



ISAC
FAFSA
SYMPOSIUM

Overview of ISAC Programs

March 24, 2026

Programs in this Presentation

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Programs in this Presentation

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AIM HIGH Grant Program

- Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education (AIM HIGH) Grant Program
- Provides assistance toward a full-time undergraduate's cost of attendance
- Available through one of Illinois' 12 public four-year institutions
- Also, universities will provide matching funding for institutional awards
 - May or may not be available to the same students who receive the AIM HIGH grant, depends on how the matching program is designed by the university
- Program information is described in detail on the university's website
 - https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/aim-high.html#Participating_Schools

AIM HIGH

- Provides assistance toward a full-time undergraduate student's cost of attendance at the university
 - Is renewable and if a student receives it once and continues to meet the eligibility requirements, the student will be eligible to receive a renewal grant in subsequent years
 - The renewal award will be an amount no less than the award the student received first year of attendance, unless the cost of attendance is reduced
 - for example, if the student reduces the number of credit hours, or switches to a major with a lower tuition rate

AIM HIGH Grant Program – Eligibility 1/2

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- have attended an Illinois high school
- be engaged in a program of study that will be completed by the end of the school year
- apply to be enrolled for the first time at the public university
- be a resident of Illinois
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the “undocumented student” criteria of the RISE Act
- file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and demonstrate financial need, with a household income no greater than 6 times the poverty guideline established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AIM HIGH Grant Program – Eligibility 2/2

To be eligible, an applicant must: (con't)

- meet the minimum cumulative grade point average or ACT or SAT, determined by the university
- be enrolled as an undergraduate student on a full-time basis in a participating university
- have not received a bachelor's degree
 - or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours
- not be incarcerated
- not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant
- meet any other criteria established by the university
 - Students applying only for a university's matching funding may not need to meet these eligibility requirements; refer to the university program information

AIM HIGH Grant Program

- **Applying**
- Students applying for the AIM HIGH Grant Program and/or for the matching funding must:
 - File a FAFSA
 - Refer to the universities program information, or
 - Contact the Financial Aid Office
- **Disbursement of Funds**
- ISAC determines the amount of the AIM HIGH grant funding for each university each academic year based on appropriation for the program
- Disbursements are made to the universities
- Universities develop procedures to disburse funds to students

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- The Monetary Award Program (MAP) provides grant assistance to eligible students demonstrating financial need.
- MAP grants are applied toward tuition and mandatory fees for undergraduate students.
 - Must not exceed the maximum award amount for the academic year.
- **Which Schools Participate?**
 - MAP approved [Illinois Public and Private two- and four-year colleges, universities, hospital schools](#), and certain other degree-granting institutions participate.

**Maximum Annual Award
(AY 2025-26)**

\$8,064

MAP – Eligibility 1/3

To receive a MAP grant, a student must:

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (FSA Handbook, Volume 1 Chapter 2) or meet the criteria of the RISE Act;
- be a resident of Illinois:
 - Dependent Student:
 - the parent who is required to complete the [FAFSA](#) must physically reside in Illinois and Illinois must be their true, fixed, and permanent home at the time the initial FAFSA was completed and processed by the Central Processing System (CPS); or
 - if Illinois becomes the parent's true, fixed, and permanent home after the initial FAFSA is filed, the student's and the parent's state of legal residence and permanent mailing address must be corrected to indicate Illinois on the Student Aid Report (SAR)/Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). The corrections must be received by ISAC while data is still accepted and processed for the applicable academic year.
 - Independent Student:
 - An [independent](#) student must have physically resided in Illinois for 12 continuous full months immediately **prior to the start of the academic year** for which assistance is requested and Illinois must be their true, fixed, and permanent home.
 - Example: An independent student attending an institution with an academic year starting on August 5, 2026, must have resided in Illinois from August 5, 2025, through August 4, 2026.

