

ISAC Operational Update and Program News

September 23, 2026



Agenda



2026-2027 Award Year Update



Important Updates



Questions



2026-2027 Award Year

Fiscal Year (FY) 2027

2026-27 Applications Available

Program	OPEN?	Priority Deadline for 2026-27
Monetary Award Program (MAP)	Y*	ISAC is suspending the announcement of MAP awards for all students whose initial FAFSA® is received by FPS after Thursday, April 23, 2026
Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program (DEWSP)	Y	October 1, 2026 – Full year consideration March 1, 2027 – Spring-term June 15, 2027 – Summer-term
Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program	Y*	Was May 31, 2026 (Can still apply late but will only be considered after priority applications have been awarded)
Golden Apple (GA)	Y	12/1/2026 Priority Deadline & 3/1/2027 Final Deadline – Apply through the Golden Apple Foundation website .
Grant Programs for Dependents of Police-Fire-Correctional Officers (PFC)	Y	October 1, 2026 – Full year consideration March 1, 2027 – Spring-term June 15, 2027 – Summer-term
Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)	Y	When made available each year, applications are submitted on a rolling basis, must apply w/ enough time for ISAC to review application for the term recipient wants benefits used for. Please note that there is an estimated 12-week processing time for applications.
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)	Y	Same as ING above.
Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)	N	Was May 31, 2026
School Social Work Scholarship Formerly known as the Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program	Y	October 31, 2026
Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)	N	Was March 1, 2026
Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (TISP)	Y*	Was September 18, 2026 (Can still apply late but will only be considered after priority applications have been awarded)

MAP – First-term Payment Open

Payment for Fall Term (first-term) MAP is available as of Monday **August 24, 2026**.

- The 2026-27 maximum award amount is \$8,064.
- Payment requests are submitted either through the MAP system in GAP Access or via the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) process.
- Any 2026-27 payment requests that were submitted via FTP prior to August 24, 2026, will not be processed, and will need to be resubmitted by the college.
- Payment Request Deadline date for the Fall (first-term) term: on or before **December 4, 2026**.
- See the [August 24 e-message](#) for more details.

MAP Eligibility & Payment User Guide

The MAP Eligibility and MAP Payment User Guides have been combined into 1 master User Guide:

[MAP Eligibility & Payment User Guide](#)

For easy navigation, use the clickable table of contents. There are also multiple internal links within the document to take users to relevant sections.

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September 2026

1

September 2026

2



Monetary Award Program (MAP) Eligibility & Payment

USER GUIDE

Quick Links

- [GAP Access Portal](#)
- [GAP Access Portal User Guide](#)



September 2026

Certifications Open

ECACE

Early Childhood Access
Consortium for Equity

NES

Nursing Education
Scholarship

SETTW

Special Education Teacher
Tuition Waiver

SSWS

School Social Work
Scholarship

TI

Teachers of Illinois
Scholarship

All Certification records must be completed, regardless of whether the school certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled.

2026-27 Awarding for NES, TISP, SSWS

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)

- All renewal applicants who have been certified as eligible by their college received priority consideration for awarding, followed by eligible new applicants. Resources about the awarding process may be accessed via the [NES Electronic Processing](#) area, as well as the [NES Award Determination](#) page.

Teachers of Illinois Scholarship (TISP)

- TISP awardees have been announced. Resources about the awarding process may be accessed via the [Teachers of Illinois Electronic Processing](#) area, as well as the [Award Determination for Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program](#) page.

School Social Work Scholarship (SWSS)

- Applicants who have been certified as eligible have been awarded. Resources about the awarding process may be accessed via the [School Social Work Scholarship Electronic Processing](#) area, as well as the [School Social Work Scholarship Awarding](#) page.

Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity (ECACE)

- Renewal and new applicants were awarded. Colleges may access eligible award information, including funded or unfunded status, using the [ECACE system](#). Award results may be viewed on the "Student List Eligibility: View" screen.

ISAC will mail notifications to award recipients soon.

Payment Open

ECACE

Early Childhood Access
Consortium for Equity

NES

Nursing Education
Scholarship

GA

Golden Apple

SSWS

School Social Work
Scholarship

TI

Teachers of Illinois
Scholarship

Payment reminders and an overview of the payment process for each program can be found on the following slides.

Click on a program above to be taken to that section of the presentation.

ECACE Payment Processing Reminders

- ECACE Scholarship is last payer and can be used for any cost of attendance component.
- There are no term award limits for this program – colleges must determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving.
- Funds are paid directly to the approved institution of record which certified the applicant's eligibility.

ECACE Payment – Individual Payment Request (1/6)

Payments in the ECACE system can be performed either individually or in batches.

Individual Payment Request

The **Student Detail: Payments** screen is a multi-purpose screen that allows schools to view payment information or to create or make adjustments to payment requests for an individual student record. This process is completed by doing the following:

1. Click on the **dollar sign** icon that is on the same line as the student's name on the **Student Payment List: View** screen.
 - a. Or select the Payment tab from the **Student Detail: Eligibility** screen.
 - b. In addition to the **Payment** tab, the **Student Detail: Payments** screen contains the following navigation tabs:
 - **List** – to return to the **Student Payment List: View** screen
 - **Eligibility** -- to navigate to the **Student Detail: Eligibility** screen
 - **Navigate to another student** – enter the student's Social Security Number in the Current SSN field and click the Go button

ECACE Payment – Individual Payment Request (2/6)

1

ECACE 20XX-20XX: Student Payment List: View

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List Filter Sort Columns Payment Request Entry Subr

#	Sel	Req Sel	Term Number	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name
1			1	xxx-xx		
2			1	xxx-xx		

OR

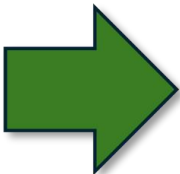
1.a

ECACE 20XX-20XX: Student Detail: Eligibility

Home **Student** Certification Payment Reports

List **Eligibility** **Payment** School Update

Last Name, First Name Person Details Application Details



1.b

ECACE 20XX-20XX: Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List Eligibility **Payment**

Last Name, First Name

Current SSN

Go

Annual Award Amount

7500.00

ECACE Payment – Individual Payment Request (3/6)

2. To complete payment, the following data must be entered using the drop-down menus or by entering the required data:

a. Request:

- Payment – to request a payment.
- Cancel – to cancel a previously requested award.
- Ineligible – to be selected for students who are ineligible.
- Delete – to remove the payment request before submitting.

b. Enrollment Status:

- Full Time
- Half time
- At least 3 credit hrs.

c. Academic Level:

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

d. Program/Degree Pathway:

- Associate of Applied Science
- Associate Transfer Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Certificate

ECACE Payment – Individual Payment Request (4/6)

- e. **Ineligible Reason:** If student is marked as ineligible in the request section one of the following reasons must be selected. Depending on the ineligible reason selected, the system will de-obligate/remove a student's award. Below is a summary of the ineligible reasons and which will de-obligate/remove the award and which will not.

