

# ISAC Operational Update and Program News

August 27, 2025



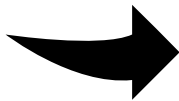
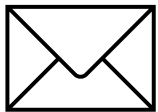
# Agenda

- 2024-2025 Operational Update
- 2025-2026 Operational Update
- 2026-2027 Operational Update
- Important Dates
- ISAC Contact Information
- Questions

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

# Year-End Close Out

- Debit letters for the 2024-25 ISAC programs have been sent to Financial Aid Directors.
  - These are sent to institutions that have an outstanding amount due to ISAC for one or more of these programs.
  - The letter provides a summary of the total amount due to ISAC for each program.
  - All refund checks should be made payable to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
    - Refund checks should be accompanied by a Gift Assistance Programs Check Return Form and the specific term(s) and program(s) for each refund must be identified.
    - Please do not send refund checks to ISAC without providing the appropriate adjustment data.
- Funds are due to ISAC by September 30, 2025.
- The address to send checks and the Check Return Form to is:



Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
Attn: Cash Receipts  
1755 Lake Cook Rd  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

- Questions may be directed to ISAC's Partner Services Department:



866-247-2172



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



1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209  
800.247.2172  
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

**GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
REFUND CHECK FORM**

Please report the dollar amount refunded for each program/year if submitting a single check with funds for **multiple** programs or academic years.

Mail Refund Checks to: Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
Attn: Cash Receipts  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209  
**Payable to:** Illinois Student Assistance Commission

To ensure refunds are credited to the correct account (both school and/or student) and the appropriate ISAC gift assistance program, please complete the requested information below.

DATE SENT TO ISAC	
SCHOOL NAME	
MAP CODE /ED CODE/IVG CODE	
PROGRAM(S)	
ACADEMIC YEAR(S)	
VOUCHER NUMBER <small>(specific to the above academic year)</small>	
TERM(S)	
CHECK NUMBER	
CHECK DOLLAR AMOUNT	\$
<b>REASON FOR REFUND</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Returning Amount Due at End of Year: Per ISAC's letter indicating total amount owed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Current and/or Prior Year Refund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the students' names and Social Security numbers (last 4-digits);</li> <li>• Indicate actual credit hours enrolled;</li> <li>• List dollar amount refunded for each term; and</li> <li>• State the institution's reason for the refund.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	External Compliance: ISAC's Finance & Accounting Division will forward a copy of the Final Program Review Report to the appropriate internal department.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Refund: Provide Explanation

ISAC #3247 08/25 (0N3247) Web 8/25)

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**Refunds and Unpaid Claims**

Upon receipt of disbursements, schools must verify each recipient's enrollment status for the term for which payment was made. When it is becomes necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, it must be done in a timely manner. A [Gift Assistance Refund Check Form](#) must also be completed and submitted along with the payment.

In regard to unpaid claims, schools or students can seek recourse at the end of the year through the Court of Claims. Appropriate documentation must accompany all claim forms. All correspondence must be written, and filing a claim does not guarantee payment. As of July 1, 2000, there is a two-year time limit to file Court of Claims.

**Returning Program Funds to ISAC**

When it is necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, a [Gift Assistance Refund Check Form](#) must be completed and submitted along with the payment. The form:

- provides information about program funds being returned;
- ensures that refunds are credited to the proper account (both school and/or student), program, and academic year; and
- in situations where the school checks the box "current and/or prior year refund," asks that a list of student names and SSNs (last 4 digits) for whom payment is being returned be attached.

If additional information needs to be provided to ISAC by the college, a [Gift Assistance Programs Refund Check Explanation Form \(Excel spreadsheet\)](#) may be completed and included with the Refund Check Form.

For programs to which [payment offset and reconciliation](#) procedures apply, ISAC will continue to offset funds from future payments to the school for awards that are cancelled or reduced during the academic year.

The Gift Assistance Refund Check Form and (if applicable) Refund Check Explanation Form, along with the check(s) made payable to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, should be sent to:

Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
Attn: Cash Receipts  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

- MAP Electronic Processing
- MAP Advising Data Collection
- MPCH Adjustments (COVID: Spring 2020)
- NON-MAP Programs Adjustments (COVID: Spring 2020)
- ING Grant Electronic Processing
- IVG Electronic Processing
- ECACE Electronic Processing
- GA Electronic Processing
- MTI Electronic Processing
- NES Electronic Processing
- Social Work Scholarship Program Electronic Processing
- SETTW Electronic Processing
- Gift Assistance Budget Instructions
- External Compliance Program Review
- State Comptroller's Website
- Refunds And Unpaid Claims**
- Returning Program Funds To ISAC
- Court Of Claims
- Payment Offset And Reconciliation