MAP – Eligibility 2/3

- demonstrate financial need;
- be enrolled a minimum of three credit hours in a degree or certificate program at an approved Illinois college, for either a semester or quarter term throughout the institution's tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period (includes credit bearing certificate programs that are offered at public institutions and are less than one academic year in length – further details are provided in the MAP Certificate Programs document);
- be an undergraduate student who has not received a baccalaureate degree (graduate students are not eligible for MAP assistance);
- maintain the satisfactory academic progress standards of the institution (the institution must certify that the student has met its satisfactory academic progress standards at the time MAP payment is requested);

MAP – Eligibility 3/3

- not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund or repayment on any state or federal grant or scholarship. Students in default may reestablish MAP eligibility by:
 - repaying the debt in full;
 - making satisfactory payment arrangements with the holder of the loan;
 - rehabilitating the defaulted loan(s); or
 - making payments on the defaulted loan(s) to consolidate the loan(s)
- not be incarcerated; and
- not have exceeded the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours of MAP benefits paid.
 - Eligibility may be extended for one additional term if the recipient has accumulated fewer than 135 MAP Paid Credit Hours but does not have enough credit hours of payment remaining for the number of hours for which he/she is enrolled for the term.

MAP – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Fill out the FAFSA (or for eligible students, the Alternative Application)



2. MAP award calculations are completed for Illinois students who list a MAP eligible school as one of their school choices on the FAFSA or Alt App.

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements (ECACE)



- Provides funds for those who are currently working or have worked in the early childhood education field and are seeking additional credentials and degrees.
- Recipients must attend a [public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institution](#) as undergraduate students.
- Recipients are expected to continue or return to teaching or direct services in the early childhood care and education field in Illinois after they complete their program of study.
- Those interested in pursuing available early childhood education opportunities can complete the [Higher Education Navigator Interest Form](#) to be connected to someone who will walk them through all the options.

Maximum Annual Award

\$7,500

ECACE – Eligibility 1/3

To qualify for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program during the 2025-26 academic year, an applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (FSA Handbook Volume 1, Chapter 2) or meet the criteria of the RISE Act.
- be a member of the incumbent workforce, currently working or having worked in the early childhood industry (in either a licensed or license-exempt facility), including home-based child care (e.g., family, friend, neighbor), center-/community-based care, Preschool for All programs, school-based preschool settings, and Head Start programs, that serve children from birth to age 5. Acceptable positions include teachers, assistant teachers, directors, family child care providers and assistants
- applicants must provide documentation confirming their current membership in the Gateways to Opportunity® Registry

ECACE – Eligibility 2/3

- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time (at least 3 credit hours) basis at the undergraduate level at a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institution, and pursuing at least one of the following:
 - an Associate of Applied Science degree (or related certificate) in early childhood education or an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood at an approved college; or
 - a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with or without a Professional Educator License.
 - *Please note: An applicant that has an AA/AAS degree in early childhood education but has not yet completed a bachelor's degree in early childhood education will meet the undergraduate education eligibility criteria for this program. Also, an applicant that has an undergraduate degree in any field other than early childhood education and is now pursuing an AA/AAS or bachelor's in early childhood education will meet the undergraduate education eligibility criteria for this program.*

ECACE – Eligibility 3/3

- maintain satisfactory academic progress as established by the college.
- complete the application process by submitting an Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program application and either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or, if applicable, an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid on or before the ISAC-established priority consideration date.
- be certified as meeting eligibility requirements by the college at which the scholarship will be used.
- not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any State or federal grant.

Students do not have to demonstrate financial need to receive this scholarship, although the Student Aid Index (SAI) – from lowest to highest, determined based on information on the FAFSA or Alternative Application – is one of the prioritization factors considered when awarding funds.

ECACE – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Fill out the FAFSA (or for eligible students, the Alternative Application)



2. Complete the online application in the [ISAC Student Portal](#) (new students must create a profile).



3. Sign the application's Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note. By signing this note, the student promises to fulfill their teaching requirement according to the rules of the program.

Golden Apple (GA) Scholars Program

- Recruits and prepares Illinois high school graduates along with first and second-year college students, for teaching careers in [high need schools](#) throughout Illinois and provides scholarships to students pursuing teaching degrees.
- Each year, the Foundation identifies Golden Apple Scholars eligible to receive scholarship assistance from ISAC.
- The funds may be used for assistance with tuition, fees, and room and board or a commuter allowance.
- As a condition of the scholarship assistance, the recipient agrees to [teach](#) in an Illinois school of need for not less than five years.