Award retained:

- Not enrolled this term
- Defaulted student loan
- Not pursuing an early childhood education major
- Not making satisfactory academic progress
- Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
- No remaining unmet cost

De-obligate/remove award:

- Not a US Citizen/eligible non-citizen
- Not a HS grad/no GED
- Student is not accepting ECACE scholarship

ECACE Payment – Individual Payment Request (5/6)

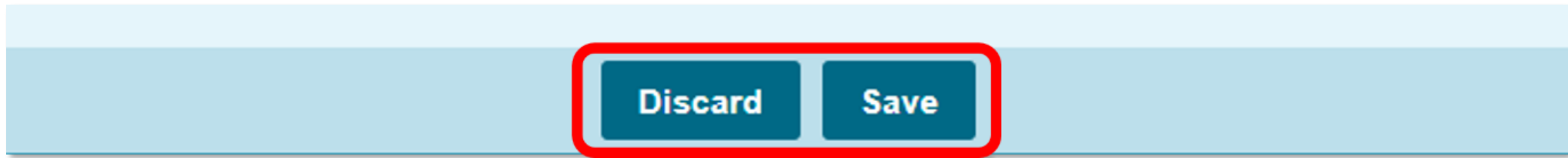
- f. Requested Amount:** Enter the requested award amount.
- The maximum award amount that may be claimed during the academic year is populated in the "Max Annual Award Amount" field of the ECACE system. There are no term award limits for this program – colleges must determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving, keeping in mind that the ECACE Scholarship is last payer and can be used for any cost of attendance component.
 - Ineligible students** – a \$0 amount should be entered.

2.a – f

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code	001638	001638
Request		
Enrollment Status		
Academic Level		
Program/Degree Pathway		
Ineligible Reason		
Requested Amount	\$ 3750.00	\$

ECACE Payment – Individual Payment Request ^(6/6)

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



Note: The payment request process is not complete until the next step of Submitting the Payment Request to ISAC has been completed using the Submit Payment Requests screen.

ECACE Payment – Batch Payment Requests (1/4)

Batch Payment Request

When creating benefit requests for many students, a helpful option is to do a batch request, which is done by selecting students from the **Student Payment List: View** screen and then click **Save Selected**. To use this option:

- 1. Select students for whom payment requests need to be submitted by checking the **Req Sel** box on the **Student Payment List: View** screen.
- 2. Click on **Save Selected** at the bottom of the screen.

ECACE 20XX-20XX: Student Payment List: View

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

List

Filter

Sort

Columns

Payment Request Entry

Submit Payment Requests

Entries displayed 20

#	Sel	Req Sel	Number	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount	School Code	Request Code	Enrollment Status	Academic Level	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Amount Paid	Adjusted Amount
1		☒	1	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692	P	Full time	Senior		3750.00	3750.00	3750.00
2		☐	1	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692	P	Full time	Freshman		7500.00		
3		☐	2	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692							
4		☒	1	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692	P	Full time	Sophomore		3750.00	3750.00	3750.00
5		☐	2	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692							
6		☐	1	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692	P	Full time	Senior		7500.00	7500.00	7500.00
7		☒	2	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692							
8		☐	1	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692	P	Full time	Senior		3750.00	3750.00	3750.00
9		☒	2	xxx-xx-			7500.00	001692							

Save Selected

Req Select All

Req Unselect All

View Report

Excel Report

ECACE Payment – Batch Payment Requests (2/4)

- 3. Navigate to the **Payment Request Entry** screen.
- 4. Select the appropriate academic term using the drop-down box in the **Term** field (initially blank) for which a payment request will be created. Once a term has been selected, the list of students selected for that term will be provided, and payment information can be entered.

ECACE 20XX-20XX: Payment Request Entry

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List Filter Sort Col **3** **Payment Request Entry** Submit Payment Requests

4

Term

1-Fall

#	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Request Type	Enrollment Status	Academic Level	Program Pathway
No Records Found!							

ECACE Payment – Batch Payment Requests (3/4)

5. To complete the payment request for each student, enter the required data into the appropriate fields. For more details on what to put in each field, see the above section – [Individual Payment Request](#).
 - a. **Request** (select: Payment, Cancel, Ineligible or Delete)
 - b. **Enrollment Status** (select: Full time, Half time or At least 3 credit hrs.)
 - c. **Academic Level** (select: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior)
 - d. **Program/Degree Pathway**
 - e. **Ineligible Reason**
 - Note: If an **Ineligible** request is submitted, all payment for the term will be canceled.
 - f. **Requested Amount** (enter dollar amount)

For more information on these fields see [the Individual Payment Request](#) slides.

ECACE Payment – Batch Payment Requests (4/4)

6. Click the **Save** button to save data before navigating to a new page. Or select the Discard button to remove edits.

Reminder: the payment request process is not complete until the next step of submitting the payment request to ISAC has been completed using the [Sumit Payment Requests](#) screen.

