



ISAC
FAFSA
SYMPOSIUM

Welcome to the 2026 FAFSA Symposium

Ana Moya

Manager, Professional Learning Communities

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Before we begin...

- This session will be recorded and posted at www.isac.org/FAFSAsymposium
- If you are having trouble connecting audio through your computer, use the “Call Me” option for audio instead
- Use the Q&A to post any questions you have during the session
- Use the Chat to network
- Continuing Education (CE) credits and Professional Development (PD) hours will be available - must attend at least 75% of the Symposium

Breakdown for Today

- **9:00 – 9:50 AM | Welcome & Kickoff**
- **10:10 – 11:00 AM | Breakout A**
 - Overview of New ISAC Programs
 - Running Effective Financial Aid Workshops
 - Supporting Foster Youth to Postsecondary
- **11:10 AM – 12:00 PM | Breakout B**
 - One Click College Admit
 - Helping Students Understand Financial Literacy
 - FAFSA for Students Experiencing Homelessness
- **1:10 – 2:00 PM | Breakout C**
 - 2026–27 Alternative Application
 - DCFS Postsecondary Supports

Agenda

1. Opportunities
2. 2026-2027 FAFSA Changes
3. 2027-2028 FAFSA Changes

Opportunities

Students and Parents

Workshop for students and parents to learn more about One Click College Admit, Illinois' Direct Admissions program and how to sign up for the program, along with getting their questions answered.

Date	Day of the week	Time
4/1/2026	Wednesday	6 – 7 pm
4/7/2026	Tuesday	12 – 1 pm
4/15/2026	Wednesday	12 – 1 pm
4/16/2026	Thursday	6 – 7 pm
4/21/2026	Tuesday	6 – 7 pm
4/23/2026	Thursday	12 – 1 pm
4/29/2026	Wednesday	6 – 7 pm

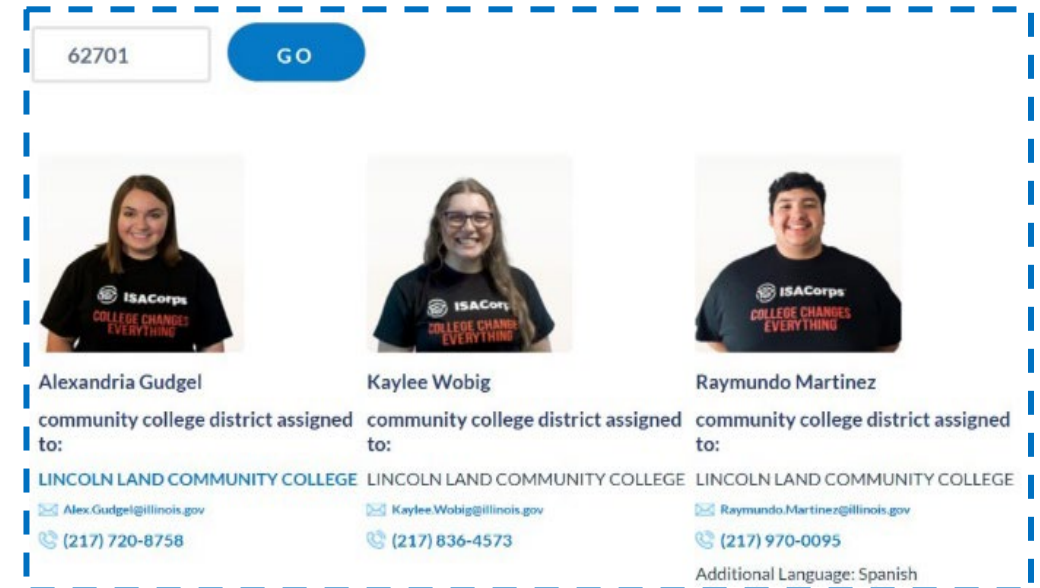
One Click College Admit Workshop Toolkit (Class of 2027+)

- An overview of the OCCA workshop purpose, setting options, and intended impact
- A step-by-step description of the process and timeline overview
- A pre- and post-workshop checklist
- A list of student and parent FAQs
- A quick script for workshop facilitation












Year-Round Help

- The ISACorps are near-peer mentors that support students and families with:
 - Postsecondary and career exploration
 - Scholarship searches
 - Completion of financial aid applications
- To find your local ISACorps member visit [ISAC's Student Portal](#), and enter your zip code

