. Reg. 17864; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 7242, effective May 1, 1990, amended at 16 Ill. Reg. 11296, effective July 1, 1992; emergency amendment at 16 Ill. Reg. 19237, effective November 23, 1992, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on April 22, 1993; emergency amendment at 17 Ill. Reg. 6672, effective April 15, 1993, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on September 18, 1993; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 10596, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 22576, effective January 1, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 8369, effective July 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9227, effective July 1, 1996; old Part repealed, new Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11184, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11149, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 23 Ill. Reg. 7592, effective July 1, 1999; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9187, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 8424, effective July 1, 2001; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 10024, effective July 1, 2002; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10349, effective July 1, 2003; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 10043, effective July 15, 2004; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 9920, effective July 1, 2005;

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amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11654, effective July 1, 2006; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 9432, effective July 1, 2012; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 9528, effective July 1, 2013; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8434, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 7281, effective July 1, 2019; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 15025, effective January 1, 2020; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 11032, effective July 1, 2020; emergency amendment at 46 Ill. Reg. 14590, effective August 8, 2022, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired January 4, 2023; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 1038, effective January 5, 2023; amended at 49 Ill. Reg. 14278, effective October 16, 2025; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2735.20 Applicant Eligibility**

- a) A qualified applicant shall be:
  - 1) a citizen or eligible noncitizen ([see 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700](#));
  - 2) a resident of Illinois;
  - 3) maintaining satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution;
  - 4) enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program (34 CFR 668.8), or in an eligible credit-bearing Occupational or Career and Technical Certificate program at an Illinois public institution, for a minimum of three credit hours, for either a semester or quarter term, throughout the institution's tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period; and
  - 5) enrolled at an ISAC-approved institution of higher learning.
- b) MAP grant eligibility is based on the relative financial eligibility at an ISAC-approved institution of higher learning of the applicant's choice, and is reevaluated if the student's choice of institution changes.
- c) Eligibility is restricted to undergraduate students.
  - 1) MAP recipients must not have received a baccalaureate degree.
  - 2) Graduate students are not eligible for MAP assistance. For purposes of this Part, an institution of higher learning shall classify as a "graduate student" any student who:

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- A) is enrolled in an academic program or course above the baccalaureate level which leads to any degree above the baccalaureate level; and
  - B) is not eligible to receive federal financial assistance (34 CFR 674.2, 675.2, 676.2) as an undergraduate student; and
  - C) has completed the equivalent of at least three years of full-time postsecondary study, either prior to entrance into the academic program or as part of the academic program itself.
- d) MAP grants may be awarded for applicants in programs at Illinois public institutions that will *culminate in the award of an occupational or career and technical certificate*. [110 ILCS 947/35(h)]

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2735.30 Program Procedures**

- a) An application for a MAP grant must be submitted annually. An applicant uses the [U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#) or, if eligible to complete, the [ISAC Alternative Application](#).
- b) Applicants, spouses and the parents of applicants are required to submit financial information on the application that will be kept confidential, regarding income, asset value and non-taxable income.
- c) **Priority Deadline Date for Renewing Applicants**  
No later than September 30, the Commission will annually publish a priority deadline date for renewing applicants. *In this subsection (c), renewing applicant means a student attending an institution of higher learning who received a MAP grant during the prior academic year.* [110 ILCS 947/35] Subject to appropriation, a renewing applicant who files by the published priority deadline date shall receive a grant if the program's eligibility requirements under this Section continue to be met. A renewing applicant's failure to apply by the priority deadline date would not disqualify an applicant from receiving a grant if sufficient funding is available to provide awards after that date.