Term
1-Fall

Entries displayed 20

5

#	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Request Type	Enrollment Status	Academic Level	Program/Degree Pathway	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount
1	XXX-XX-								75

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

6

DiscardSave

Payment
Cancel
Ineligible
Delete

Full time
Half time
At least 3 credit hrs

Freshman
Sophomore
Junior
Senior

Associate of Applied Science
Associate Transfer Degree
Bachelor's Degree
Certificate

Not enrolled this term
Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen
Not a HS grad/no GED
Defaulted student loan
Not pursuing an early childhood education major
Not making satisfactory academic progress
Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
Student is not accepting ECACE Scholarship
No remaining unmet cost

NES Payment – Payment Requests (1/5)

Once available each year, the **Payment Detail** screen allows schools to create a payment request for each awarded student. To create a payment request:

1. Log in to GAP Access and select the **NESP** program from the **Programs** drop-down menu.
2. Click the **Payment** tab. This will show a list of eligible awarded students that payment requests can be completed.
 - a. **Annual Award Amount** column – shows the maximum annual award that a student can claim.
 - b. **Term Number** column – shows the term (1, 2, or 3) that the student has been awarded. Payment requests must be submitted for each term.
3. Click the **Green Dollar** symbol next to the student's name and appropriate term to begin creating a payment request on the **Payment Detail** screen

Administration School Programs

NESP Student Payment List: View

Home Student Certification **Payment** 2 rts

List Filter Sort Columns Submit Payment Requests

Entries displayed 20 ▾

#	Sel	Term Number	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount	School Code	Request Code
1		☐	1	XXX-XX-		17813.00		P
2		☐	2	XXX-XX-		17813.00		P

NES Payment – Payment Requests (2/5)

4. Complete the required information on the **Payment Detail** screen.

a. Request:

- Payment – to request a payment.
- Cancel – to cancel a previously requested award.
- Ineligible – to be selected for students who are ineligible.
- Delete – to remove the payment request before submitting.

b. Enrollment Status:

- Full Time
- Half Time

c. Enrollment Hours:

- Select 1-25 credit hour(s) the student is enrolled in for the term.
- Depending on your school's policy, partial credits should be rounded to the next whole number or truncation. I.e. 6.60 credits is reported as 7 credit hours.

d. Program of Study: Auto-filled based on certification details.

NES Payment – Payment Requests (3/5)

- e. Ineligible Reason:** If student is marked as ineligible in the request section one of the following reasons must be selected. Depending on the ineligible reason selected, the system will de-obligate/remove a student's award. Below is a summary of the ineligible reasons and which will de-obligate/remove the award and which will not.

Award retained:

- Not enrolled at least one-third of full-time hours
- Renewal Student -GPA not at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- New Applicant- GPA at program start not at least 3.0 on 4.0 scale
- Defaulted student loan
- Not making satisfactory academic progress
- No remaining unmet cost/need this term
- Student is not accepting NES

De-obligate/remove award:

- Not IL Resident for 1 year prior to application
- No longer enrolled in a nursing program of study
- Graduated in prior term

NES Payment – Payment Requests (4/5)

- f. **Living Allowance:** Enter amount to request. This field will not exceed the maximum allowance based on award year - \$5,200 for the 2025-26 academic year.
- A **Living Allowance** can only be requested for **full-time students**.
- g. **Tuition Fees:** Enter amount to request.
- h. **Requested Amount:** System calculated total amount requested for student payment combining the requested Living Allowance and Tuition Fees.
- The maximum award amount that may be claimed during the academic year is populated in the **Annual Award Amount** column of the **NES** system. There are no term award limits for this program – colleges must determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving, keeping in mind that the **NES** Scholarship is last payer and can be used for any cost of attendance component.
 - **Awards may not go over the cost of attendance.** Reduce award if amount exceeds cost of attendance.
 - **Ineligible students** – a \$0 amount should be entered.

NES Payment – Payment Requests (5/5)

5. Click **Save Payment Details** or **Discard** to delete entry.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 for each required student.
 - a. Note you can either return to the **Payment** tab to select the next student, or you can search by SSN using the box above the payment request table.
7. After creating each payment request, [Submit Payment Requests](#) to officially submit the generated requests for payment.
 - a. Payment records will display a status code:
 - **U** – Payment record has been saved but not submitted.
 - **S** – Payment record has been submitted.
 - b. Only records with a Status of “S” will receive payment results.

NESP Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List **Payment**

4. a - h

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring	4-Summer
School Code			
Request			
Enrollment Status			
Enrollment Hours			
Program of Study			
Ineligible Reason			
Living Allowance	\$	\$	\$
Tuition Fees	\$	\$	\$
Requested Amount			

5 **Save Changes** **Discard Changes**

GA Payment – Individual Payment Request (1/5)

Individual Payment Request

The **Student Detail: Payments** screen is a multi-purpose screen that allows schools to view payment information or to create or adjust payment requests for an individual student record. This process is completed by doing the following:

1. Click on the **dollar sign** icon that is on the same line as the student's name on the **Student Payment List: View** screen.
 - a. In addition to the **Payment** tab, the **Student Detail: Payments** screen contains the following navigation tabs:
 - **List** – to return to the **Student Payment List: View** screen
 - **Eligibility** -- to navigate to the **Student Detail: Eligibility** screen
 - **Navigate to another student** – enter the student's Social Security Number in the Current SSN field and click on the Go button.

1

GA 20XX-20XX: Student Payment List: View

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List Filter Sort Columns Payment Request Entry Subn

#	Sel	Req Sel	Term Number	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name
1		☐	1	XXX-XX		
2		☐	1	XXX-XX		



1.a

GA 20XX-20XX: Student Payment List: View

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

List Eligibility **Payment**

Last Name, First Name

Current SSN

Go

Annual Award Amount

7500.00

GA Payment – Individual Payment Request ^(2/5)

1. To complete payment, the following data must be entered by using the dropdown menus provided or by entering the required value:

a. Request:

- **Payment** – to request a payment.
- **Cancel** – to cancel a previously requested award.
- **Ineligible** – to be selected for students who are ineligible.
- **Delete** – to remove the payment request before submitting.

b. Academic Level:

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

c. Enrollment Status:

- Full time
- Half time

GA Payment – Individual Payment Request ^(3/5)

d. Ineligible Reason: If student is marked as ineligible in the request section one of the following reasons must be selected:

- Not enrolled this term
- 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
- Not a HS grad/no GED
- GPA not at least 2.5 on 4.0 scale (soph or above)
- Not enrolled at least half time
- Student is not accepting GA scholarship

