

ISAC Operational Update and Program News

October 29, 2025



Agenda

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

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

Updated GAP User Guide

- We have combined the previous GAP Access User Guides into one.
 - This document is a one-stop-shop to get all the information you need when it comes to using GAP including:
 - An Overview of GAP Access
 - Registering for a GAP Account
 - Activating GAP Access Account
 - Two Factor Authentication
 - Setting User Account Privileges
 - GAP Access User Verification (for Primary Administrators)
- GAP Access User Guide: isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/GAP-Access-Portal-User-Guide.pdf

MAP Payment Processing

- Payment Processing for Fall term began August 21, 2025
 - 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: **December 5, 2025**
- ISAC suspended the announcement of 2025-26 MAP grants for all students whose initial 2025-26 FAFSA or Alternative Application was received on or after June 6, 2025.
- August 21 e-Message: isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821-2.html

2026-27 MAP Grant Notification Language

In response to feedback from schools indicating that the student notification language was too lengthy, ISAC has revised and condensed the text for clarity and brevity. See below:

Schools are required to notify all students who are eligible for State of Illinois MAP grant awards, including those students who are only eligible during the second semester or the second and/or third quarter. Schools must clearly identify MAP grant awards on the award notification as: **IL MAP (estimated)**. Schools are also required to include the following language, **exactly as it appears below**, with the award notification.

Continued on the next slide.



For more information, see our School Requirements page: isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/map-award-announcements/

2026-27 MAP Grant Notification Language cont.

You may be eligible for a State of Illinois MAP grant.

Because you completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, you are also considered for financial aid from the State of Illinois. You may qualify for a **State of Illinois MAP grant**—financial aid from the State of Illinois that is based on financial need and **does not have to be repaid**. If you are eligible:

- Your financial aid offer from the school includes an estimated amount listed as **IL MAP (estimated)**.
- The amount listed is an **estimate**. The final amount may change depending on how much funding the state provides this year, as well as the number of hours you're enrolled and your other sources of aid.
- MAP grant awards may be received for up to about 4½ years of full-time college.
- You can learn more about the State of Illinois MAP grant and check how many credit hours you have used on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission website: isac.org/mapgrant

You may also qualify for help with dependent care expenses and food costs.

- Ask your financial aid office if you would benefit from the federal dependent care allowance.
- Call the Illinois Hunger Coalition Hotline at [800.359.2163](tel:800.359.2163) or visit the website at ilhunger.org for information about food assistance.
- Contact the Illinois Department of Human Services at [800.843.6154](tel:800.843.6154) or visit the website dhs.state.il.us for information about the Child Care Assistance Program and/or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

MAP Grant Notification Language: Before & After

2025–26

Schools are also required to include the following information with the award notification:

By applying for financial aid and agreeing to share that information with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) you have been considered for the State of Illinois (IL) Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant. All MAP-approved institutions are required by the State of Illinois to announce MAP Grant awards to students who are enrolled or intending to enroll at their institution. An award amount is included in your financial aid package if you have met the eligibility criteria.

The MAP Grant award amount is an estimate made by the financial aid office and is identified as a "State of IL MAP Grant (Est)". Please be aware that the number of available MAP Grants is limited by funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor, and reductions to estimated or actual MAP Grants are possible.

There are also limitations to how long you can continue to receive a MAP Grant. Usage is tracked by the number of credit hours for which you've received MAP benefits and is referred to as MAP Paid Credit Hours (MPCHs). The maximum number of MPCHs that can be received is 135, which is equivalent to approximately four and a half years of full-time enrollment. For your reference, and to learn more about MPCH limitations, you may access a record of your MPCHs, as well as other student resources, through the ISAC Student Portal at studentportal.isac.org.

*Eligibility for the need-based MAP Grant award may indicate that you are eligible for assistance with expenses such as food, housing, or child care for dependent children. If you have dependent care expenses, ask the financial aid office about the federal dependent care allowance. For eligibility and application information about the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) and the [Child Care Assistance Program](#), contact the [Illinois Department of Human Services](#) at **800-843-6154** or www.dhs.state.il.us. Contact the [Illinois Hunger Coalition](#) Hunger Hotline at **800-359-2163** or www.ilhunger.org.*

2026–27

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- Your financial aid offer from the school includes an estimated amount listed as **IL MAP (estimated)**.
- The amount listed is an **estimate**. The final amount may change depending on how much funding the state provides this year, as well as the number of hours you're enrolled and your other sources of aid.
- MAP grant awards may be received for up to about 4½ years of full-time college.
- You can learn more about the State of Illinois MAP grant and check how many credit hours you have used on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission website: isac.org/mapgrant

You may also qualify for help with dependent care expenses and food costs.