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- d) Awards will be announced concurrently, both for students who had not received a MAP award the previous regular school year and for students who did receive a MAP award during the previous regular school year. Award announcements will be made concurrently through the date of suspension of award announcements. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.20 for definition of a regular school year.)
- e) If it becomes necessary to suspend the processing of award announcements in order to remain within appropriated funding levels, the suspension will be applied concurrently to students who had not received a MAP award for the previous regular school year and to students who did receive a MAP award the previous regular school year.
- f) Corrections to applications received prior to the final suspension of award announcements will be processed and announced up to 2 months after the final suspension date or until the completion of the processing cycle, whichever comes first.
- g) When a FAFSA or Alternative Application is incomplete, the appropriate entity issues an incomplete notice to the student. ~~When an application is incomplete, a notice will be sent to the applicant.~~ The applicant then has an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, depending on processing schedules, the applicant may be considered only for subsequent term awards.
- h) Applicants are informed that they are MAP recipients on the basis of application data supplied to ISAC. ISAC will recalculate awards for those applicants whose applications are not in basic agreement with their financial records, after receipt of corrected data. All announced MAP recipients are subject to verification.
- i) The Commission shall annually establish and publicize guidelines for the release of or increase in MAP awards as additional funds become available.
- j) MAP grants are applicable only toward tuition and mandatory fees. MAP grants may not exceed the:
- 1) maximum award specified at Section 35(c) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947]; or
  - 2) institution's tuition and mandatory fee charges on file with ISAC.

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- k) The maximum MAP grant available to a recipient attending a public community college is limited to the in-district tuition and mandatory fees. It is the recipient's responsibility to make arrangements to pay the additional costs incurred as an out-of-district student.
- l) For each credit hour of MAP benefits paid on behalf of the recipient, the recipient will be assessed one MAP paid credit hour toward the maximum usage. For each credit hour used, payment will be made to the school on behalf of the recipient in an amount equal to  $\frac{1}{15}$  of the student's calculated term award amount, with a minimum of 3 hours and a maximum of 15 hours paid per term. Notwithstanding any requirement to report actual enrollment hours, an institution shall include for MAP paid credit hours only those credit hours that generate tuition or mandatory fees to which MAP funds are applied. If tuition and mandatory fees attributable to a course are fully satisfied by non-MAP financial assistance, and no MAP funds are applied to any portion of such costs, the credit hours for that course shall be excluded from MAP paid credit hours.
- m) A recipient may receive the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours of MAP benefits paid. Eligibility may be extended for one additional term if the recipient has accumulated fewer than 135 MAP paid credit hours but does not have enough credit hours of payment remaining for the number of hours for which the recipient is enrolled for the term.
- n) A recipient may use more than 75 MAP paid credit hours while enrolled at the freshman or sophomore level, although doing so may leave the student with insufficient remaining MAP eligibility to apply to all remaining credit hours required for the completion of a baccalaureate degree.
- o) The MAP grant shall not pay for academic programs intended to prepare a student for the high school equivalency certificate or for a high school diploma.
- p) The MAP grant shall not pay for audit courses, credit-by-examination and/or life experience, graduate-level courses leading to a degree above the baccalaureate level, or noncredit course offerings (except qualifying remedial courses). Remedial courses shall be eligible for MAP payment provided the student has been accepted into an eligible degree/certificate program and is taking the remedial courses as part of that program. Payment shall not be made for more than the equivalent of one year of remedial course work (i.e., 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours).

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- q) The MAP grant may be used by recipient's repeating previously passed courses for the first time. The MAP grant may not be used for courses that a student has previously passed 2 or more times.
- r) If a recipient withdraws from enrollment or the credit hour enrollment decreases before the expiration of the tuition refund/withdrawal period, the recipient shall receive MAP grant payment up to the tuition and mandatory fee amount based on the credit hours enrolled and the charges incurred.
- s) If a recipient withdraws from enrollment or the credit hour enrollment decreases after the expiration of the tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period, the recipient shall receive MAP grant payment for tuition and mandatory fee costs incurred up to the term award provided the institution's tuition refund policy indicates the recipient has incurred charges in the amount of the claim.
- ~~t~~s) MAP paid credit hours are assessed to a recipient whenever MAP funds are disbursed on behalf of the recipient.
- ~~u~~t) MAP grant payment is subject to the limits of dollars appropriated to ISAC by the General Assembly.
- ~~v~~u) It is the responsibility of MAP recipients to gain admission to approved Illinois institutions of higher learning. Illinois institutions of higher learning are not obligated to admit MAP recipients. The institution is obligated to provide MAP recipients the same facilities and instruction, on the same terms, as are provided to other students.
- ~~w~~v) If a recipient's academic program involves out-of-state and/or foreign study, subsection (j) applies and enrollment must be in accordance with the following provisions:
- 1) The recipient must be enrolled at the ISAC-approved institution of higher learning, and the out-of-state/foreign study must be applicable to the student's degree or certificate program at the student's institution of record.
  - 2) The ISAC-approved institution of higher learning must record the course credits on the official academic transcript as institutionally earned credit

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and not as transfer credit.