# Court of Claims

- Schools or students can seek recourse for claims that could not be approved in time to be paid during the regular fiscal year or lapse period
  - Generally, the circumstance for submitting a claim through the Court of Claims is due to a delay in payment processing such as an appeal being approved late in the award year
  - Late claims in programs for which timely claims were prorated will not be approved for payment through the Court of Claims
- A student or school submits a Court of Claims Complaint form with documentation to the Illinois Court of Claims office, and the Court of Claims office forwards the claim form to the Illinois Attorney General's office, which represents ISAC
- After a decision is made, the AG's office conveys that decision and returns the claim form back to the Court of Claims office which then renders its decision to the school or student
- For more information regarding Court of Claims you can view the Court of Claims section of ISAC's website: [isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/court-of-claims/](https://isac.org/faas/processes/refunds-and-unpaid-claims/court-of-claims/)

## Court of Claims

{Court of Claims Act; 705 ILCS 505}

[Court of Claims Process](#)

[Documentation](#)

[Submit Claim Forms](#)

Schools or students can seek recourse for claims that could not be approved in time to be paid during the regular fiscal year or lapse period. Generally the circumstance for submitting a claim through the Court of Claims is due to a delay in payment processing such as an appeal being approved late in the award year. Late claims in programs for which timely claims were prorated will not be approved for payment through the Court of Claims. In addition, claims submitted requesting payment of the difference between the amount that ISAC pays for the Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) and the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant the school is responsible to pay will not be approved.

### Court of Claims Process

- A student or school submits a Court of Claims form to the Court of Claims office.
- The Illinois Court of Claims office forwards the claim to the Attorney General's office which represents ISAC.
- The Attorney General's office consults with the school and the student to complete the claim form (i.e., eligible, ineligible, partial).

- ISAC reviews the documentation and returns the claim with an approval or reason for denial back to the Attorney General's office.
- After a decision is made, the Attorney General's office conveys that decision and returns the claim form back to the Court of Claims office which then renders its decision to the school or student.

### Documentation

Documentation must accompany all claim forms submitted by the school or student and clearly state the amount of the charges paid by the student for the enrollment period in dispute. If the total amount claimed is against the same agency within the same fiscal year (the state fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30), multiple invoices or other charges can be filed on the same claim form.

A claim must include a Court of Claims Lapsed Appropriation Form and an ISAC Court of Claims Lapsed Appropriation Request Form.

- The [Court of Claims Lapsed Appropriation Form](#) is available on the [Illinois Court of Claims website](#), through ISAC and postsecondary institutions.
- The [ISAC Court of Claims Lapsed Appropriation Request Form](#) (or the school's own form) must also be included with the Court of Claims Lapsed Appropriation Form and documentation to provide all of the information necessary to evaluate the request and make a decision to approve or deny the claim. To expedite ISAC's servicing the claim, including a letter explaining why a student(s) payment was not requested during the academic year is suggested. Additional documentation, if necessary to verify the student(s) is in compliance with all Monetary Award Program (MAP) requirements and/or all other gift assistance programs should also be included.

[MAP Electronic Processing](#)

[MAP Advising Data Collection](#)

[MPCH Adjustments \(COVID: Spring 2020\)](#)

[NON-MAP Programs Adjustments \(COVID: Spring 2020\)](#)

[ING Grant Electronic Processing](#)

[IVG Electronic Processing](#)

[ECACE Electronic Processing](#)

[GA Electronic Processing](#)

[MTI Electronic Processing](#)

[Refunds And Unpaid Claims](#)

[Returning Program Funds To ISAC](#)

[Court Of Claims](#)

[Lapsed Appropriation Claim Form](#)

[ISAC Lapsed Appropriation Request Form](#)

[Payment Offset And Reconciliation](#)

[Payment Offset And Reconciliation](#)

[Verification Of Enrollment](#)

[Record Retention](#)

[Loan Counseling](#)

[Reinstatement Of Title IV And State Student Aid Eligibility](#)

[Loan Rehabilitation](#)



**Illinois Court of Claims**  
Office of the Secretary of State  
630 S. College St., Springfield, IL 62756

(Complete four copies)

Lapsed Appropriation Form

IN THE COURT OF CLAIMS, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Claimant

vs.

Respondent,  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Claimant seeks from Respondent payment in the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ rendered as stated on the attached statement, and made demand for such payments have lapsed.

Claimant further states that no assignment of said claim has been made and Claimant is justly entitled to payment of the same.



**Illinois Student Assistance Commission**  
**Lapsed Appropriation Request Form**

for Court of Claims filings for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and all Scholarship and Specialized Grant Programs

1799 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-2299  
606.247.2172  
E-mail: [isac@isac.state.il.us](mailto:isac@isac.state.il.us)

When filing a claim with the Illinois Court of Claims, include the information requested below. Use this form or create your own form that includes the same information requested on this form. Attach one copy of the request form to each of the six copies of the Lapsed Appropriation Claim form and documentation filed with the Illinois Court of Claims. There is a two-year time limit to file a claim for funds (705 ILCS 505/22(h)).