GA Payment – Individual Payment Request (4/5)

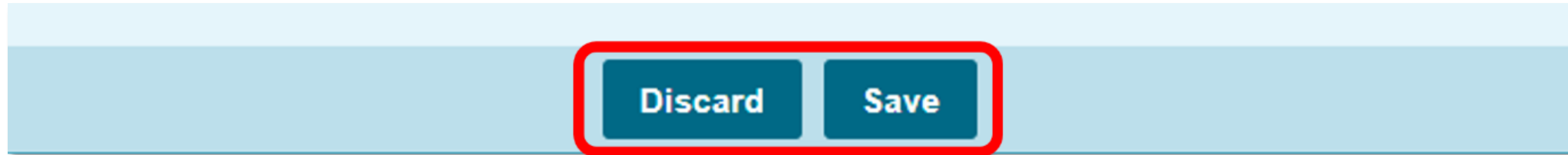
- e. **Requested Amount:** Enter the requested award amount.
- The maximum award amount that may be claimed during the academic year is populated in the "Max Annual Award Amount" field of the GA system.
 - Ineligible students – a \$0 amount should be entered.

2.a - 2.e

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code	001633	001633
Request		
Academic Level		
Enrollment Status		
Ineligible Reason		
Requested Amount	\$ 1250.00	\$
Award Amount	1250.00	

GA Payment – Individual Payment Request ^(5/5)

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



4. Note: The payment Request process is not complete until the next step of Submitting the Payment Request to ISAC has been complete using the Submit Payment Requests Screen.

GA Payment – Batch Payment Requests (1/4)

When creating benefit requests for many students, a helpful option is to do a batch request, which is done by selecting students from the **Student Payment List: View** screen and then click **Save Selected**. To use this option:

- 1. Select students for whom payment requests need to be submitted by checking the **Req Sel** box on the **Student Payment List: View** screen.
- 2. Click the **Save Selected** at the bottom of the screen.

GA 20XX-20XX: Student Payment List: View

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

List

FilterSortColumnsPayment Request EntrySubmit Payment Requests

Entries displayed100

#	Req Sel	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount To Date	Term Award Amount	School Code	Request Code	Academic Level	Enrollment Status	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Amount Paid
1	☒	xxx-xx			1250.0	1250.00	001633	P	Freshman	Full time		1250.00	1250.00
2	☒	xxx-xx			2500.0	2500.00	001633	P	Junior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00
3	☒	xxx-xx			2500.0	2500.00	001633	P	Senior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00
4	☒	xxx-xx			2500.0	2500.00	001633	P	Senior	Full time		2500.00	2500.00
5	☒	xxx-xx			1250.0	1250.00	001633	P	Sophomore	Full time		1250.00	1250.00
6	☐	xxx-xx			2500.0	2500.00	001633	P	Sophomore	Full time		2500.00	2500.00
7	☐	xxx-xx			1250.0	1250.00	001633	P	Freshman	Full time		1250.00	1250.00

Save Selected

Req Select All

Req Unselect All

View Report

Excel Report

GA Payment – Batch Payment Requests (2/4)

3. Navigate to the **Payment Request Entry** screen.
4. Select the appropriate academic term using the drop-down box in the **Term** field (initially blank) for which a payment request will be created. Once a term has been selected, the list of students selected for that term will be provided, and payment information can be entered.

GA 20XX-20XX: Payment Request Entry

[Home](#) [Student](#) [Certification](#) **Payment** [Reports](#)

List Filter Sort Col **3** **Payment Request Entry** Submit Payment Requests

4

Term

1-Fall

#	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Request Type	Enrollment Status	Academic Level	Program Pathway
No Records Found!							

GA Payment – Batch Payment Requests (3/4)

5. To complete the payment request for each student, enter the required data into the appropriate fields. For more details on what to put in each field, see the above section – [Individual Payment Request](#).
 - a. **Request** (select: Payment, Cancel, Ineligible or Delete)
 - b. **Enrollment Status** (select: Full time, Half time or At least 3 credit hrs.)
 - c. **Academic Level** (select: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior)
 - d. **Program/Degree Pathway**
 - e. **Ineligible Reason**
 - Note: If an **Ineligible** request is submitted, all payment for the term will be canceled.
 - f. **Requested Amount** (enter dollar amount)

For more information on these fields see [the Individual Payment Request](#) slides.

GA Payment – Batch Payment Requests (4/4)

6. Click the **Save** button to save data before navigating to a new page. Or select the Discard button to remove edits.

Reminder: the payment request process is not complete until the next step of submitting the payment request to ISAC has been completed using the [Sumit Payment Requests](#) screen.

Term
1-Fall

Entries displayed 20

5

#	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Request Type	Academic Level	Enrollment Status	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Term Award Amount	Annual Award Amount
1	xxx-xx-								1250.00	1250.00
2	xxx-xx-									1250.00
3	xxx-xx-									2500.00
4	xxx-xx-									1250.00

Payment

Ineligible

Cancel

Delete

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Full time

Half time

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

6

Discard

Save

SSWS – Individual Payment Requests (1/4)

To make an individual payment request:

- 1. From the Payment tab, click the green dollar icon next to the desired student.
- 2. The Student Detail: Payment screen will appear. To navigate to a different student, the “Current SSN” field can be edited and then select “Go”.

SSWS 20XX-20XX: Student Payment List: View

[Home](#) [Student](#) [Certification](#) **Payment** [Reports](#) [Enrollment Status Verification](#)

List

Filter

Sort

Columns

Payment Request Entry

Submit Payment Requests

Entries displayed

100

#	Sel	Req Sel	Term Number	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount	Term Award Amount	School Code	Request Code	Enrollment Status	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Amount Paid	Adjusted Amount	Result Code	Exp Res
1		☐	☐	1	XXX-XX-		9570.00	1688.00									

SSWS – Individual Payment Requests (2/4)

3. From this screen, the following fields should be addressed:

a. **Request:** select the type of request that must be generated:

- Payment – to request a payment.
- Cancel – to cancel a previously requested award.
- Ineligible – to be selected for students who are ineligible.
- Delete – to remove the payment request before submitting.

b. **Enrollment Status:**

- Full Time
- Half time
- At least 3 credit hrs.