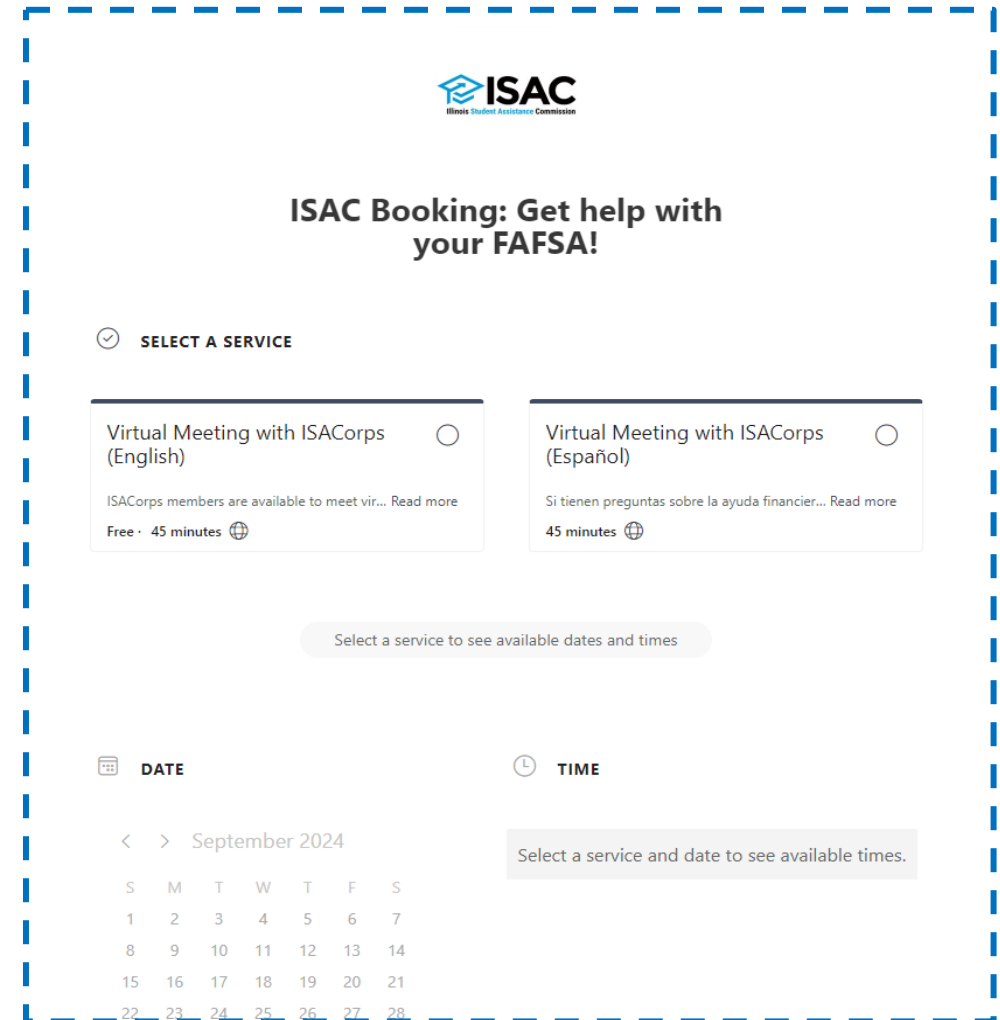


62701 GO

		
Alexandria Gudgel	Kaylee Wobig	Raymundo Martinez
community college district assigned to:	community college district assigned to:	community college district assigned to:
LINCOLN LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	LINCOLN LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	LINCOLN LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 Alex.Gudgel@illinois.gov	 Kaylee.Wobig@illinois.gov	 Raymundo.Martinez@illinois.gov
 (217) 720-8758	 (217) 836-4573	 (217) 970-0095
		Additional Language: Spanish

ISACorps FAFSA Assistance

- www.isac.org/booking or www.isac.org/cita
- One-on-one FAFSA assistance
- Assistance is available in English and Spanish



The screenshot shows the ISAC Booking website interface. At the top, the ISAC logo (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) is displayed. Below it, the heading reads "ISAC Booking: Get help with your FAFSA!". A section titled "SELECT A SERVICE" contains two options: "Virtual Meeting with ISACorps (English)" and "Virtual Meeting with ISACorps (Español)". Each option includes a radio button, a brief description, and a "Read more" link. Below the service selection, a button prompts the user to "Select a service to see available dates and times". The "DATE" section shows a calendar for September 2024, with days of the week (S, M, T, W, T, F, S) and dates (1-28) listed. The "TIME" section includes a button that says "Select a service and date to see available times."