Year (s) in Program	Maximum Annual Award (AY 2025-26)
First & Second	\$2,500
Third, Fourth, & Fifth	\$5,000

GA – Eligibility 1/3

Each year, the Foundation will identify Golden Apple Scholars eligible to receive scholarship assistance from ISAC. To qualify for the Golden Apple Scholarship, applicants must:

- be designated as a Golden Apple Scholar by the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen ([FSA Handbook](#) Volume 1, Chapter 2) or meet the [criteria of the RISE Act](#);
- be a resident of Illinois (if [dependent](#), both the student and parent/guardian must be residents of Illinois);
- be a high school graduate or a recipient of a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate;

GA – Eligibility 2/3

- not be in default on any student loan nor owe a refund or repayment on any state or federal grant;
- meet the satisfactory academic progress standards at the school;
- be enrolled at a four-year institution designated by the Foundation as a participating [Illinois university](#) on at least a half-time basis as a freshman through a senior;
- have earned a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale if enrolled at the sophomore, junior or senior level;
- have not received 8 semesters or 12 quarters of the Golden Apple Scholarship

GA – Eligibility 3/3

- have entered into a program agreement and promissory note with the Golden Apple Foundation and ISAC;
- be enrolled in a postsecondary course of study leading to an initial teacher licensure or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approval to teach including alternative teacher licensure;
- have participated in all required programs and adhered to the residential guidelines and standard of conduct as a designated Golden Apple Scholar of the Foundation; and
- have not been awarded an Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) or the MTI Scholarship for the same academic period for which the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program is requested.

GA – How Do Students Apply?

From the [Golden Apple](#) website, students can view benefits and eligibility requirements and see more detailed and year-specific information.

The Golden Apple Scholars Program in Illinois application is currently closed. To be informed when it reopens, please send us a message through the “Contact Us” button below.

[en español](#) | [po polsku](#)

PROGRAM BENEFITS

APPLICATION PROCESS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

CONTACT US

REFER A STUDENT TO THE PROGRAM

How to Apply



1. Complete the online application for Illinois students through the [Golden Apple Foundation](#) website.

*This is also found under the “Become a Teacher” tab → Scholars: Apply in Illinois

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program



- Encourages current teachers (not certified in a special education discipline) and students to pursue careers as Illinois teachers in any area of Special Education.
- May be used for up to four calendar years at any one of the public four-year colleges in Illinois.
- Certified teachers who receive an "approval" through their school district to teach in a special education discipline and are **seeking initial certification** in a special education discipline may apply for this waiver.
- Teachers already certified in a special education discipline may **not** receive the tuition waiver.

Maximum Annual Award

Exempts recipients from payment of tuition and mandatory fees.

Eligible Public Four-Year Colleges in Illinois

- Chicago State University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Governors State University
- Illinois State University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
- University of Illinois – Chicago
- University of Illinois – Springfield
- University of Illinois – Urbana
- Western Illinois University

SETTW – Eligibility 1/3

To qualify for an Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver, all applicants must:

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (FSA Handbook, Volume 1 Chapter 2) or meet the criteria of the RISE Act;
- be a resident of Illinois;
- meet one of the following conditions:
 - graduated (or are scheduled to graduate) from an approved high school in the academic year in which the award is made and perform in the upper half of the graduating class according to performance-based academic data provided by the high school;
 - or graduated from high school prior to the academic year in which the award is made and do not hold a valid teaching license; or hold a valid teaching license that is not in the discipline of special education;

SETTW – Eligibility 2/3

- be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at one of the eligible public four-year colleges in Illinois (providing the institution offers a concentration in Special Education) as an undergraduate or graduate student seeking initial licensure in an area of special education;
- be enrolled in a program of special education within 10 days after the beginning of the term for which the waiver was initially awarded;
- meet satisfactory academic progress criteria established by the eligible postsecondary institution;
- remain in attendance at the school on a continuous basis for up to four years (unless granted an approved leave of absence, in which case the course of study must be completed within six years);

SETTW – Eligibility 3/3

- not be in default on any federal student loan nor owe a refund or repayment on any state or federal grant or scholarship; and
- not be a prior recipient of this waiver or be awarded a Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship or the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program for the same academic year.

Once an academic year has ended, adjustments to benefits received will not be made for individuals who originally had their expenses (e.g., tuition and fees) covered using those benefits (i.e., the applicant cannot choose to "pay back" the dollar amount of benefits used in order to reinstate eligibility for the future).

- **Note:** Students who are General Educational Development (GED) Certificate recipients are not eligible for this waiver.

SETTW – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Complete the online application in the [ISAC Student Portal](#) (new students must create a profile).



2. Sign the application's Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note. By signing this note, the student promises to fulfill their teaching requirement according to the rules of the program.

Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (TISP)

- Encourages academically talented students to pursue careers as teachers at eligible Illinois public preschool, elementary and secondary schools.
- The scholarship may be received for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters of assistance.
- A student must sign an agreement promising to begin teaching within one year at an Illinois school district:
 - that has a 3-year average teacher vacancy rate above the state average, or;
 - where the number of teacher vacancies in the district over the past three years is higher than that of the state
- Recipients must teach one year for each year of scholarship assistance received and shall teach on a continuous basis for the required period of time.
- If the teaching obligation is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan at a 5% interest rate and the entire amount received, prorated to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, must be repaid.

Maximum Annual Award

\$7,500

TISP – Eligibility 1/5

To qualify for the Teachers of Illinois Scholarship, an applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the criteria of the RISE Act
- be a resident of Illinois
- be a high school graduate or have received a State of Illinois High School Diploma
- have been enrolled in a public school district in Illinois, at any point in kindergarten through grade 12:
 - that had an average of at least 70% of students who were eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunch; and
 - that had a 3-year average teacher vacancy rate at or above the statewide average, excluding public school districts that had zero vacancies or in which the number of teacher vacancies in the district was at or above the statewide average number of teacher vacancies, excluding public school districts that had zero vacancies

TISP – Eligibility 2/5

- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis at a qualified Illinois institution of higher education, and;
 - be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a course of study, which upon completion, qualifies you as a licensed preschool, elementary, or secondary school teacher; or
 - if you are already licensed to teach, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a course of study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a master's degree in an academic field in which you are teaching or plan to teach; or
 - if you are not yet enrolled in an educator preparation program, have received one or more College and Career Pathway Endorsements and commit to enrolling in a course of study leading to teacher licensure, including alternative teacher licensure, to be a preschool, elementary or secondary school teacher
- have earned a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale

TISP – Eligibility 3/5

- maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by your college
- have submitted a complete and timely application each year
- complete the application process by:
 - submitting a fully completed Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program application, which includes the three elements of the application:
 - Application;
 - Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note; and
 - the Free Application for Federal Students Aid (FAFSA®) or (if applicable) Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
 - In order to receive priority consideration for an award, both complete applications must be received on or before the priority consideration date of February 16, 2026.

TISP – Eligibility 4/5

- be certified as meeting eligibility requirements by the college at which you will use the scholarship; and
- accepting the scholarship (if one is offered)
- sign the application's Teaching Agreement / Promissory Note promising to fulfill the teaching commitment or repay funds received plus interest
- the teaching commitment must be fulfilled at an Illinois school district
- that has a 3-year average teacher vacancy rate above the state average; or
- where the number of teacher vacancies in the district over the past three years is higher than that of the state
- not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant. If you are in default, you may re-establish your eligibility

TISP – Eligibility 5/5

- not have previously received funds from the Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program for the equivalent of four academic years, which is the programs maximum
- not receive funds from the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program or the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program during the same term(s) for which you receive funds from the Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program. Although recipients of Teachers of Illinois awards are not eligible to receive tuition assistance through the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program for the same term(s), qualified students may be eligible to participate in other scholarship programs through the Golden Apple Foundation.

TISP – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Fill out the FAFSA (or for eligible students, the Alternative Application)



2. Complete the online application in the [ISAC Student Portal](#) (new students must create a profile).



3. Sign the application's Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note. By signing this note, the student promises to fulfill their teaching requirement according to the rules of the program.

2025-2026 Academic Year - Comparison of Teacher Education Programs

	Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship	Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois	Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver	Teachers of Illinois Scholarship	TEACH Grant Program (Federal program)
Priority Application Date	May 19, 2025	April 1, 2025	March 1, 2025	February 16, 2026	No set date
Maximum Award (cannot exceed the cost of attendance)	Up to \$7,500 per academic year	Up to \$2,500 during the first or second year as a Golden Apple Scholar and up to \$5,000 during the third, fourth, or fifth year as a Scholar	Exemption from paying tuition and mandatory fees for up to 4 calendar years	Up to \$7,500 per academic year, maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters	Up to \$4,000 per academic year

Teacher Education Programs Comparison Chart

- To help students determine the best teaching scholarship programs that fit their needs, ISAC has created a comparison chart that includes descriptions of ISAC teaching programs and the Federal TEACH Grant Program.
- To access this chart, see: isac.org → Students → During College → Documents → Education Programs Comparison