SCHOOL'S MAP CODE	
ACADEMIC YEAR	
ISAC PROGRAM	
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS CLAIMED	

SSN	NAME (Last, First)	Term*	Amount of Claim	Total to Be Paid This Term	Cr Hrs	CPS Date/ Trans#	For ISAC Decision Only	
							Approved Yes/No	Reason Denied

**Illinois Student Assistance Commission**  
**Lapsed Appropriation Request Form**  
for Court of Claims filings for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and all Scholarship and Specialized Grant Programs

**INSTRUCTIONS and DEFINITIONS**

- SSN:** Last four digits of Student's Social Security Number (SSN)
- NAME:** Student's last name and first name
- Term:** The term for which payment is requested. Use a different line for each term.
- Amount of Claim:** The amount being claimed through the Illinois Court of Claim for this student, for this term.
- Total to Be Paid This Term:** The amount being claimed on this form, **plus** the amount already paid for this student, for this term.

**Examples:**  
Student A is eligible for \$2,000. Previous MAP payment = \$1,200. Amount of this claim = \$600 [cr hrs = 14]. Total to be paid this term = \$1,800



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

# FY26 ISAC Program Appropriation Summary

## Gift Assistance Programs

- MAP – \$721,566,200
- ECACE Scholarship – \$5,000,000
- Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois – \$10,750,000
- MTI Scholarship – \$8,000,000
- Nursing Education Scholarship (NES) – \$4,000,000
- Grant Programs for Dependents of PFC Officers – \$1,300,000
- Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship – \$1,100,000
- Grant Program for Exonerees – \$150,000
- Post-Master of Social Work Scholarship Program and School & Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program (combined appropriation) – \$2,000,000
- ING Grant and IVG reimbursement – \$6,000,000
- AIM HIGH Grant – \$50,000,000
  - Funds are disbursed in lump sums by ISAC to public universities

# FY26 ISAC Program Appropriation Summary

## Loan Repayment Programs

- Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment – \$7,500,000
- Human Services Professional Loan Repayment – \$1,250,000 (plus remaining FY25 funds)
- Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment – \$975,000
- Nurse Educator Loan Repayment – \$400,000
- Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment – \$26,400

# 2025-26 MAP Suspension

- ISAC has suspended the announcement of 2025-26 MAP grants.
- Applications that were received on or after **Thursday, June 5, 2025**, will be held in suspense status.
- Suspense occurs when projections indicate appropriation will be exhausted.
- ISAC staff will continue to monitor MAP application volume and claim rates to see if future analysis indicates any release of awards from suspense status is possible.
- Students are still encouraged to complete a FAFSA or Alternative Application.
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> e-message: [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0602-2.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0602-2.html)

# MAP Suspension

- MAP records in suspense status will be indicated by a MAP Suspend Code of "S" in the MAP system and in the MAP Eligibility File Extraction.
  - S = New application received after the suspense date will not be considered for an award this year.
- Colleges must suspend announcements of MAP awards to applicants whose initial 2025-26 application (FAFSA or Alternative Application) receipt date is on or after **Thursday, June 5, 2025**.
  - ISAC is not notifying affected applicants that their awards have been placed in suspense status.
  - Colleges are advised to follow their own policies and procedures regarding communicating announcement information to students with suspended awards.

# 2025-26 MAP FAFSA Processing Date Question

- We have recently received questions concerning students that submitted their FAFSA application June 5<sup>th</sup> late in the evening and were marked as having June 6<sup>th</sup> processing dates.
- **This is still considered past the suspense date.** The applications needed to be fully submitted and processed by June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Applicants cannot appeal this determination.**
  - The MAP award will be considered in suspense & the applicant will be marked as “S” in GAP.
  - Colleges should proceed to use their typical policies and procedures to communicate information to students with suspended awards.
- For more information on MAP, see our Webinar: MAP Policies & Procedures from August 12, 2025


[isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html)

# MAP Payment Processing

- Schools may submit 2025-26 payment requests for the Fall term (first-term).
- 2025-26 MAP **maximum award amount is \$8,064.**
- Payment requests may be submitted through the MAP system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol process.
- Payment requests are processed on a nightly basis and results are provided the next business day.
- Any 2025-26 payment requests that were submitted via FTP prior to August 21, 2025, will not be processed, and will need to be resubmitted by the college.
- Payment Request Deadline date for the Fall term: **TBD**
- August 21 e-Message: [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821-2.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821-2.html)

# Student Detail: Payment Screen

- A Dependent Residency Override function has been implemented on the **Student Detail: Payment** screen due to the rule amendments to the definition of “Resident of Illinois” and “Determining Applicant Eligibility” for the MAP grant..
- This is intended to address situations for dependent students with divorced or separated parents who reside in Illinois with a parent who is also an Illinois resident, but the student was required to list an out-of-state parent contributor on the FAFSA.