SSWS – Individual Payment Requests (3/4)

c. **Ineligible reason:** If student is marked as ineligible in the request section one of the following reasons must be selected. Depending on the ineligible reason selected, the system will de-obligate/remove a student's award. Below is a summary of the ineligible reasons and which will de-obligate/remove the award and which will not.

- Not a U.S. citizen/eligible noncitizen
- Defaulted student loan
- Not making satisfactory academic progress\
- Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
- Not enrolled in required Social Work courses
- Reached max number of terms allowed
- Student declined award
- No remaining unmet cost
- No Valid IL Social Work License

d. **Requested Amount:** Enter the amount to be requested. As a reference the term awards are presented below this section in the **Award Amount** location.

SSWS– Individual Payment Requests (4/4)

- After completing the needed fields above, click **Save Changes** or **Discard Changes**.
- Repeat this process for each individual student payment request needed.
- Payments must be submitted to complete the process. Click List to return to the **Student Payment List: View** screen. Follow the steps in the [Submitting Payment Requests](#) section.

SSWS 20XX-20XX: Student Detail: Payments

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

List Eligibility **Payment**

Last Name, First Name

Current SSN **Go** **2**

Terms	1-Fall	2-Spring
School Code	001776	001776
Request	Payment	
Enrollment Status	Full time	
Ineligible Reason		
Requested Amount	\$ 9600.00	\$
Award Amount	2345.56	5456.67

3. a-d

Save Changes **Discard Changes** **4**

SSWS – Batch Payment Requests (1/5)

This method of batch submission creates payment requests in Update status for every student/transaction that has the Pay Sel checkbox checked on the Payment List. This removes the checkbox after generating payment. This allows schools to check large numbers of students under the same circumstances and generate payment requests for them all at once.

To input student information needed to generate multiple student payment requests:

1. Click on the **Payment** tab in the SSWS program.
2. Next to each student that will be included in the batch payment request, click the **Req Sel** checkbox next to the students' names.
3. Click **Save Selected**. The **Req Select All** button can be used to select all students. The **Req Unselect All** button to deselect students.
4. Click on the **Payment Request Entry** tab.

SSWS – Batch Payment Requests (2/5)

SSWS 20XX-20XX: Student Detail: Payments

Home Student Certif **1** **Payment** Reports

List Filter Sort Columns **Payment Request Entry** **4** it Payment Requests

Entries displayed 20 ▾

#		Sel	Req Sel	2	Number	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award Amount	Term Award Amount	School Code	Request Code	Enrollment Status	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Amount Paid
1	 	☒	☒		1	xxx-xx-			7802.23	2345.56	P		Full time		9500.00	2345.56
2	 	☒	☒		1	xxx-xx-			7802.23	2345.56	P		Full time		9600.00	.00
3	 	☒	☒		1	xxx-xx-			7802.23	2345.56	P		Full time		9600.00	
4	 	☒	☒		2	xxx-xx-			7802.23	5456.67						

Save Selected

Req Select All

Req Unselect All

3

W Report

Excel Report

SSWS – Batch Payment Requests (3/5)

1. Select the **Term** from the drop-down menu. This sets the term the payment request is being made for ALL students in this request. Defaults to 1 and only options that are open for payment and that apply to this school are shown.
2. Complete the required fields:
 - a. **Request:** select the payment option from the drop-down.
 - Payment
 - Cancel
 - Ineligible
 - Delete
 - b. **Enrollment Status** Select the appropriate enrollment status.
 - Full Time
 - Half time
 - At least 3 credit hrs.

SSWS – Batch Payment Requests (4/5)

c. **Ineligible reason:** If student is marked as ineligible in the request section one of the following reasons must be selected. Depending on the ineligible reason selected, the system will de-obligate/remove a student's award. Below is a summary of the ineligible reasons and which will de-obligate/remove the award and which will not.

- Not a U.S. citizen/eligible noncitizen
- Defaulted student loan
- Not making satisfactory academic progress\
- Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
- Not enrolled in required Social Work courses
- Reached max number of terms allowed
- Student declined award
- No remaining unmet cost
- No Valid IL Social Work License

d. **Requested Amount:** Enter the amount to be requested. As a reference the term awards are presented below this section in the **Award Amount** location.

SSWS – Batch Payment Requests (5/5)

- 7. Click **Save** to save payment requests. Click **Discard** to remove edits.
- 8. Records created will now appear on the Student Payment List: View screen with the Status Flag U – Update and a Request Code to match the request submitted.
- 9. The final step of the process is submitting the request. See the [Submitting Payment Requests](#) section for more information on this process. Payment requests are not processed until they are submitted.

SSWS 20XX-20XX: Payment Request Entry

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

ListFilterSortColumns

Payment Request EntrySubmit Payment Requests

Term

1-Fall

5

Entries displayed20

6. a-c

#	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Request Type	Enrollment Status	Ineligible Reason	Requested Amount	Term Award Amount	Annual Award Amount
1	xxx-xx-8200	ARTEBERRY	CARNISHA					2345.56	7802.23

DiscardSave

7

Submitting Payment Requests – ECACE, NES, GA, & SSWS

After generating all the payment request. The requests must be submitted to complete the payment request process.

1. From the **Payment** tab, click **Submit Payment Requests** subtab.
2. The **Submit Payment Requests** screen will appear. Select the term for payment submission.
3. Click **Submit**.
 - a. A red line of text will appear: “Payment Submitted for # records”.

The screenshot shows a web application interface for submitting payment requests. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Administration', 'School', and 'Programs'. Below this, the main heading is 'Submit Payment Requests'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Student', 'Certification', 'Payment', and 'Reports'. The 'Payment' tab is selected and highlighted with a red box and a green box containing the number '1'. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for 'List', 'Filter', 'Sort', and 'Columns'. The 'Submit Payment Requests' button is highlighted with a red box and a green box containing the number '1'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Selection Criteria for all eligible records'. It contains a 'Term' dropdown menu set to '1-Fall', which is highlighted with a red box and a green box containing the number '2'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Submit' button highlighted with a red box and a green box containing the number '3', and a 'Reset' button next to it.