Teacher Education Programs Comparison of Commitment

	Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program (GA)	Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver	Teachers of Illinois Scholarship (TISP)
Teaching Commitment	<p>Recipients must sign a promissory note and commit to teaching full time for at least 5 years at an eligible school, beginning within 2 years of completion of their program of study</p>	<p>Recipients commit to teaching full time for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately following completion of their education, beginning within 1 year of completion of their studies</p>	<p>Recipients commit to teaching full time at an eligible school for at least 1 year per year they received scholarship assistance, beginning within 1 year of completion of their studies</p>
Repayment (if teaching commitment is not fulfilled)	<p>5% interest accrues from the repayment date if teaching commitment is not fulfilled</p>	<p>5% interest accrues from the repayment date if teaching commitment is not fulfilled</p>	<p>5% interest accrues from repayment date if teaching commitment is not fulfilled</p>

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)

- The Nursing Education Scholarship (NES) provides scholarship assistance to those who are pursuing any of the following degrees/certificates:
 - certificate in practical nursing,
 - an associate degree in nursing,
 - a hospital-based diploma in nursing,
 - a bachelor's or graduate degree in nursing,
 - or a graduate degree in nursing to become a nurse educator.
- Applicants must demonstrate the greatest financial need among qualified students.
- The program was designed to increase the number of nurses available for employment in Illinois by offering scholarships to overcome financial barriers to education.
- An NES award will pay a portion of tuition and fee charges, plus – for full-time students only – a living allowance.
- The scholarship pays for coursework within the nursing curriculum, but does not pay for pre-requisite coursework.

**Maximum Annual Award
(Varies based on degree sought)**

\$9,117 - \$18,574

NES – Award Amount & Years of Funding

The certificate, diploma or degree being pursued by the recipient determines the NES maximum award amount and the maximum number of years the award may be received.

\$9,117 Maximum Award

Certificate in practical nursing

- * any school type
- * one year of assistance

Associate degree in nursing

- * community colleges or nursing schools
- * two years of assistance

Hospital-based diploma in nursing

- * community colleges
- * three years of assistance

\$18,574 Maximum Award

Associate degree in nursing

- * two-year private colleges or four-year colleges/universities
- * two years of assistance

Baccalaureate degree in nursing

- * four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools
- * four years of assistance

Graduate degree in nursing

- * four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools
- * five years of assistance

Graduate degree in nursing to become a nurse educator

- * four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools
- * three years of assistance

NES – Continued Eligibility for Furthering Education

- If a recipient completes a certificate, diploma or degree program for which they received scholarship assistance, and they are now pursuing a higher level of education:
 - their maximum available years of assistance is based on the maximum for the new degree being sought.
 - **For example:** now pursuing a baccalaureate degree after receiving assistance for an associate degree.
 - The number of years of assistance previously received do not count toward the new maximum.

NES – Eligibility 1/2

To qualify for a Nursing Education Scholarship, an applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (FSA Handbook Volume 1, Chapter 2) or meet the criteria of the RISE Act
- be an Illinois resident for at least one year prior to the date of application
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment to a nursing or nursing education program in Illinois that is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or the Illinois Board of Higher Education
- demonstrate financial need

NES – Eligibility 2/2

- maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the college
- establish satisfactory repayment arrangements if they are in default on any federal student loan
- sign an Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note promising to fulfill the employment commitment or repay funds received, plus interest

NES – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Fill out the FAFSA (or for eligible students, the Alternative Application)



2. Complete the online application in the [ISAC Student Portal](#) (new students must create a profile).



3. Sign the application's Work Agreement/Promissory Note. By signing this note, the student promises to fulfill their working requirements according to the rules of the program.

Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program



- Pays tuition and eligible fees at all Illinois public universities or public community colleges.
- Is an entitlement program and is awarded to eligible recipients regardless of the funding level.
- This grant can be used for either undergraduate or graduate enrollment for the equivalent of four or six academic years of full-time enrollment, which is measured in eligibility units.