Stay In The Know!

- Sign up to receive latest news and updates from ISAC, including:
 - In-person and virtual PD opportunities
 - ISAC's programs and services
 - MAP suspense date

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. Although Constant Contact is the provider for the e-Messaging service, our messages share ISAC programmatic and operational information and are not marketing in nature.

From the options below, choose the category that best describes you, and then subscribe to one or more of the available Email Lists by filling out your name and e-mail address and clicking on "Sign Up!".

Students/Parents

Counselors

Financial Aid
Administrators (FAAs)

Lenders

Request ISAC Support

- Complete the Outreach Request Form to request a presentation or workshop for students or parents
- The form is now available online
- Submit requests at least 2 weeks in advance



Outreach Request Form

To request an ISAC representative for your event, please complete this Outreach Request form no less than 2 weeks prior to your event. In-person events will be conducted in accordance with local health guidelines.

** indicates required field*

SECTION I – Event Logistics

Event Name *

Event Date *	Start Time *	End Time *
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>  MM DD YYYY	<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="text"/> HH MM AM/PM	<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="text"/> HH MM AM/PM
Second Choice Date	Second Choice Start Time	Second Choice End Time
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>  MM DD YYYY	<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="text"/> HH MM AM/PM	<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="text"/> HH MM AM/PM

Event Location Address: * Building/Room Number:

City: * State: Zip Code: *
Enter 5 digits. Currently Used: 0 digits.

Community College District *

Professional Development (PD)

- Free financial aid training for college-access professionals in Illinois
- Topics include:
 - FAFSA Line-by-Line
 - Working with Special Student Populations
 - Monthly PD Webinars
 - Financial Aid Certification Series

Illinois College Access Network (IllinoisCAN)



- IllinoisCAN is a network of college access practitioners that strives to improve postsecondary access and success for low-income, first-generation students
- [Join](#) IllinoisCAN today to be a member of this vibrant professional community!
- IllinoisCAN focuses on four objectives:
 1. Increasing visibility of Illinois' college access programs and services;
 2. Disseminating college access research and best practices;
 3. Providing professional development and technical assistance for college access providers;
 4. Facilitating communication and collaboration among college access providers.

First Generation Scholars Network

- The **First Generation Scholars Network (FGSN)**, is a FREE resource available to students who will be the first in their family to earn a college degree
- Joining this network allows students to:
 - Get support and resources from ISAC
 - Connect with an FGSN mentor
 - Find an FGSN program on campus
 - Join “check-in” events with other first-generation students

Join the Network

Ready to join?

You can join using our online form

JOIN NOW!

Have questions? Email us at

ISAC.FirstGen@illinois.gov

Upcoming Professional Development Offerings



7 APR, TUE

- 11am Virtual: Career Information System (CIS) 360 Overview

14 APR, TUE

- 9am Virtual: One Click College Admit Overview

20 APR, MON

- 11am Virtual: Spring Into Action

1 MAY, FRI

- 12pm Virtual: One Click College Admit Overview

18 MAY, MON

- 9am Virtual: One Click College Admit Overview

Illinois Career Information System (CIS) 360

What is CIS360?

- A self-directed online system that helps students explore careers, colleges, and training programs
- Combines career, education, and labor market information in one easy-to-use platform
- Encourages self-reflection, exploration, and goal setting for lifelong learning



ISAC Transcript Exchange

- Provides Illinois high school students the opportunity to request credentials be sent electronically to the destination of their choice
- Credentials include transcripts, health records, letters of recommendation and more
- Service is **free** to Illinois high schools
- To participate or learn more, contact Lenore Smith at Lenore.Smith@illinois.gov



2026-2027 FAFSA Changes

Illinois FAFSA-Related Legislation

- Public Act 101-0180 – FAFSA Graduation Requirement
Public school students must complete a FAFSA, Alternative App or a Nonparticipation form to graduate from high school
- Public Act 104-0013 – FAFSA Designee
Every high school must select at least one FAFSA Designee
- Public Act 104-0014 – School Day FAFSA Support
School districts are required to provide high school students with FAFSA completion support during the school day