Term	Term 1
MAP Code	064
Request	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Hours	<input type="text"/>
Short-Term Certificate Program 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request Amount Override	<input type="text" value="\$4,200.00"/>
Current Eligible Amount	\$4,200.00
Original Eligible Amount	\$4,200.00
User Defined	<input type="text"/>
<b>Dependent Residency Override</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NSLDS Override	NSLDS Override

Checking the box will override the MAP disqualify code that will appear in the MAP system for dependent students whose parent contributor does not report Illinois as their state of residence on the FAFSA.

# Student Detail: Payment Screen

Term	Term 1	Term 2
MAP Code		
Request	<input type="text" value="v"/>	<input type="text" value="v"/>
Enrollment Hours	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Short-Term Certificate Program <span>?</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request Amount Override	<input type="text" value="\$4,200.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$4,200.00"/>
Current Eligible Amount	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
Original Eligible Amount	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
User Defined	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Dependent Residency Override</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NSLDS Override	NSLDS Override	NSLDS Override
Transaction #	01	01
Activity Date		
Status		
Results		
Expanded Reject Reason		
Invoice #		
Transaction #		
MAP Code		
Results		
Amount Paid		
Adjusted Amount		
Payment Result Date		

# MAP 160-Byte File Specifications

- Field #15 on the FTP file may be used to provide a Dependent Residency Override.
- The Dependent Residency Override field should be populated with a **Y** as part of the payment request process, which is intended to address situations for dependent students with divorced or separated parents who reside in Illinois with a parent who is also an Illinois resident, but the student was required to list an out-of-state parent contributor on the FAFSA.

## 2024-25 MAP 160 Byte File Layout Specifications


F) The following 160 byte record layout will be used for transmitting data between schools and ISAC.

Position	Field #	Data Element	Type (Length)	School to ISAC	ISAC to School	
				Payment or Cancellation Request	Elig File	Payment Results
Start	End			MAP Only	MAP	MAP
<b>160 Byte Format</b>						
1	3	1 Applicable MAP School Code	9(03)	X	X	X
4	4	2 Record Type	X(01)	4	7	5 / 6
5	5	3 Term Enrolled	9(01)	=1, 2, or 3		=1, 2, or 3
6	7	4 College Year	9(02)	25	25	25
8	8	5 Payment Request Code (valid values = P or C)	X(01)	X		X
9	14	6 Title IV School Code	X(06)	X	X	X
15	50	7 Person UUID	X(36)	X	X	X
51	53	8 Filler	X(03)			
54	54	9 User Defined	X(01)			
55	61	10 Requested Award Amount for Term	9(05)V99	X		X
62	62	11 ING Certified	X(01)			
63	64	12 Transaction Number	9(02)	X		X
65	65	13 Continuing Student	X(01)		X	X
66	66	14 Paid Previous Year	X(01)		X*	X
67	67	15 Dependent Residency Override	X(01)	Opt*		
68	68	16 Payment Result Code	X(01)			X
69	75	17 Payment Results Amount Paid for Term	9(05)V99			X
76	82	18 Adjusted Amt from Previous Payment Results	S9(05)V99			X

# Student Detail: Payment Processing Certificate Programs

## Certificate Programs

- There is an indicator in the MAP system for schools to use to identify students who are receiving MAP due to enrollment in a Short-Term Certificate Program at a public institution.
- To request payment for a student in an eligible certificate program, schools should report the number of credit-based hours in which the student is enrolled for the term.
  - If the student is enrolled in additional coursework, the number of enrollment hours reported should be the combination of the certificate program hours and other coursework the student may be enrolled in.
  - The certificate box should be checked even if the hours are mixed (a combination of traditional and certificate program courses).
  - Help text is provided to clarify when the indicator should be checked.
- For payment requests submitted via FTP, a “Y” indicator should be provided in Field #21 in the FTP file, per the file specifications.



Check this box if some or all of the term MAP award will be used for a credit-based Occupational or Career and Technical Certificate program at a public institution, and it is a program that is not currently eligible for federal Title IV financial aid.

## Monetary Award Program (MAP)

### Program News

*(last updated August 21, 2025)*

[MAP Advising Data Collection](#)

[2025-26 Program Funding](#)

[2025-26 Payment](#)

[2025-26 Recompute Formula](#)

[Suspension of 2025-26 Award Announcements](#)

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

[2025-26 Start-up Implementation](#)

[2025-26 Award Announcements](#)

[2025-26 File Layout Specifications](#)

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

[2024-25 Reconciliation – Due to ISAC Notification](#)

[Additional MAP References](#)

## MAP Payment

[Enrollment Guidelines](#)

[Eligible Coursework](#)

[MAP Payment Offset & Reconciliation](#)

[No Title]

MAP grants are paid directly to the approved institution of record which certified the applicant's eligibility. ISAC authorizes a voucher in the amount of the payment claim and submits it to the State Comptroller's Office which issues payment to the institution. Schools may begin requesting payments for MAP 10 days before the beginning of the semester. Payment of grant benefits is requested by the school through ISAC and sent by the State Comptroller directly to the institution.