Maximum Annual Award

**Covers Tuition &
Mandatory Fees**

ING – Eligibility 1/2

To be eligible for the Illinois National Guard Grant, a student must:

- Be an Illinois National Guard member, defined as meeting one of these two criterion:
- be active in the Illinois National Guard or
- have been active in the Illinois National Guard for at least five consecutive years and have been called to federal active duty for at least six months and be within 12 months after your discharge date from the Illinois National Guard
- Have completed one full year of service in the Illinois National Guard

ING – Eligibility 2/2

- Be an enlisted member or an officer (Public Act 94-583)
- Be enrolled at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college
- Not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant
- Maintain an acceptable grade point average (GPA) according to the policy determined by your college

Note: High school students may enlist during their junior year and complete their calendar year of service prior to college attendance. This allows graduating high school students to use the grant immediately upon entering college.

ING – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Complete the online application in the [ISAC Student Portal](#) (new students must create a profile).

Processing Time

- Fully completed applications (including all required documentation) must be received at ISAC allowing sufficient time to complete processing prior to the last scheduled day of classes in the term for which a grant is requested.
- ISAC's processing time is approximately 12 weeks.
 - This same 12-week timeframe also applies for any additional documentation submitted to complete a previously-submitted application.

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program

- Pays tuition and mandatory fees at all Illinois public universities or public community colleges.
- Is an entitlement program and is awarded to eligible recipients regardless of the funding level.

Maximum Annual Award

**Covers Tuition &
Mandatory Fees**

-
- Qualified applicants may use this grant at the undergraduate or graduate level for the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment, which is measured in eligibility units.
 - have served at least one year of federal active-duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States, which may include the Illinois National Guard and the Reserve component of the Armed Forces, or
 - regardless of length of service, have served in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country (as recognized by the issuance of a Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order and in which the Armed Forces expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential executive order); was medically discharged for service-related reasons; or was discharged prior to August 11, 1967.

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transitions Scholarship Program (DEWSP)

- Provides scholarship assistance to children (including adopted and stepchildren) of eligible displaced energy workers.
- The program was designed to support students who are deterred from attending or completing an educational program at an Illinois institution because of a parent's layoff from a retiring power plant or a closing coal mine.
- The scholarship pays tuition and fee costs at public universities or community colleges for a period equal to one calendar year, including a summer term, for undergraduate or graduate study.
- An applicant does not need to be a resident of Illinois at the time of enrollment; however, the award is limited to the cost of in-district and in-state tuition and fees. The award amount will not exceed the cost of tuition and fees at the institution.

Maximum Annual Award

**Covers Tuition &
Fees**

DEWSP – Eligibility

To qualify for the Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program, an applicant must be

- a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen (FSA Handbook Volume 1, Chapter 2) or meet the criteria of the RISE Act;
- the natural child, legally adopted child or stepchild of an energy worker who has lost employment due to the reduced operation or closure of a fossil fuel power plant or coal mine;
- enrolled or accepted for enrollment, on a full- or part-time basis (at least 3 credit hours) at an Illinois public university or community college; and
- in the absence of transition scholarship assistance, deterred by financial considerations from completing an educational program at the Illinois public university or community college of choice, as shown by there being unmet need in their financial aid package.

An applicant does not need to be a resident of Illinois at the time of enrollment, however, the award is limited to the cost of in-district and in-state tuition and fees. The award amount will not exceed the cost of tuition and fees at the institution.

DEWSP – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Fill out the FAFSA (or for eligible students, the Alternative Application)



2. Complete the online application in the [ISAC Student Portal](#) (new students must create a profile).

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

- If a correctional officer employed by the Illinois Department of Corrections in a security position or an Illinois police or fire officer is killed or sustains an injury resulting in a permanent disability in the line of duty, the officer's spouse and children may receive grant assistance under this program, without regard to financial need.
- The grant may be used for an equivalent of 8 semesters or 12 quarters of undergraduate or graduate enrollment.
- Grants are funded by appropriations from the Illinois General Assembly and are applicable toward tuition and mandatory fees.
 - A recipient attending a public institution in Illinois may receive a grant that does not exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at that institution.
 - A recipient attending a private institution in Illinois may receive a grant sufficient to pay the cost of tuition and mandatory fees, provided the award amount does not exceed the maximum grant payable to a student enrolled in the most expensive comparable program of study at a public institution.

Maximum Annual Award

**Covers Tuition &
Fees**

PFC – Eligibility 1/3

To be eligible for the Grant Programs for Dependents of Police or Fire Officers or for Dependents of Correctional Officers, a student must be either:

- the natural born or legally adopted child or any child in the legal custody of the Illinois police, fire or correctional officer who was killed or disabled in the line of duty (while children of disabled Illinois police, fire or correctional officers need not have been born, legally adopted or in the legal custody of the officer before the disability occurred, they must have been so at the time the officer was killed in order to receive this grant), or
- the spouse of an Illinois correctional officer or police or fire officer at the time of death or disability. Common law partners are not eligible.