2026-2027 Federal Updates

- The 2026-27 FAFSA was made available on 9/24/25
- Simplified contributor flow
- IRS Instant Data Matching
- Investment changes
- 2026-2027 FAFSA Form Changes

Simplified Contributor Invitation Process

- Students only need to provide a contributor's email address (no DOB or SSN)
- Once submitted, the parent will receive an email with a contributor code (does not expire) linking them to the student's FAFSA
 - This code can be used via:
 - The link in the email,
 - By going to the FAFSA site and entering the contributor code
- The email address used does not need to match the one used for the parent's studentaid.gov account
- This simplified process only applies if the student starts the FAFSA and invites the parent

Real-time Identity Verification

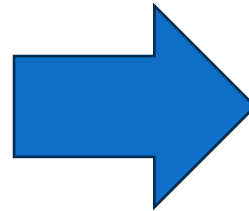
- Identity verification will instantly occur when a StudentAid.gov account is created
- There is no longer a 1-3 day waiting period
- This means students will immediately have full functionality of the FAFSA, meaning they can sign and import their tax data from the IRS on the spot
- If there is a data match issue, an instant rejection will occur, and the user can try again
- Instant match is not available for contributors with ITIN
 - Federal Student Aid (FSA) is developing a solution, but it will not be available for the 2026–27 cycle

Business and Farm Exclusions

- Protections for small family businesses and farms are back!
- The following should not be reported as assets on the FAFSA:
 - The net worth of a **family-owned business** with 100 or fewer full-time (or full-time equivalent) employees
 - The net worth of a **farms on which the family resides**
 - The net worth of a **commercial fishing business** and related expenses, owned and controlled by a family

Asset Information

- **Update:** The help text has been updated to include the asset exemptions that have returned to the FAFSA form



Student Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.

\$.00 ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00 ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms

Enter the net worth of the student's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

\$.00 ⓘ

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

State of Residence

- **Update:** The word legal has been removed
- All contributors are asked to provide their state of residence & the date they became a resident of that state

Parent State of Residence

State

Usually, this is the state where the parent lives.

Tennessee (TN) ⓘ

Date the Parent Became a Resident of Tennessee (TN)

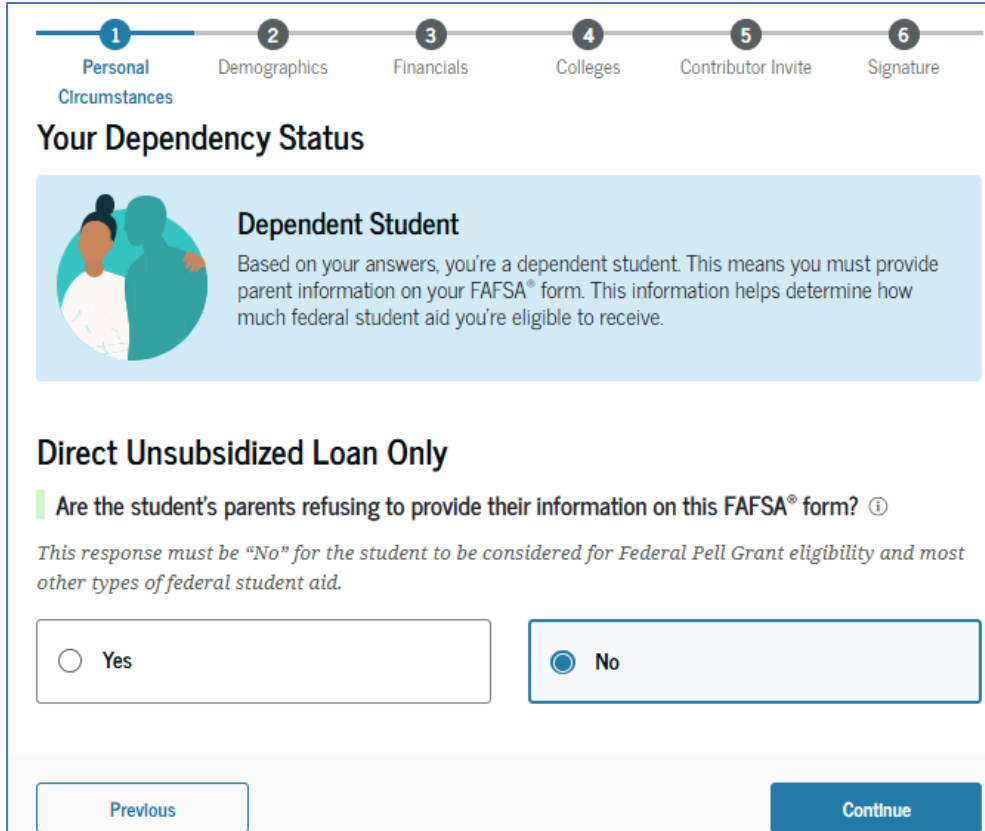
If the parent was born in Tennessee (TN) and has not moved out of state since, enter their date of birth. Otherwise, enter the date the parent moved to Tennessee (TN).