- 3) An institution shall not request more than 2 semesters/3 quarters of MAP assistance for any one qualified applicant enrolled on a full-time basis, or 4 semesters/6 quarters of MAP for an applicant-enrolled on a half-time basis.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2735.35 Dislocated Workers**

- a) Dislocated workers, as defined by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102), shall receive additional and specific MAP consideration.
- b) Dislocated workers must meet all the MAP applicant eligibility requirements established by Section 2735.20.
- c) For the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, and not in subsequent academic years,
  - 1) A dislocated worker applicant will be considered for MAP assistance, even if the application date is after the suspension of award announcements for the general pool of applicants.
  - 2) In determining the number of grants to be offered, ISAC shall consider the financial resources needed to serve dislocated worker applicants who apply after the suspension of award announcements for the upcoming regular academic year, but prior to the beginning of that academic year. Dislocated worker applicants shall be considered until estimated financial resources are exhausted, but no later than August 15.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2735.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) Recipients must report to the institution all additional gift assistance that applies toward tuition and mandatory fees, such as tuition waivers and scholarships.

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- b) In order for applicants to receive additional and specific consideration as a dislocated worker, as defined by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the institution shall:
- 1) Verify that the applicant indicated on the FAFSA is a dislocated worker; and
  - 2) Ensure that the applicant certifies to the institution that the applicant is a dislocated worker as defined by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- c) If a recipient receives other assistance targeted specifically for tuition and fees, the combined assistance shall not exceed the total tuition and fee expenses incurred.
- d) If an applicant is eligible for assistance under the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program or the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730 and 2733), the applicant is not eligible for a full MAP grant because ING [Grant](#) and IVG must be factored into the financial aid packaging prior to awarding MAP gift assistance. The institution may request payment of a partial MAP grant to finance fee expenses not covered by the programs listed in this subsection.
- e) If an applicant is eligible to receive tuition or fee benefits through a prepaid or reimbursable tuition plan other than the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2775), or through a payment to the institution by the applicant's employer, the institution of higher learning shall request MAP payment in accordance with this subsection:
- 1) A prepaid tuition plan is any program that exempts a student from tuition charges because of a payment to the institution at a time prior to the student's enrollment. A reimbursable tuition plan is a program that reimburses a student for tuition costs after satisfactory completion of course work.
  - 2) The institution shall recalculate the applicant's MAP eligibility by decreasing the applicant's tuition and fee charges by the amount of benefits the applicant is eligible to receive from the sources in subsection (e)(1). The institution shall report the applicant's reduced grant award on the payment request.

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- f) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to benefits derived from the Baccalaureate Savings Act [110 ILCS 920] and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2771.
- g) Notwithstanding the provisions of other ISAC-administered programs, the total amount of a recipient's gift assistance may not exceed the cost of attendance. Any excess gift assistance is considered an overaward and the institution of higher learning is required to reduce the MAP award and/or other gift assistance to prevent such an overaward. For the purposes of this calculation, federal veterans benefits are not counted as gift assistance.
- h) The institution shall announce MAP eligibility, including the estimated award amount, using ISAC-provided award notification language. The institution shall also provide notification to affected recipients of any change in award eligibility that may occur during the academic year.
- i) Institutions of higher learning shall submit payment requests to ISAC.
- j) For any institution that has concurrent registration opportunities, the following requirements apply:
  - 1) The recipient must indicate the institution of record on the MAP application.
  - 2) The institution of record must secure the MAP payment on behalf of any other institution and distribute the appropriate share of the MAP award to other institutions. ISAC will not issue MAP payment for one recipient to more than one institution.
  - 3) The amount paid cannot exceed the maximum term award for recipients at the institution of record, or the tuition and mandatory fee costs at the institution of record if the costs are less than the maximum term award.
  - 4) Concurrent registration is limited to ISAC-approved institutions of higher learning.
  - 5) The recipient's academic records at the institution of record must document the total number of credit hours for which the recipient is enrolled.