- Ask your financial aid office if you would benefit from the federal dependent care allowance.
- Call the Illinois Hunger Coalition Hotline at [800.359.2163](tel:8003592163) or visit the website at ilhunger.org for information about food assistance.
- Contact the Illinois Department of Human Services at [800.843.6154](tel:8008436154) or visit the website dhs.state.il.us for information about the Child Care Assistance Program and/or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

MAP Payment Processing

- MAP Quick Links:
 - 2025-26 MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications: 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
 - Payment chapter of MAP User Guide: isac.org/faas/processes/documents/MAP-PaymentUserGuide-Aug2024.pdf
 - School Requirements Page: isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/map-award-announcements/

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

Program News

(last updated August 8, 2025)

[2025-26 Program Funding](#)

[2025-26 Application](#)

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

[Enrollment Status Verification](#)

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 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.

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 for additional college-going tools and resources.

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

Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program

- ISAC is awaiting a response from the VETO Session regarding the launch of a possible new scholarship program: *Teachers of Illinois Scholarship*. Should it be passed, it will be implemented in the 2025-26 school year.
- While many details are still being finalized, we are planning for all possible outcomes and will share updates as more information becomes available.



Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE)

- Colleges have completed the certification process and awarding was completed August 28, 2025.
 - Renewal and new applicants were awarded, and award notifications are being delivered to those students by ISAC.
 - A notice of Insufficient Funding will be sent to eligible students unable to receive an award due to funding limitations.
- 2025-26 eligible award information may be accessed via the GAP ECACE system.
 - Results can be viewed on the “Student List Eligibility: View” screen.
- See August 28 e-message: isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0828.html

ECACE Payment Process

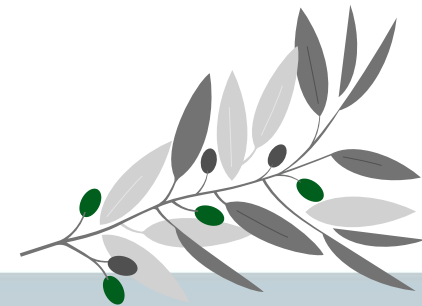
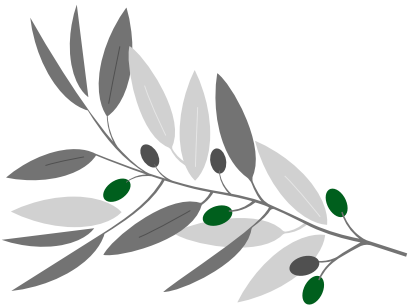
- Payment opened September 25, 2025.
- The maximum award amount that may be claimed during the academic year is populated in the “Max Annual Award Amount” field of the ECACE system.
 - 2025-26 maximum annual award is \$7,500
- There are no term award amount limits
 - Colleges must determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving.
 - Schools need to indicate if a student is not eligible for a payment on a per-term basis.
- The ECACE Scholarship:
 - is intended to be last payer, after all other aid has been provided.
 - may be used to replace student loans that might otherwise have been part of the student’s aid package.

ECACE Payment Process

- Submitting claims is a two-step process, which involves generating the request and then submitting the request
 - By submitting a payment request to ISAC, a college is confirming that the student is enrolled and continues to meet all eligibility criteria
- Payment results are available in the ECACE system each morning
- A Payment Result Summary and Invoice Detail Report can be viewed or printed by selecting the Report tab in the ECACE system the day after a payment request has been processed
- The disbursement of funds is processed by the State Comptroller's Office

ECACE Quick Links

- ECACE User Guide:
isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/ECACE-User-Guide.pdf
- ECACE Program Overview Page:
isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/ECACE-scholarship/



Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Functionality to certify eligibility for 2025-26 Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program newly-awarded students – as well as transfer students – is available in the SETTW system.
- If a qualified applicant is eligible for both the SETTW and the MAP grant, the SETTW award must be used first.
- Schools awarded 2025-26 tuition waivers have 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 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](#).

Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program

- Application processing, eligibility certification and awarding is performed by the Golden Apple Foundation
goldenapple.org/scholars.
- Eligibility data is available in GAP access as of September 29th, 2025.
- First-term payment requests (i.e., claims) are being accepted.
 - Timely requests must be submitted on or before Wednesday, December 31, 2025.
 - We encourage claims to be submitted as soon as you can do so.

Golden Apple: Payment Student Detail Screen

- The **Annual Award Amount To Date** is the amount that the Golden Apple Foundation has certified/awarded a student up to the current date.
- The Foundation certifies/awards a student for **ONLY ONE TERM AT A TIME**.
- For example: If we are currently in the Fall term, then the **Annual Award Amount To Date** is reflecting the Fall term amount only, not the entire award year.
- If the same student is then certified/awarded for the Spring term, then the **Annual Award Amount To Date** will increase to reflect the two term amounts combined.

This screen is accessed by clicking on the **dollar sign** icon that is on the same line as the student's last name on the **Student Payment List: View** screen and by selecting the **Payment** tab from the **Student Detail: Eligibility** screen.

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code		
Request	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Academic Level	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Status	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ineligible Reason	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Requested Amount	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Award Amount		2500.00

Golden Apple: Payment

When requesting payment from the **Student Detail** screen, there are four required fields:

1. Request

2. Academic Level

3. Enrollment Status

4. Requested Amount

Each of these fields must be completed with the appropriate information for payment requests to be processed properly. If the student is ineligible an *Ineligible Reason* must be selected and a and a zero (\$0) should be entered in the Requested Amount field.

- To adjust the system-calculated annual award amount if necessary)
 - The maximum award amount per regular school year is \$2,500 or \$5,000.
 - **The Golden Apple Foundation certifies recipients' eligibility one term at time. Only the term(s) that have been certified will be available for payment.**
- The amount of each award is determined by the number of years the applicant has been a Golden Apple Scholar (i.e., "Year in Program") rather than the scholar's academic level in college. Award amounts are as follows.

First & Second Year Maximum Annual Award

\$2,500

Semester schools: Receive \$1,250 per term

Quarter schools: Receive \$834 for 1st quarter, \$833 for the 2nd, & \$833 for the 3rd quarter.

Third & Fourth Year Maximum Annual Award

\$5,000

Semester schools: Receive \$2,500 per term

Quarter schools: Receive \$1,667 for 1st quarter, \$1,667 for the 2nd, & \$1,666 for the 3rd quarter.

Golden Apple: Payment

GA 2025-2026: Student Detail: Payment

[Home](#) [Student](#) [Certification](#) [File Upload](#) [Payment](#) [Reports](#)

List Eligibility **Payment**

Current SSN
 Go

Deferred Scholar
N

Annual Award Amount To Date
1250.00

To navigate to another student, enter the student's SSN in the **Current SSN** field and click on the **Go** button.

Terms	1-Fall
School Code	
Request	Payment
Academic Level	Freshman
Enrollment Status	Full time
Ineligible Reason	
Requested Amount	\$ 1250.00
Award Amount	1250.00

Request

Payment- request a payment.

or

Cancel- to cancel a previously requested award.

Academic Level – select the student's current level.

Enrollment Status – Select either Full time or Half time.

*Ineligible - to be completed for an ineligible student.
(See ineligible reasons on the next slide)

Requested Amount – fill in the amount based on the student's year and term.

Click on the **Save Changes** button to save the payment request, or the **Discard Changes** button to discard the payment request.

As a reminder, the payment request process is not complete until the next step of submitting the payment requests to ISAC has been completed using the **Submit Payment Requests** screen.

Golden Apple: Payment - Ineligible

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code	001833	001833
Request	Payment <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Academic Level	Freshman <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Enrollment Status	Full time <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Ineligible Reason	<input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Requested Amount	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Award Amount	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- Not enrolled
- Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen
- Not an Illinois resident
- Defaulted student loan
- Not enrolled in teacher program
- Conflicting scholarship
- Not making satisfactory academic progress
- Reached max number of years allowed
- GPA not at least 2.5 on 4.0 scale (soph or above)
- Not a HS grad/no GED
- Not enrolled at least half time
- Student is not accepting GA

GA Ineligible Reasons

Select the appropriate reason that makes student ineligible.