TI – Payment Reminders

- Schools are encouraged to submit payment requests for awarded students as soon as possible.
- The timely submission of payment requests allows ISAC staff to monitor program funding levels and ensure that available dollars are best leveraged to award as many scholarships as possible without exceeding the appropriation.
- The disbursement of funds is processed by the State Comptroller's Office. **Allow four to six weeks for payment processing** (i.e., from the date a claim is submitted until funds are received at the college). Refer to the [State Comptroller's Website](#) page for information on how to track payment.

TI – Payment Requests (1/6)

Once available each year, the **Payment Detail** screen allows schools to create a payment request for each awarded student. To create a payment request:

1. Log in to GAP Access and select the **TI** program from the **Programs** drop-down menu.
2. Click the **Payment** tab. This will show a list of eligible awarded students that payment requests can be completed. (This will also be the tab where Payment Requests will be submitted).
 - a. “**Award Amount**” column – shows the maximum annual award that a student can claim.
 - b. “**Term**” column – shows the term (1, 2, or 3) that the student has been awarded. Payment requests must be submitted for each term.
3. Click the **Green Dollar** symbol next to the student’s name and appropriate term to begin creating a payment request on the **Payment Detail** screen.
 - a. Alternatively, click the **Student** tab, then click the **Green Dollar** symbol next to an awarded student to be taken to the **Payment Detail** Screen for that student.
 - Return to the student tab to select the next student.

TI – Payment Requests (2/6)

School Programs 2 & 3

Home / TI / Payment

Home Student Certification **Payment** Reports

Submit Payment Requests

#	S...	P...	Elig...	Sel	Re...	Term	SSN	Last Name	First Name	Annual Award ...	School Code	Request Code
1				☐	☐	1						
2				☐	☐	1						

OR

School Programs Change Program TI Academic Year 3.a

Home / TI / Student List

Home **Student** Certification Payment Reports

Reset Filter Show / Hide Columns

#	S...	P...	Elig...	Co...	Sel	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	Units	School Code	Application Co...	Applicant Cate...	Award Amount
1					☐								
2					☐								

TI – Payment Requests (3/6)

5. Complete the required information on the **Payment Detail** screen.

a. Request:

- Payment – to request a payment.
- Cancel – to cancel a previously requested award.
- Ineligible – to be selected for students who are ineligible.
- Delete – to remove the payment request before submitting.

b. Enrollment Status:

- Full Time
- Half Time

TI – Payment Requests (4/6)

c. **Ineligible Reason:** If student is marked as ineligible in the request section one of the following reasons must be selected.

Depending on the ineligible reason selected, the system will de-obligate/remove a student's award. Below is a summary of the ineligible reasons and which will de-obligate/remove the award and which will not.

Award retained:

- Not enrolled this term
- Defaulted student loan
- Not pursuing an early childhood education major
- Not making satisfactory academic progress
- Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
- No remaining unmet cost

De-obligate/remove award:

- Not a US Citizen/eligible non-citizen
- Not a HS grad/no GED
- Student is not accepting TI scholarship

TI – Payment Requests (5/6)

d. **Requested Amount:** Enter the requested award amount.

- The maximum award amount that may be claimed during the academic year is populated in the “**Award Amount**” column of the TI system. There are no term award limits for this program – colleges must determine the term award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving, keeping in mind that the TI Scholarship is last payer and can be used for any cost of attendance component.
- **Awards may not go over the cost of attendance.** Reduce award if amount exceeds cost of attendance.
- **Ineligible students** – a \$0 amount should be entered.

5. Click **Save Payment Details** or **Discard** to delete entry.

6. Repeat steps 1-5 for each required student.

7. After creating each payment request, [Submit Payment Requests](#) to officially submit the generated requests for payment. See steps below.

TI – Payment Requests (6/6)

Home / TI / Payment Detail

Home

Student

Certification

Payment

Reports

Eligibility

Payment Detail

Student Search

SSN

4. a-d

Clear

Search

Parameters	
School Code	001694
Request	Please select an option
Enrollment Status	Please select an option
Ineligible Reason	Please select an option
Requested Amount	

5

Discard

Save Payment Details

TI – Submit Payment Requests

After generating all the payment request. The requests must be submitted to complete the payment request process.

1. From the **Payment** tab, click “**Submit Payment Requests**” on the left side above the student list.
2. The **TI Submit Payment Requests** pop-up will appear. Select the term for payment submission.
3. Click **Submit**.
 - a. A red line of text will appear in the **TI Submit Payment Request** pop-up: “Payment Submitted for # records”.
 - b. A green notice will appear in then upper right of the screen: “Payment submission request was saved successfully!”

The screenshot shows the 'TI Submit Payment Requests' pop-up form. At the top, there are tabs for 'Student', 'Certification', 'Payment', and 'Reports'. The 'Payment' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a 'Submit Payment Requests' button. A red line connects this button to the 'Submit' button in the pop-up. The pop-up has a 'Term' dropdown menu with options '1-Fall' and '2-Spring'. The 'Submit' button is highlighted with a red box. There are also 'Reset' and 'Close' buttons.

The screenshot shows the 'TI Submit Payment Requests' pop-up form after submission. The 'Term' dropdown menu is set to '2-Spring'. Below the dropdown, there is a red box containing the text 'Payment Submitted for 1 records'. The 'Submit' button is highlighted with a red box. In the top right corner, there is a green notification box that says 'Payment submission request was saved successfully!'. The background shows the 'TI Submit Payment Requests' table with columns for 'Ineligible Reason', 'Requested Am...', 'Amount Paid', 'Adjusted Amou...', 'Result Code', 'Expanded Result', 'Result Date', 'Status Code', 'Invoice Number', 'Awarded GA', and 'Awarded SETTW'.

- Awarding will take place in early October.
- Payment will become available in early October.
- Term 1 (fall for semester and quarter schools) priority payment request deadline date: **Not yet determined.**
- For more information and updates see the [Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers](#) page.

Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) and Illinois National Guard Grant (ING) – Benefit Reporting

- ISAC is accepting benefit usage data for the 2026-27 [Illinois Veteran Grant \(IVG\)](#) summer and fall terms and the 2026-27 [Illinois National Guard \(ING\) Grant](#) fall term.
- The **benefit usage data reporting deadlines** for IVG and ING are as follows:

IVG Summer Term

On or before:

September 30, 2026

IVG & ING Fall Term

On or before:

December 31, 2026

Any 2026-27 benefit usage data that was **submitted** via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) **prior to August 24, 2026, will not be processed**, and must be resubmitted by the college.

To prevent having to resubmit data in the future, never submit benefit usage data via FTP until after ISAC announces it is accepting the data for that academic year.

GEAR UP – Update

- Student's have received their award letters and may present them to the school.
- The GEAR UP Program is currently being developed in GAP access and payment is not currently available.
- Planned launched for the GAP program is mid – late October.
- After the program becomes available, Primary Administrators will need to assign privileges to the required staff for them to access the program.

Important Updates



2027-28 MAP Start-Up Formula

- On September 17, 2026, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission approved the 2027-28 (FY28) MAP start-up formula, which follows the FY27 recompute formula. Following the FY27 recompute formula, the following is being used in the start-up formula for 2027-28 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).**
- The 2027-28 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.
- See the [2027-28 MAP Formula](#) page for specific details.

Federal Update – Annual Notice of Interest Rates for Variable-Rate Federal Student Loans

- **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program** - Assistance Listing Number 84.268, with first disbursement dates on or after July 1, 2026, and before July 1, 2027.
- **Federal Family Education Loan Program Prior to July 1, 2010** - Assistance Listing Number 84.032, that have variable interest rates. The rates announced in this notice are in effect for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
- **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program** - Assistance Listing Number 84.268, with first disbursement dates before July 1, 2006, and for Federal Direct Consolidation Loans (Direct Consolidation Loans) for which the application was received before February 1, 1999. The rates announced in this notice are in effect for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

2027 – 2028 Alternative Application – Open October 1, 2026

For the 2026-2027 academic year, the state (ISAC, the Illinois Attorney General's office, and the Governor's office) urged that the court's July 2026 ruling not apply to students for the 2026-27 school year, since they had already made enrollment and financial plans for the year based on the existing in-state tuition laws and RISE Act being in place.

- Unfortunately, the district court ruled otherwise. There is currently some work being done to evaluate if there's a path to restoring state funds for 2026-27, but at this time it's **safest to assume this restoration won't happen.**

For the 2027-2028 school year, the July 2026 court ruling does not apply.

- Additionally, the criteria for in-state tuition and ISAC-administered financial aid are changing as a result of legislative amendments that the AG's office advocated for in spring 2026.
- With the amended language, the Illinois law now looks more like other states' laws that have withstood past challenges.
- **The state does not have any foresight into whether this new law and other states' similar laws will be challenged.**
- Consistent with current state law, **ISAC will proceed to launch the Alternative Application on Oct 1, 2026.**

Pilot Program Email for First-Time Freshman

ISAC will be running a direct email communication pilot program when the 2027-28 application cycle begins.

- This pilot program is expected to reach about 4,000 MAP-eligible first-time freshmen who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.
- Students are typically informed of their possible MAP grant eligibility when they receive a financial aid offer letter from an institution.
- **Students who have not completed a college application, however, may never learn about their possible eligibility for a MAP grant.**
- The purpose of this pilot program is to measure the effects of notifying students that they *may be eligible* for a MAP grant, which might encourage them to apply to a MAP-approved Illinois school instead of going out of state or not attending college at all.
- ISAC's contact information is included in the email for applicants who have questions or need assistance, however we want to ensure you are aware of this communication. You will be able to identify students who have received this communication in GAP Access. Receiving the email does not mean a student has been awarded a MAP grant. It indicates the student may be eligible based on information available to ISAC.

Pilot Email Program – Sample Email for Students

You recently submitted a 2027-28 FAFSA or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid that may qualify you for funding through the state's Monetary Award Program, or MAP grant. MAP is a need-based grant program for eligible Illinois residents attending MAP-approved schools in Illinois. It is administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). Because MAP is a grant, that means it is funding for college you don't have to pay back!

Your FAFSA or Alternative Application included one or more Illinois institutions. You could be eligible to receive a MAP grant at the **Illinois institution(s)** you listed on your FAFSA. (See all [MAP-approved schools](#)). We encourage you to use our [MAP estimator](#) to find out how much funding you might be able to receive. Please note your potential MAP eligibility is based on the information that was reported on your *first* FAFSA or Alternative Application filed. If your FAFSA or Alternative Application is corrected or updated, and your Student Aid Index (SAI) changes, your eligibility for MAP may change as well.

Each Illinois college or university you apply to and list on your FAFSA or Alternative Application will decide how much funding you'll receive from MAP and other forms of financial aid. They will provide all official details. *It's important to know that most colleges and universities only send financial aid offers to students after they apply for admission.*

ISAC provides other scholarships and grant programs that can help you pay for college at institutions in Illinois. To learn more about the financial aid process and available programs, visit isac.org. If you have questions about a specific program, contact us by calling 800.899.ISAC (4722) or email us at isac.studentservices@illinois.gov.

ISAC also offers free workshops and one-on-one support statewide to help you apply for college and financial aid. Our ISACorps can also support you every step of the way on your journey to college. Schedule an appointment for a free one-on-one virtual meeting at isac.org/booking or attend a free college and financial aid workshop in your community. [Learn more and find an ISACorps™ member near you.](#)

First Gen Symposium – Submit Session Proposal

We are excited to welcome attendees to the Second Annual **First Gen Symposium** which will be held on **Thursday, November 5!**

We invite high schools, community-based organizations, TRIO programs, first-generation programs at colleges and universities, and more to submit a session proposal!

The deadline to submit a proposal is **11:59 p.m. (CT) on Thursday, September 24, 2026**. We want you to be part of the conversation!

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Solutions to barriers faced by first-generation students and professionals
- Scholarship opportunities for first-generation college students
- Developing events tailored to first-generation students
- Programs increasing belonging among first-generation college students
- Strategies for facilitating successful transitions for first-generation college students



For more information and the latest updates, visit the First Gen Symposium Page. If you have any questions, contact the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Team at isac.outreachtraining@illinois.gov.