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- k) If an Illinois institution operates an out-of-state center, residents of Illinois enrolled in classes at the out-of-state center may receive MAP benefits in accordance with Section 2735.30(v).
- l) If an announced recipient's credit hour enrollment decreases or the recipient withdraws from enrollment before the expiration of the tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period, the institution shall only request payment up to the tuition and mandatory fee amount based on the number of credit hours enrolled.
- m) If an announced recipient's credit hour enrollment decreases or the recipient withdraws from enrollment after the expiration of the tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period, the institution shall only request payment for tuition and mandatory fees costs incurred up to the term award provided the institution's tuition refund policy indicates the recipient has incurred charges in the amount of the claim.
- n) Upon receipt of a payment request from the institution of record, ISAC remits MAP grant funds to the institution of record on behalf of the recipient. The institution of record shall credit these funds to the recipient's account.
- o) MAP grants are paid directly to the approved institution of record that certifies to ISAC that the applicant is an eligible recipient.
- 1) ISAC will annually establish term payment request~~priority~~ claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform schools of the required ~~priority~~ dates.
  - 2) Late payment requests will result in delayed processing of payments. Payment requests are processed in the sequence of receipt by ISAC and as funds are available.
  - 3) Institutions may submit their payment requests beginning 10 days prior to the start of classes for the term for which they are requesting payment.
- p) Institutional Processing of Payments
- 1) Within 30 days after and including the date of receiving payment of any MAP funds claimed or advanced pursuant to this Section, the institution

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shall credit the MAP funds against the recipients' tuition and mandatory fee charges for the appropriate term in the regular school year.

- 2) Within 30 days after the end of an academic term during which MAP funds were credited to recipients' tuition and mandatory fee charges, institutions must reconcile data received from ISAC as a result of payment claim processing against the eligibility status throughout that term for each student for whom payment claims were made. In reconciling the data with recipient eligibility, an institution must determine whether:
  - A) The amount of the claim applied to a recipient's tuition and mandatory fee charges exceeded the amount that the student was eligible to receive for any reason, including as a result of billing errors or retroactive withdrawals;
  - B) The amount of the claim applied to a recipient's tuition and mandatory fee charges was less than the amount that the student was eligible to receive for any reason, including as a result of billing errors or retroactive withdrawals; or
  - C) The amount of the claim applied to a recipient's tuition and mandatory fee charges equaled the amount that the student was eligible to receive.
- 3) Any institution that determines that the amount of a claim applied to a recipient's tuition and mandatory fee charges either exceeded the amount that the recipient was eligible to receive or was less than that amount must submit an accounting of all such adjustments to ISAC within 30 days following the end of the applicable term.
- 4) For any claims determined to exceed the amount that the recipient was eligible to receive, the amount in excess paid for the claims shall be remitted to ISAC within 45 days after the end of the institution's regular school year unless the payment is received after the end of the regular school year. If the payment of claims ~~is~~ made after the end of the regular school year, the institution shall have 60 days following receipt of the payment to complete reconciliation and remit any funds due to ISAC. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.20 for definition of a regular school year.)

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- 5) Award payments made in the name of one recipient cannot be applied to another recipient at the same institution. The institution should update recipient data as needed to reflect any changes incurred. Any refund of payments will be handled during the final year-end reconciliation process. ~~A refund of the payment made must be submitted to ISAC, and a supplemental request for payment must be processed for the proper recipient.~~
- 6) To provide sufficient time for processing and vouchering through the State Comptroller's Office in Springfield, all payment requests except for summer term must be received by ISAC no later than July 1.
- 7) Payment requests received after August 1 for the prior academic year will be processed as time and available funds permit; however, final action may require institutions to go to the Illinois Court of Claims to obtain payment for approved claims. (See the Court of Claims Act [705 ILCS 505].)