- Not enrolled *
- Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen
- Not an Illinois resident
- Defaulted student loan
- Not enrolled in a teacher program
- Conflicting scholarship
- Not making satisfactory academic progress
- Reached max number of years allowed
- GPA not at least 2.5 on 4.0 scale (soph or above)
- Not a HS grad/no GED
- Not enrolled at least half-time *
- Student is not accepting GA

* If an Ineligible request is submitted, all payment for the term will be canceled, unless it is for the reason "Not enrolled" or "Not enrolled at least half time" in Semester 1 or Quarter 1 or 2.

Golden Apple: Payment – Submitting Payment

- The Submit Payment Requests screen allows the user to submit payment requests to ISAC for processing. The user can specify which payment request records will be submitted based on Term selected.
- This screen is accessed by selecting the Submit Payment Requests tab. After payment requests have been submitted by clicking on the Submit button a message will be displayed indicating how many payment requests were submitted.
- To submit payment requests to ISAC for GA payment follow these steps:
 - Choose the Term for which the request is being made from the drop-down menu.
 - Click on the Submit button to submit the payment request.
 - Ensure that a submission message is received and make note of the number of records submitted.

Screenshot of the GA Submit Payment Requests screen. The interface shows a navigation bar with 'School', 'Administration', and 'Programs'. Below it, the title 'GA Submit Payment Requests' is displayed. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Student', 'Payment', and 'Reports'. Under 'Payment', there are options for 'List', 'Filter', 'Sort', 'Columns', 'Payment Request Entry', and a highlighted 'Submit Payment Requests' button. A message 'Payment Submitted for 2 records' is shown in a red box. Below this, there is a section for 'Selection Criteria for all eligible records' with a 'Term' dropdown menu set to '1-Fall'. At the bottom, there are 'Submit' and 'Reset' buttons.

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- Scholarships have been awarded
- Payment opened September 25, 2025.
- Scholarships were first awarded to renewal applicants who continued to meet all the program's eligibility requirements
 - An applicant is considered a renewal applicant for the program if they received NES funds during the previous academic program
- After all qualified renewal applicants have been awarded, then awards are made to eligible new applicants according to the degree type being sought.
 - NES Award Determination: [isac.org/ isac-gift-assistance-programs/NESP/awarding.html](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/NESP/awarding.html)

Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

- ISAC is accepting benefit usage data for the 2025-26 ING Grant fall term.
- Timely submission for fall claims:
 - Must be submitted **on or before, December 31, 2025.**
- Reminders:
 - Students must re-apply each year
 - There are no longer term deadline dates by which applications must be submitted each term
 - Applications must be received by ISAC in time for eligibility to be determined
 - The applicant will need to notify the college about their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the first-term for which the student wants to receive benefits
 - Members of the Illinois National Guard who have served at least 10 years in the Guard may be eligible to receive up to 180 Units (6 years) of eligibility for the ING Grant.
- Aug 21 e-message: 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**
- Reminders:
 - Application can be submitted any time during the academic year.
 - Students do not need to reapply each year - only once to establish eligibility.
 - Applications must be received by ISAC allowing sufficient time to complete processing and for applicant to notify college about their eligibility prior to the last scheduled day of classes in the term for which a grant is requested.
- Aug 21 e-message: isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0821.html

Chapter 33 with IVG & ING

- If Chapter 33 and MAP:
 - MAP is used 1st then Chapter 33
- If the student has Chapter 33, IVG and/or ING:
 - Chapter 33 will be used 1st followed by IVG and ING

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

- The 2025-26 online application is currently available.
- Certification is available in the SWSP system via GAP Access as of September 19, 2025
- 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/

SWSP Certification List: View

To complete a certification record for an applicant, navigate to the **Certification List: View** screen:

- Click on an individual student's name or SSN to open the **Certification Data** screen for the student.
- Enter the required data and then click on the **Save/Submit** button
- The **Save/Submit** button will not be enabled until data has been provided for **ALL** required fields.
- Or, to exit without saving and submitting, click on the **Close** button.

SWSP 2025-2026: Certification List: View

Home Student **Certification** Payment Reports

List Filter

Entries displayed 100

#	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth
1	xxx-xx-			
2	xxx-xx-			

Certification Data

ASH-BURCH, KYLE

A valid Illinois Social Work License or Clinical Social Work License is a program eligibility requirement. If the applicant does not hold one of the required licenses, set the "Eligible" field to No and select the applicable Ineligible Reason.

The scholarship is applicable only toward tuition and mandatory fees.