Schools receive award announcements via the MAP system on all SAR transactions, which assume full-time enrollment. When students enroll less than full time, payment adjustments are based on the most recently announced award.

### Enrollment Guidelines

Students must be enrolled during the term to receive MAP funds, and must be enrolled for the equivalent of at least 15 credit hours to receive the maximum award amount for which they qualify each term. The school certifies an applicant's eligibility according to the information available when MAP payment is requested. If a student's credit hour enrollment decreases, the school can only request payment up to the amount of actual tuition and fee expenses incurred. If a student withdraws after the expiration of the tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period, the student may receive MAP payment for tuition and fees incurred up to the term award provided the school's tuition refund policy indicates the student has incurred charges in the amount of the claim.

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Program Overview

Applying

Suspense

Eligibility

Award Announcements

Formula

MAP Paid Credit Hours

Special Enrollment Circumstances

Budget Reporting

Payment

2025-26 MAP Payment

2025-26 MAP Payment Request  
Deadlines

MAP Payment User Guide

MAP File Specifications

MAP Payment Offset And  
Reconciliation

State Comptroller

# Graduate Flag Issue

## Issue:

- The student selected “First Bachelor’s Degree Before 2025-26 School Year” on their FAFSA incorrectly
  - or answered the question incorrectly about their grade level
- The student received the Graduate Flag indicator and is now disqualified to be eligible for the MAP grant (disqualify 4).
- The student resubmits their FAFSA with the correct answer but continues to be ineligible (disqualified) for the MAP grant.

## Resolution:

- If schools have identified a student who has made a correction to their FAFSA regarding the above issue, but is still showing they are ineligible (disqualified) for the MAP grant, the schools may resubmit the correction through the FAFSA Partner Portal.
- This should fix the issue and the new ISIR transaction should remove the disqualification code 4 and indicate eligibility for the MAP grant.

# MAP Payment Processing

- MAP User Guides:
  - 2025-26 MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications: [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2526-MAP-160byte-File-Layout-Nov2024.pdf](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/media/2526-MAP-160byte-File-Layout-Nov2024.pdf)
  - Eligibility chapter of MAP User Guide: [isac.org/faas/processes/documents/MAP-EligibilityUserGuide-Aug2024.pdf](https://isac.org/faas/processes/documents/MAP-EligibilityUserGuide-Aug2024.pdf)
  - Payment chapter of MAP User Guide: [isac.org/faas/processes/documents/MAP-PaymentUserGuide-Aug2024.pdf](https://isac.org/faas/processes/documents/MAP-PaymentUserGuide-Aug2024.pdf)

# Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- 2025-26 tuition waivers have been awarded in accordance with ISAC Administrative Rules, with priority consideration given to applications received on or before March 1
- Award notifications and SETTW Rights and Responsibilities documents have been mailed to eligible applicants.
  - Letters are also sent to all other qualified applicants who are not selected
- Tuition Waiver Certification Process is now available in the SETTW system within GAP Access.
  - Each of the twelve Illinois public universities with students who were awarded 2025-26 tuition waivers has been sent an email from ISAC, with instructions to certify each student's eligibility via the SETTW system within 60 days of the date on which the e-mail is received.
- If a qualified applicant is eligible for both the SETTW and the MAP grant, the SETTW award must be used first.
- If subsequent 2025-26 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send similar e-mail messages to impacted institutions.
- Further details are provided at the [Tuition Waiver Process](#) page and in the [Tuition Waiver Certification Process User Guide](#).

# SETTW Certification - Eligible

*To certify a student as eligible, Y is selected.* Here are the steps to certify a student as eligible:

1. Select Y from the Certified column.
2. The Academic Level column will be activated, and you must then select the appropriate option to complete the certification for a student record.
3. After you've certified the record(s), click on the Save/Submit button at the bottom of the page. Once you've saved your entries, they are considered submitted and certification is complete.

SSN	Last Name	First Name	School Code	Dual Awarded MTI	Dual Awarded GA	Certified	Academic Level	Disqualified Reason	Transfer Indicator	Transfer Start Term
XXX-XX-	🔒					- Select -	- Select -	- Select -		
XXX-XX-	🔒					Y	Freshman	- Select -		
						N	Sophomore			
							Junior			
							Senior			
							Graduate			

1. →

2. →

3. →

Double check that all information is correct for all students, then click Save/Submit.