SAVE the Date: ILASFAA Fall Workshop

Mark your calendars! ILASFAA is excited to announce our upcoming Fall Workshop for Financial Aid Advisors, with two opportunities to attend:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Friday, November 13, 2026. |  Monday, November 16, 2026. |
|  Elgin Community College |  Rend Lake Community College |

We Want Your Input!

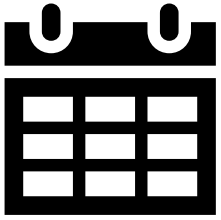
Help us shape the workshop! We are looking for:

- **Topic recommendations** – What would you like to learn more about?
- **Presenter volunteers** – Have a topic, best practice, or area of expertise you'd like to share with your colleagues?

[Take the Fall Workshop Survey](#)

Additional details including the agenda, registration information, and session schedule will be shared soon.

We hope to see you in November!



Upcoming Monthly Webinars

October

28th

@ 2 p.m.

November

18th

@ 2 p.m.

December

16th

@ 2 p.m.

Student Engagement & Support Services

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



800-899-ISAC (4722)



Isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

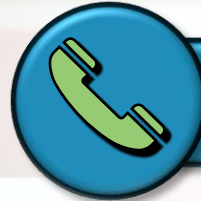
FAX

847-831-8549

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

Partner Services Department

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



866-247-2172



Isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov



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



ISAC E-Messaging Sign Up

Our e-Messaging service will keep you informed and up-to-date on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's programs and services. Our messages share ISAC programmatic and operational information and are not marketing in nature.

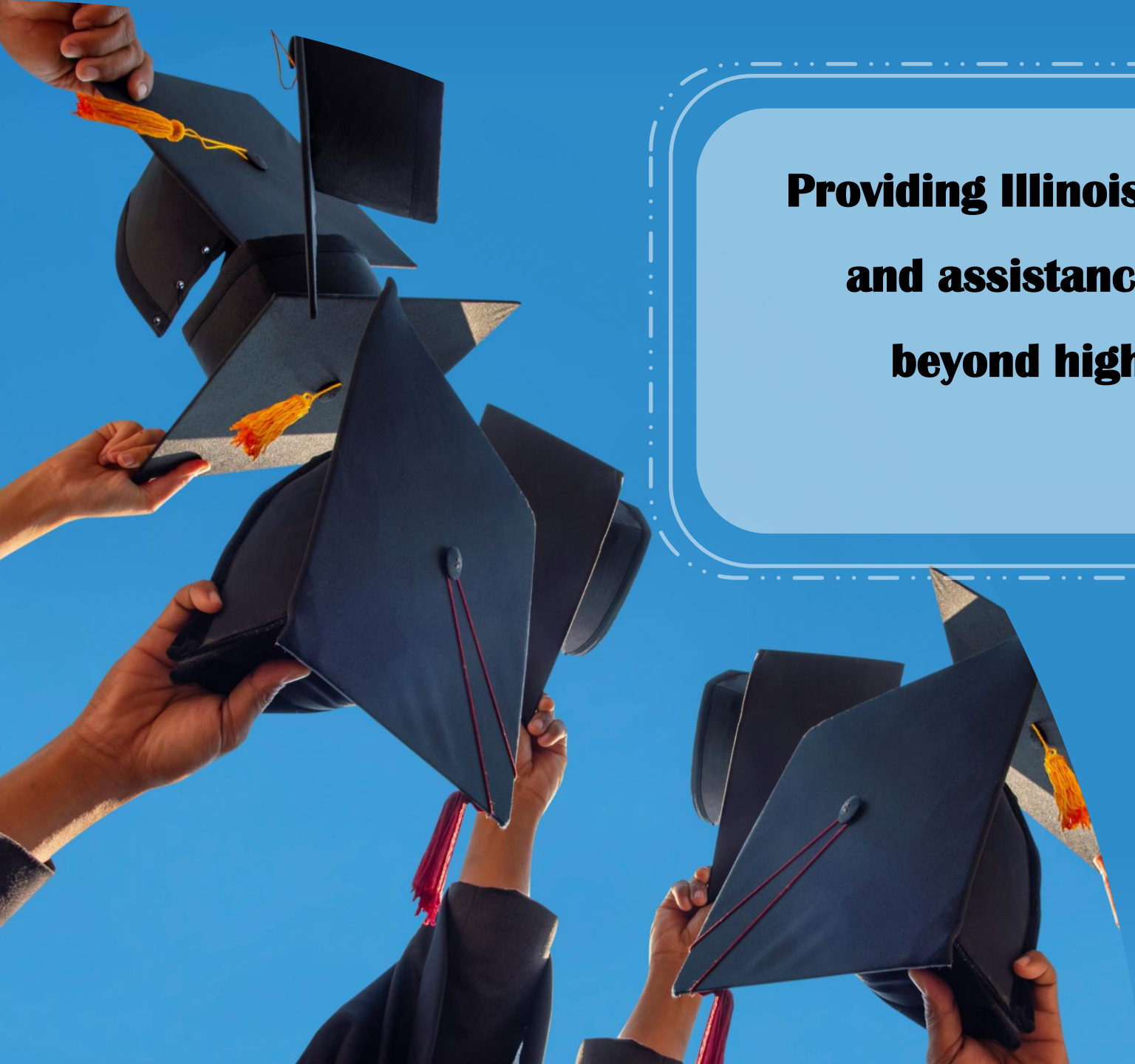
1. Choose the category from the list on the right that best describes you. Click on the link.
2. Fill in your Email, First Name, & Last Name.
3. Select one or more of the available Email Lists
4. Click "**Sign Up!**".

[Student/Parents](#)

[Counselors](#)

[Community Partners](#)

[Financial Aid
Administrators \(FAAs\)](#)

A low-angle shot of several hands holding up black graduation caps with tassels against a clear blue sky. The caps are arranged in a cluster, with some tassels being yellow and others maroon.

**Providing Illinois students with information
and assistance to help make education
beyond high school accessible and
affordable.**