Eligible:

Anticipated Term(s):

Term 1 Eligible Amount:

Term 2 Eligible Amount:

Term 3 Eligible Amount:

Anticipated Date of Program Completion:

Ineligible Reason:

Save/Submit Close

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.
- Screenshots and updates will be provided in our webinar once this program becomes available in GAP.

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 **not** available in the ISAC Student Portal.
- ISAC will communicate updates when the application becomes available later this fall.

ISAC Rules

- 2024-25 rules are adopted and awaiting finalization.
 - Posting will occur in early November.
- 2025-26 rules are posted and available for public comment.
 - Posted in the Illinois Register Volume 49, Issue 42 on Oct. 17, 2025 :
isac.org/e-library/documents/administrative-rules/2025-26-ISAC-Rules/2025-26-Proposed-October-2025.pdf
 - For comments, please contact Sarah Dulay: Sarah.Dulay@Illinois.gov
- For updates on rules, see our e-messages: isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/index.html
 - To sign up for e-messaging: isac.org/emessaging/

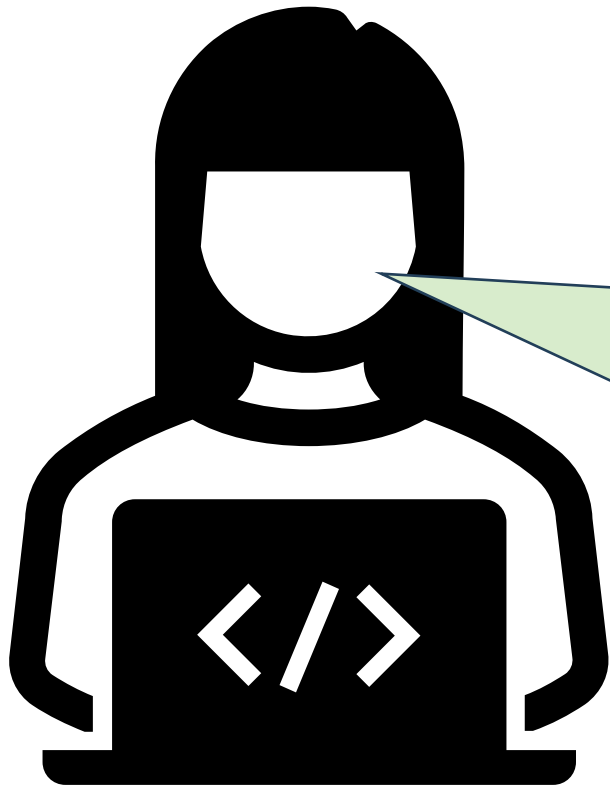
2026-27 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2027

2026-27 MAP Start-Up Formula

Start-Up Formula

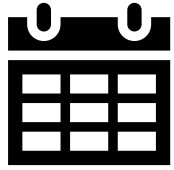
- On September 18, 2025, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission approved the 2026-27 (FY27) MAP start-up formula, which follows the FY26 recompute formula.
- Following the FY26 recompute formula, the following is being used in the start-up formula for 2026-27 MAP grants:
 - **2021-22 reported tuition and fees;**
 - **the 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule;**
 - **a \$5,200 living allowance;** and,
 - **an \$8,400 maximum award (with an effective maximum of \$8,064 after the 4% reduction).**
- As was the case with FY26 recompute formula, and as necessitated by FAFSA Simplification, the 2026-27 MAP start-up formula mirrors the federal methodology that allows students with a negative or zero Student Aid Index (SAI) to receive the same maximum Pell amount.
- More information – including the 2026-27 Start-up Hand Calculation Forms and information about related file layout specifications – will be posted at this website as it becomes available.

2026-27 Alternative Application



The 2026-27 Alternative Application
Is available as of October 1,
2025.

Important Dates & Contact Information



ISAC Calendar

Webinars - Monthly Program & Operational Update

November

19th

@ 2 p.m.

December


17th

@ 2 p.m.

January


28th

@ 2 p.m.

 Dates moved from last Wednesday of the month to accommodate holidays.

ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

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

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


 : **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

Fax : 847-831-8549

Partner Services Team

Hannah Castellanos Hannah.Castellanos@illinois.gov

Sarah Dulay Sarah.Dulay@illinois.gov

Hayle Mickelson Hayle.Mickelson@illinois.gov

Daniela Rios Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov

Sherry Schonauer Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov

Questions?





Thank you for attending today!