View Report Excel Report **Save/Submit**

# SETTW Certification - Ineligible

*To certify that a student is ineligible, N is selected.* Here are the steps to certify a student as ineligible:

1. Select N from the Certified column.
2. The Disqualified Reason information box will be activated, and you will need to provide the reason for the student's ineligibility by choosing the appropriate option from the drop-down list (see next slide for full list).
3. After you've certified the record(s), click on the Save/Submit button at the bottom of the page. Once you've saved your entries, they are considered submitted and certification is complete.

The screenshot displays a web application interface for SETTW certification. It features a table with columns: SSN, Last Name, First Name, School Code, Dual Awarded MTI, Dual Awarded GA, Certified, Academic Level, Disqualified Reason, Transfer Indicator, and Transfer Start Term. The 'Certified' column for the first student is set to 'N'. A dropdown menu is open, showing a list of disqualified reasons. A red arrow points to the 'N' in the 'Certified' column, labeled '1.'. Another red arrow points to the dropdown menu, labeled '2.'. Below the table, a text box with a green checkmark icon contains the instruction: 'Double check that all information is correct for all students, then click Save/Submit.' A red arrow points from this text box to the 'Save/Submit' button at the bottom of the page, labeled '3.'. The 'Save/Submit' button is highlighted with a red border.

SSN	Last Name	First Name	School Code	Dual Awarded MTI	Dual Awarded GA	Certified	Academic Level	Disqualified Reason	Transfer Indicator	Transfer Start Term
XXXX-XX-						N	- Select -	- Select -		
XXXX-XX-						- Select -				
XXXX-XX-								The recipient did not enroll within ten days after the beginning of the term for which ISAC had initially awarded the waiver		
XXXX-XX-								The recipient is enrolled at this school but is not seeking an initial special education teacher licensure		
XXXX-XX-								The recipient accepted the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program or the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program rather than the SETTW		
XXXX-XX-								Recipient declined the tuition waiver		
XXXX-XX-								Recipient is not an Illinois resident		
XXXX-XX-								Recipient is not a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen		
XXXX-XX-								Recipient is not making satisfactory academic progress		
XXXX-XX-								Recipient is in default on a student loan, or owes a refund on any state or federal grant		

SSN: XXXX-XX-    Last Name:    First Name:    School Code:    Dual Awarded MTI:    Dual Awarded GA:    Certified: N    Academic Level: - Select -    Disqualified Reason: - Select -

SSN: XXXX-XX-    Last Name:    First Name:    School Code:    Dual Awarded MTI:    Dual Awarded GA:    Certified: N    Academic Level: - Select -    Disqualified Reason: Recipient is not an Illinois re

3. Double check that all information is correct for all students, then click Save/Submit.

View Report    Excel Report    Save/Submit

- Select -

The recipient did not enroll within ten days after the beginning of the term for which ISAC had initially awarded the waiver

The recipient is enrolled at this school but is not seeking an initial special education teacher licensure

The recipient accepted the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program or the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program rather than the SETTW

Recipient declined the tuition waiver

Recipient is not an Illinois resident

Recipient is not a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen

Recipient is not making satisfactory academic progress

Recipient is in default on a student loan, or owes a refund on any state or federal grant

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

# 2025-26 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- A notice was sent 8/12/2025 informing FAAs and MTI applicants of the current ongoing litigation:

8/12/2025

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) would like to provide an update about the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year. We ask that you do not communicate this update directly to students until ISAC sends students a notification later today.

A notice will be sent at 4:00 p.m. today to MTI applicants informing them that eligibility and awarding decisions for the 2025-2026 academic year will not be made in time for the Fall 2025 academic semester. A copy of that notice appears below.

Please encourage students to visit our website for a [list](#) of other financial aid programs and [www.studentportal.isac.org](http://www.studentportal.isac.org) for additional college-going tools and resources. Students are encouraged to continue seeking additional financial aid resources to fund their educational expenses.

ISAC will keep you informed about all program updates as they become available.

## Program News

*(last updated August 8, 2025)*

[2025-26 Program Funding](#)

[2025-26 Application](#)

[2024-25 Reconciliation – Due to ISAC Notifications](#)

[Enrollment Status Verification](#)

**Please encourage students to visit our website for a [list](#) of other financial aid programs and [www.studentportal.isac.org](http://www.studentportal.isac.org) for additional college-going tools and resources. Students are encouraged to continue seeking additional financial aid resources to fund their educational expenses.**

*ISAC will keep you informed about all program updates as they become available.*

# 2025-26 Notice to MTI Applicants

## **Notice to MTI applicants:**

Thank you for your interest in the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program.

The MTI Scholarship Program is currently being reviewed and is the subject of ongoing litigation filed by the American Alliance for Equal Rights, an organization affiliated with a movement to dismantle affirmative action. As a result, eligibility determinations and awarding decisions for the 2025-2026 academic year will not be made in time for the Fall 2025 academic semester.