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2735.50 Advance Payment Option**

- a) ISAC-approved institutions of higher learning may request consideration for the advance payment option. To be eligible, the institution must have received MAP payments for each of the last five academic years, and ISAC must have completed an audit of the institution's performance during that five-year ~~five-year~~ period. Institutions with provisional eligibility shall not receive advance payments. (See 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.30(i)(6).)
- b) Subject to the availability of funds, payments may be advanced on a term-by-term basis. If advanced, payments will be made in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of a term's announced recipients, adjusted for attrition as determined by subsection (c)(2). The formula by which ISAC computes an institution's advance payment is illustrated in Appendix A of this Part.
- c) For purposes of computing an institution's advance payment, ISAC uses the lowest retention rate resulting from the following three formulae:
  - 1) Dollar value of the previous fiscal year's claimed awards divided by the

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dollar value of the previous fiscal year's announced awards;

- 2) Number of claimed awards for the previous fiscal year divided by the number of awards announced during the previous fiscal year; or
  - 3) Using the formula in subsection (c)(2), compute the retention rate for the previous five fiscal years. Add the five retention rates and divide by five to produce the five year average retention rate.
- d) If an institution receives advance payment pursuant to this Section, the balance of payment due for the current term will be paid to the institution after ISAC receives a payment request.
  - e) If an advance payment received by an institution exceeds the total grant payments for which that institution's students are eligible, the institution shall submit the appropriate refund to ISAC prior to the end of the academic year.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2735.70 MAP Refund Fund**

- a) *The MAP Refund Fund applies to a for-profit, post-secondary educational institution that received Monetary Award Program funds under Section 35 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act at a time the institution was found to have been using an unfair, misleading, or deceptive practice, as defined by the Federal Trade Commission, the United States Department of Education, or the United States Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and is required to reimburse students for loans taken to pay for the students' education in accordance with a final judgment against the institution issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, based on acts occurring at least 6 months after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Any Monetary Award Program funds paid to the for-profit, post-secondary educational institution for students who attended the institution during the period of judgment must be refunded to ISAC. [110 ILCS 1005/14.15(b)]*
- 1) The institution shall notify ISAC within 30 days after a final judgment is issued.

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- 2) The institution shall remit the refund to ISAC within 6 months after the final judgment is issued.
  - 3) The institution shall notify students who attended the institution and received MAP funds during the period of judgment, electronically and by certified mail, within 6 months after the refund is remitted to ISAC.
- b) Returned funds shall be deposited into the MAP Refund Fund which ISAC shall use to grant additional financial awards to students.
- 1) ISAC shall make applications for MAP Refund Fund grants in the academic year after funds are deposited into the MAP Refund Fund or as soon as is practicable.
  - 2) The application for funding shall remain available until no funds remain, subject to these rules.
  - 3) The grant may be awarded in addition to a MAP grant, but the combined amount of the two grants cannot exceed the total cost of tuition and fees for the academic year at the post-secondary educational institution at which the student is enrolled.
- c) Beginning in the third academic year following the issuance of refunds under subsection (a), any remaining balance in the MAP Refund Fund shall be used in ISAC's operation budget for the Monetary Award Program.

(Source: Added at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

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- 1) Heading of the Part: Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
- 2) Code Citation: 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2764
- 3) 

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Actions:</u>
2764.10	Amendment
2764.20	Amendment
2764.30	Amendment
2764.40	Amendment
- 4) Statutory Authority: Implementing Section 52 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/52] and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f)].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This Part is being revised to update and revise language, including any reference to the term minority.
- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this proposed rulemaking replace an emergency rule currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Do these proposed amendments contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State mandate as defined in Section 3(b) of the State Mandates Act [30 ILCS 805/3(b)] and does not necessitate a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues
- 12) Time, Place, and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking:

Sarah Dulay  
Agency Rules Coordinator  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

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1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 831-6757  
sarah.dulay@illinois.gov

- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Description of the type of small business, not for profit corporations or small municipalities subject to the proposed amendment: None
  - B) Description of the proposed reporting, bookkeeping and other procedures required for compliance with the amendment: None
  - C) Description of the types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Small Business Economic Impact Analysis: None
- 15) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: January 2026
- 16) Any other information or justification for the proposed rule or amendment that the agency believes would be helpful to the public regarding the proposed rule or amendment. For example, a discussion or analysis of the benefits of the proposed rule or amendment is projected to have on the Illinois public, consumers, investors or other similar groups. None

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page:

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TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONPART 2764  
GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLARS OF ILLINOIS PROGRAM

## Section

2764.10	Summary and Purpose
2764.20	Applicant Eligibility
2764.30	Program Procedures
2764.40	Institutional Procedures

**AUTHORITY:** Implementing Section 52 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947] and authorized by Sections 20(f) and 52(h) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947].

**SOURCE:** Emergency rules adopted at 19 Ill. Reg. 976, effective February 1, 1995, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on June 30, 1995; adopted at 19 Ill. Reg. 11367, effective August 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9141, effective July 1, 1996; old Part repealed at 21 Ill. Reg. 11027 and new Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11029, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11043, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9095, effective July 1, 2000; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 10395, effective July 1, 2003; emergency amendment at 27 Ill. Reg. 14860, effective September 10, 2003, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 1749, effective January 25, 2004; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 9162, effective July 1, 2004; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11687, effective July 1, 2006; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10333, effective July 1, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 9784, effective July 1, 2009; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 13957, effective September 1, 2012; emergency amendment at 37 Ill. Reg. 15446, effective September 3, 2013, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 2898, effective January 15, 2014; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 8462, effective July 1, 2015; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. 13649, effective July 1, 2018; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 11050, effective July 1, 2020; amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 8489, effective July 1, 2021; amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 4479, effective March 8, 2024; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 2764.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) *The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program encourages academically talented Illinois students, ~~especially minority students,~~ to pursue teaching careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines or at hard-to-staff schools [110 ILCS*

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947/52].

- b) This Part establishes the rules that govern the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program, hereinafter the "Program". Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700).
- c) Following the repeal of the Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC) Program, the ~~The~~ rights and obligations of students receiving scholarship assistance through the ~~Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC)~~ Program, as previously described in this Part, shall continue to be governed by any administrative rules in effect at the time scholarship assistance was awarded to the recipient through the IFTC Program. [110 ILCS 947/52(n)].

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2764.20 Applicant Eligibility**

- a) All qualified applicants must be designated as a Golden Apple Scholar by the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching (the Foundation).
- b) A qualified applicant, at the time of designation as a Golden Apple Scholar by the Golden Apple Foundation ~~for Excellence in Teaching~~, shall:
- 1) be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen; ~~be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;~~
  - 2) be a resident of this state; ~~be a resident of Illinois;~~
  - 3) be a high school graduate or a person who has received a State of Illinois High School Diploma ~~be a high school graduate or a person who has received a State of Illinois High School Diploma;~~
  - 4) be enrolled at a four-year institution designated by the Foundation as a participating Illinois college or university; and
  - 5) have entered into a Program Agreement and Promissory Note ~~program agreement and promissory note~~ with the Foundation and ISAC, as described in this Part. [110 ILCS 947/52(a-3)]

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- c) In order to receive scholarship assistance under this Part, a qualified applicant shall:
- 1) be enrolled *in a postsecondary course of study leading to initial teacher licensure or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approval to teach, including alternative teacher licensure* ~~in a postsecondary course of study leading to initial teacher licensure or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approval to teach, including alternative teacher licensure~~ [110 ILCS 947/52];
  - 2) have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale if enrolled at the sophomore, junior or senior level; and
  - 3) have participated in all required programs and adhered to the residential guidelines and standards of conduct as a designated Golden Apple Scholar of the Foundation.
- d) In any academic year in which the qualified applicant accepts or receives financial assistance through the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2762), the ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2763), the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2765), or the Teach Illinois Scholarship (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2768), the qualified applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance under this Part.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2764.30 Program Procedures**

- a) Qualified applicants shall have completed and filed an application for program participation with the Foundation prior to becoming eligible for scholarship assistance under this Section. Applications shall be made available to qualified applicants by and submitted to the Foundation before a qualified applicant may be designated as a Golden Apple Scholar by the Foundation.
- b) The Foundation shall designate Golden Apple Scholars as defined in their established selection protocol.