Month: 01 Year: 2006 ⓘ

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

- **Update:** The words Apply for have been removed
- The student is asked if a financial aid administrator should determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only
- This is an option if the student's parents are unwilling to provide information



The screenshot shows a progress bar at the top with six steps: 1. Personal Circumstances, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The current step is 'Personal Circumstances'.

Your Dependency Status

Dependent Student
Based on your answers, you're a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA® form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

Are the student's parents refusing to provide their information on this FAFSA® form? ⓘ

This response must be "No" for the student to be considered for Federal Pell Grant eligibility and most other types of federal student aid.

Yes No

2026-2027 FAFSA Form Changes

- The parent wizard tool will show up in a separate webpage only if the student selects “Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?”
- Dependent students will no longer be required to complete the in-form parent wizard tool

Who should enter as a parent on the FAFSA® form?

A student may need to ask their parent(s) to provide information on their FAFSA form based on the student's [dependency status](#).

This tool helps determine which parent(s) should participate in a student's FAFSA form.



To begin using the tool, enter the first name of the student's legal parent(s).

This helps us provide clear direction on which parent(s) should participate in the student's FAFSA form.

Who is considered a legal parent?

First Name (Parent 1)

First Name (Parent 2)

The student has only one legal parent.

Continue

Asset Information

- **Update:** The help text has been updated to include the asset exemptions that have returned to the FAFSA form



Student Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts
Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.

\$ ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate
Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$ ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms
Enter the net worth of the student's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

\$ ⓘ

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

The OBBA and Federal Direct Loan Program (Effective July 1, 2026)

- Eliminates the Graduate PLUS Loan Program
- Sets new student loan caps for Parent PLUS loans, graduate/professional, and other undergraduate student loans
 - Legacy provision: If a borrower has a Federal Direct Loan made before July 1, 2026, while enrolled in a credentialed program, the borrower can continue to borrow under current loan limits for 3 academic years or the remainder of their expected time to credential, whichever is less
- Allows institutions to impose their own lower program-level loan limits
 - Must be program specific and not on a student-by-student basis

2027-2028 FAFSA Changes

Automated Student Renewals

- **Streamlined for Success:** Returning students will no longer start from a blank slate.
- **Pre-Populated Data:** The 2027–28 form will automatically pull data from previous FAFSA submissions.
- **Faster Completion:** This enhancement is designed to significantly reduce the time spent on the form for students continuing their credentials.

Clearer Language

- **Removing jargon:** The goal is to eliminate confusing financial aid jargon that acts as a barrier for first-generation families.
- **Improved Comprehension:** Simplified logic ensures students and parents understand why they are being asked for specific information.

One Entry, Multiple Impact

- **The Multi-Child Shortcut:** Parents with more than one child applying for federal aid can now reuse their information.
- **Eliminating Redundancy:** No more re-entering the same demographic or asset data for every child in the household.
- **Cross-Application Syncing:** Once the parent completes their portion for one student, that data can be seamlessly applied to other siblings' forms.

Public Comment Opportunity

- **Your Voice Matters:** The Department of Education is actively seeking feedback from financial aid professionals to further "modernize and streamline" the form.
- **Deadline:** Public comments on the draft 2027–28 FAFSA materials must be submitted on or before Tuesday, April 14, 2026. What to Review:
 - Draft documents available for feedback include the FAFSA form, the FAFSA Submission Summary, and the Summary of Enhancements.
- **How to Comment:** * Online: Visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID ED-2026-SCC-0199.

Thank You!

Questions? Contact the Professional Development team at isac.outreachtraining@illinois.gov!

Sign up for ISAC's e-Messaging service to receive the latest news and updates at www.isac.org/emessaging