ISAC remains committed to making postsecondary education accessible and affordable for Illinois students and families and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please visit our website for a [list](#) of other financial aid programs and [www.studentportal.isac.org](http://www.studentportal.isac.org) for additional college-going tools and resources.

# Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program

- Application processing, eligibility certification and awarding is performed by the Golden Apple Foundation [goldenapple.org/scholars](https://goldenapple.org/scholars).
- Once ISAC receives student eligibility information from the Foundation, we will load it into GAP Access and open the system for payment processing.
- The Annual Award field in the GA system shows the Annual Award Amount To Date.
  - The Golden Apple Foundation only certifies/awards a student for one term at a time.
  - **For example:** If it is the beginning of the Fall term, the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' is reflecting the Fall term amount only, not the entire year award.
  - If the same student is certified/awarded for Spring, you will see an increase in the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' to include the Spring award.
- Watch the FAA Message Board and for an e-Message announcement once the Fall term payment processing begins.

# Dual-Awarding Students Eligible for SETTW & Golden Apple.

- If a student qualifies for SETTW & Golden Apple, the student must choose which program they would like to use.
  - A student cannot receive the benefits of two programs in the same award year.
  - ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept.
  - These letters include a deadline date to return the form.
- If a student decides to change which program benefit, he/she wants to receive:
  - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made.
    - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for SETTW before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple.
- Program teaching obligations:
  - SETTW requires two-year teaching commitment.
  - Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment.
  - These programs will convert to a loan that the student must repay if the teaching commitment is not met.
- Schools can find more information on these programs on ISAC's website in the FAA area, the Administrative Rules, and the User Guides:
  - [isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html](https://isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html)
  - [isac.org/gap-access/#guide](https://isac.org/gap-access/#guide)

# Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

- ISAC is accepting benefit usage data for the 2025-26 ING Grant fall term.
- Timely submission:
  - Must be submitted **on or before, December 31, 2025.**
- Aug 21 e-message: [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821.html)

# Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

- ISAC is accepting benefit usage data for the 2025-26 IVG summer and fall terms.
- Timely submission:
  - Summer term - on or before **September 30, 2025**
  - Fall term - on or before **December 31, 2025**
- Aug 21 e-message: [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821.html)

# ING & IVG Reminders

- Benefit usage data for the [IVG](#) and [ING Grant](#) programs is submitted to ISAC by colleges via the benefit usage functionality within each program's system.
  - Colleges report enrollment hours and dollar amounts for initial, in-district and out-of-district benefit usage by students, as well as adjustments to previously-submitted data.
- Even though ISAC may not be able to fully reimburse institutions for 2025-26 IVG or ING Grant awards, reporting of benefits used must still take place so that usage can be accurately reflected on students' accounts.
  - As announced in a [June 23 e-Message](#), fiscal year 2026 funds have been appropriated for ISAC to reimburse public universities for some of the tuition and fees that they waive on behalf of eligible veterans and Illinois National Guard members.
    - Details regarding the disbursement of these funds will be provided once they have been determined.

# Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- Schools are asked to complete the certification process for as many students as possible by **August 22, 2025**
- All certification records available in the system must be completed, **regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled.**
- Initial round of awarding is expected to take place during the week of **September 1, 2025.**
- See the [June 26, 2025 e-message](#) for more information .

# Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE)

- Schools are asked to complete the certification process for as many students as possible by **August 22, 2025**
- All certification records available in the system must be completed, **regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled.**
- Initial round of awarding is expected to take place during the week of **August 25, 2025.**
- See June 11<sup>th</sup> e-message: [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0611.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0611.html)

# Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers (PFC)

- Beginning with the 2025-26 academic year, the application process is completed online in GAP.
- To receive full-year consideration, an application must be submitted on or before October 1, 2025.
  - October 1 – Full Year Consideration
  - March 1 – Only 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Consideration
  - June 15 – Only Summer Term Consideration
- Applications received by ISAC after these deadline dates will be processed only for subsequent terms, with June 15, 2026 as the final date of acceptance for the summer term.

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

- The 2025-26 online application is **not** currently available.
- ISAC will keep you updated as we make changes. We will open applications for the 2025-26 award year later this fall.
- For current information, see the Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program section of our website: [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/SWSP/](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/SWSP/)

# Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- The 2025-26 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
- The priority application consideration date for full-year and fall-only awards is October 1, 2025
  - The date by which an application must be submitted is based on the first term for which the applicant is requesting funds. For the 2025-26 academic year:
    - October 1, 2025 – 1st term only or full year consideration
    - March 1, 2026 – 2nd semester (2nd/3rd quarter) only or 2nd semester (2nd/3rd quarter) and summer term consideration
    - June 15, 2026 – summer term only consideration
- Students may use the 2025-26 application to apply for the fall 2025, spring 2026, and summer 2026 terms.