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- c) Each year, the Foundation shall identify Golden Apple Scholars eligible to receive scholarship assistance from ISAC under this Part by submitting to ISAC any necessary data related to the qualified applicant and, at such time, by certifying that:
- 1) Students selected to receive scholarship assistance under this Part meet the eligibility requirements described in Section 2764.20(a) or in the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/52];
  - 2) Students selected to receive scholarship assistance under this Part have entered into a Program Agreement and Promissory Note with the Foundation that satisfies the requirements listed in this Part; and
  - 3) At least 30% of scholarship awards in a given fiscal year will be awarded to students residing in counties having a population of fewer than 500,000. [110 ILCS 947/52(f)]~~Thirty percent of students selected to receive scholarship assistance under this Part in a given fiscal year will be awarded to students residing in counties having a population of fewer than 500,000.~~
- d) In order to receive scholarship assistance under this Part, a Golden Apple Scholar must have signed a Program Agreement and Promissory Note~~program agreement and promissory note~~ with the Foundation on behalf of ISAC that includes the following stipulations:
- 1) the recipient pledges to teach, on a full-time~~fulltime~~ basis, for a period of not less than five years [110 ILCS 947/52(i)]~~for a period of not less than five years~~ and in accordance with any additional commitment to teach in a teacher shortage discipline, which shall include early childhood education;
  - 2) the recipient shall begin teaching within two years following completion of the postsecondary education degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded, and shall teach on a continuous basis for the required period of time;
  - 3) the teaching requirement will be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, or an Illinois public elementary or secondary school that qualifies for teacher loan cancellation under section 465(a)(2)(A) [110 ILCS 947/52(i)]~~at a nonprofit Illinois public,~~

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~~private or parochial preschool, or an Illinois public elementary or secondary school that qualifies for teacher loan cancellation under section 465(a)(2)(A) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)(2)(A));~~

- 4) if the teaching requirement is not fulfilled, the scholarship assistance provided under this Part converts to a loan and the recipient must repay the entire amount of the scholarship prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate [110 ILCS 947/52(i)]~~prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate~~ equal to five percent and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees;
  - 5) the recipient agrees to provide the Foundation or ISAC with evidence of compliance with program requirements (e.g., responses to annual follow-up questionnaires, etc.); and
  - 6) the recipient promises to use the proceeds of the scholarship for educational expenses.
- e) All amounts collected on a scholarship that converts to a loan under this Part, less any portion of those funds that equals the amount in expenses that ISAC has incurred in collecting the debt, shall be remitted to the Comptroller for deposit in the General Revenue Fund.
- f) A recipient of a scholarship awarded under this Part shall not be in violation of the Program Agreement and Promissory Note~~program agreement and promissory note~~ for failing to begin teaching within two years after graduation if, during that period, the recipient:
- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the armed forces of the United States [110 ILCS 947/52(k)]~~as a member of the United States Armed Forces~~; or
  - 2) is enrolled full-time in a graduate course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning [110 ILCS 947/52(k)]~~course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning~~; or

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- 3) is temporarily totally disabled, for not more than three years, as established by ~~as established by~~ the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician [110 ILCS 947/52(k)] ~~sworn affidavit of a qualified physician~~; or
  - 4) is actively seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection ~~seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection~~ (d)(3) for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact [110 ILCS 947/52(k)] ~~and is able to provide evidence of that fact~~; or
  - 5) is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to obtain ~~is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to obtain~~ licensure as a teacher in Illinois [110 ILCS 947/52(k)] ~~as a teacher in Illinois~~; or
  - 6) is fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other programs administered by [110 ILCS 947/52(k)] ~~is fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other programs administered by~~ ISAC if the requirements cannot be concurrently fulfilled in a period of time equal to the length of the teaching commitment; or
  - 7) is participating in a program established by Executive Order 10924 of the President of the United States or the federal National Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) [110 ILCS 947/52(k)] ~~is participating in a program established by Executive Order 10924 of the President of the United States or the National Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq., as amended)~~.
- g) If a recipient is required to repay any portion of the scholarship, the repayment period shall be completed within 10 years. The Commission shall grant a period of forbearance or deferment during repayment of the loan that shall not be counted toward the 10-year repayment period, if the recipient:
- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces; or
  - 2) is temporarily disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician; or

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- 3) is pursuing a graduate course of study and is enrolled on a full-time basis for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years; or
  - 4) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment for one continuous period not to exceed two years and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or
  - 5) withdraws from a course of study leading to licensure/approval in a teacher shortage discipline, but is enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years.
- h) During the time a recipient qualifies for periods of deferment or forbearance described in subsection (g), payments shall not be required and interest shall not accrue.
- i) A recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest of the following dates:
- 1) the first day of the first calendar month after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study leading to licensure as a teacher, but not until six months have elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment in such a course of study;
  - 2) the date the Foundation informs ISAC or ISAC otherwise learns that a recipient of scholarship assistance has not fulfilled the teaching obligation; or
  - 3) the day after the latest date upon which the recipient must have begun teaching after completing the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was awarded.
- j) *If a recipient who enters into repayment under subsection (d) subsequently, within 5 years of entering repayment, begins to teach at a school meeting the description under subsection (d)(3), the amount owed by the recipient may be reduced in proportion to the amount of the teaching obligation completed. [110 ILCS 947/50]*
- k) A recipient shall not be required to repay the amount of the scholarship received if the recipient becomes permanently and totally disabled, so as to be unable to

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perform the essential function of a teacher with or without accommodation as determined by a licensed physician, or if a recipient's representative provides ISAC with a death certificate or other evidence that the recipient has died.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 2764.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) The institution shall certify eligibility information for selected recipients.
- b) Golden Apple awards are paid directly to the approved institution of record that certifies to ISAC that the applicant is an eligible recipient.
  - 1) ISAC will annually establish priority claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform institutions of the required priority dates.
  - 2) Late payment requests will result in delayed processing of payments. Payment requests are processed in the sequence of receipt by ISAC and as funds are available.
  - 3) Institutions may submit their payment requests beginning 10 days prior to the start of classes for the term for which payment is being requested.
- c) ISAC shall disburse scholarship funds in two or three installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the scholarship, except that multiple disbursements shall not be required in cases where the applicant's eligibility is not determined until the final term of the academic year for which the scholarship is being awarded or when a student is attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed the student's cost of attendance.
- d) Funds shall be remitted by ISAC to institutions on behalf of the recipients.
- e) Upon receipt of scholarship funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the institution may credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient.
- f) Upon receipt of the scholarship funds, if the recipient has withdrawn from

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enrollment for the terms for which the award was intended, the institution shall return the amount of the scholarship payment to ISAC.

- g) Scholarship assistance provided under this Part shall be subject to the following conditions:
- 1) *A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of scholarship assistance under this [110 ILCS 947/52(e)]*~~*A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of scholarship assistance under this*~~ program.
  - 2) *Scholarship funds are applicable toward two semesters or three quarters [110 ILCS 947/52(e)]*~~*Scholarship funds are applicable toward two semesters or three quarters*~~ of half-time and full-time study within an academic year.
  - 3) The total number of scholarships awarded in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding.
  - 4) Program scholarships are applicable only toward tuition, fees and room and board charges or commuter allowances, if applicable.
  - 5) The annual scholarship amount shall be computed by the institution and be the lesser of:
    - A) tuition and fees plus room and board expenses charged by the institution;
    - B) tuition and fees plus the institution's standard cost of living allowance for students living *off campus*~~*off-campus*~~;
    - C) an amount not to exceed \$5,000 unless otherwise authorized by this Section.
  - 6) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded under this Section to a recipient of scholarship assistance under this Part in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.
  - 7) A recipient of scholarship assistance under this Part may receive grant

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assistance under the Golden Apple Scholars Program only up to the amount by which the qualified applicant's cost of attendance exceeds the amount of the Monetary Award Program grant.

- h) To provide sufficient time for processing and vouchering through the State Comptroller's Office in Springfield, all payment requests must be received by ISAC no later than July 1.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)