# Grant Program for Exonerees

- The 2025-26 online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
- Students may use the 2025-26 application to apply for the fall 2025 and spring 2026 terms (the grant is not available for summer terms)
- Applications are processed in date-received order (“first come, first served”)
- Qualified applicants are sent a Notice of Eligibility letter from ISAC

# **2026-27 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2027**

## **2026-27 MAP Start-Up Formula**

The 2026-27 MAP Start-Up Formula will be an agenda item at the September 18, 2025, Commission Meeting.

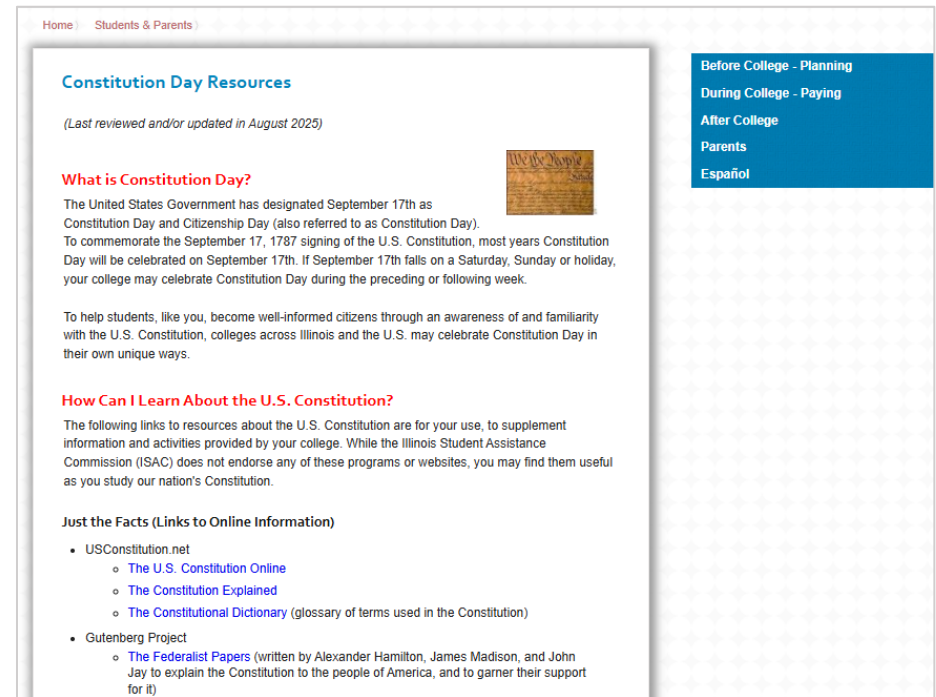
## **2026-27 Alternative Application**

The 2026-27 Alternative Application will be available October 1, 2025.

# Important Dates & Contact Information

# Constitution Day – September 17<sup>th</sup>

- Find resources to help develop programs for the annual observance of Constitution Day
- Access to the Constitution Day Resources page for students, via the Constitution and Citizenship Day document located in the eLibrary's Job Aids & Reference Materials area
- Required of institutions receiving federal funding, educational programs about the U.S. Constitution are to be held on (or around) September 17 every year.



The screenshot shows a webpage titled "Constitution Day Resources" with a breadcrumb trail "Home > Students & Parents". The page includes a navigation menu on the right with options: "Before College - Planning", "During College - Paying", "After College", "Parents", and "Español". The main content area has a sub-header "Constitution Day Resources" and a note "(Last reviewed and/or updated in August 2025)". It features three sections: "What is Constitution Day?" with a small image of the Constitution and text explaining the date and observance; "How Can I Learn About the U.S. Constitution?" with a list of resource links; and "Just the Facts (Links to Online Information)" with a list of links including USConstitution.net, The U.S. Constitution Online, The Constitution Explained, The Constitutional Dictionary, and the Gutenberg Project's Federalist Papers.

[isac.org/students/constitution-day-resources.html](https://isac.org/students/constitution-day-resources.html)

[isac.org/e-library/job-aids-and-reference-materials/index.html](https://isac.org/e-library/job-aids-and-reference-materials/index.html)

[isac.org/e-library/documents/job-aids-reference-materials/ConstitutionDay.pdf](https://isac.org/e-library/documents/job-aids-reference-materials/ConstitutionDay.pdf)

# ISAC Calendar

**Webinars - Monthly Program & Operational Update  
(Last Wednesday of the Month)**

**September**

**24<sup>th</sup>**

@ 2 p.m.


**October**

**29<sup>th</sup>**

@ 2 p.m.

# ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public:

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


 : **[isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov)**

Fax : 847-831-8549

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

# ISAC's Partner Services Department

Provides program information, policy guidance, training and support to colleges, high schools and other ISAC partners

 : 866-247-2172

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

Fax : 847-831-8549

## Partner Services Team

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# Questions?





Thank you for attending today!