PFC – Eligibility 2/3

A student:

- must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (FSA Handbook, Volume 1 Chapter 2);
- must be enrolled on at least a half-time basis at an institution that is approved for participation in the Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- must be making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate;
- must not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant;
- need not be a resident of Illinois at the time of enrollment; and
- does not have to demonstrate financial need to receive the grant.

PFC – Eligibility 3/3

An applicant is ineligible if he or she is:

- either a spouse who remarries after an Illinois police, fire or correctional officer is killed in the line of duty, or is a spouse who divorces a permanently disabled Illinois police, fire or correctional officer; or
- a stepchild who is not in the legal custody or legally adopted by the Illinois police, fire, or correctional officer.

PFC – How Do Students Apply?

How to Apply



1. Complete the online application in the [ISAC Student Portal](#) (new students must create a profile).

Application Notes:

- The applicant must reapply each year.
- Eligibility in one academic year does not carry over into future years.
- Once eligibility has been established for one member of a family, it is established for all qualified applicants in the family.
 - Thereafter, a simplified application will be required on an annual basis from each student in the family.

PFC – Application Details

All first-time applicants must complete an application which includes biographical information regarding the deceased or disabled officer (e.g., name, where employed, position title, date of death or disability, etc.), and the **application must be accompanied by a certified death certificate or the certified statement of a licensed physician.**

1. The physician's statement must certify that there is a mental or physical condition that is reasonably certain to continue throughout the lifetime of the officer, resulting in a 90% to 100% incapacity from performing substantial and material duties previously discharged.
2. Documentation must be submitted to prove that the death or permanent disability occurred in the line of duty.

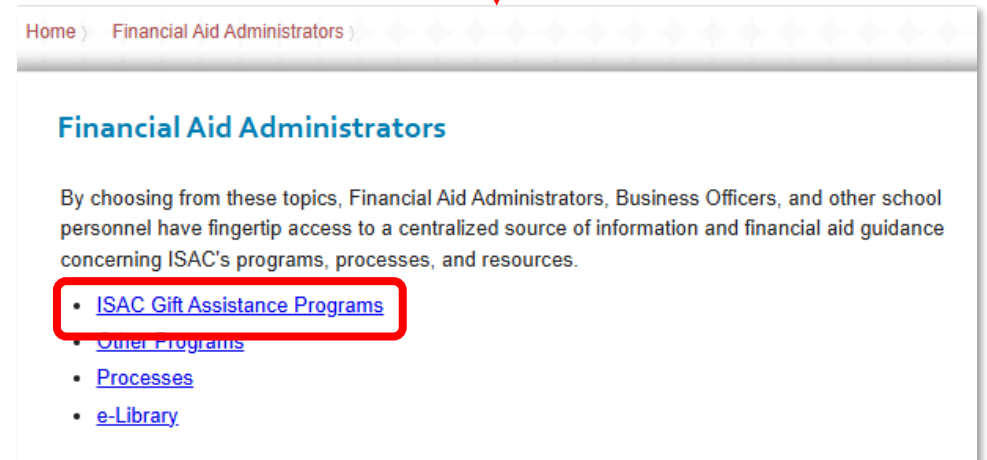
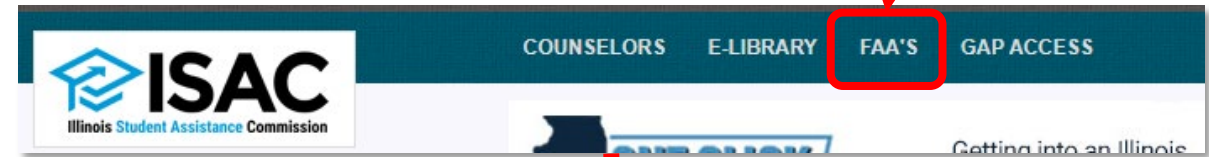
Program Application Deadlines Overview



Program	Application Available?	Priority Deadline for 2026-27	FAFSA/ALT APP Required?
Monetary Award Program (MAP)	Y	N/A – A MAP suspense date will be determined based on the volume of applications received. Students are advised to complete their FAFSA as early as possible.	Y
Golden Apple (GA)	N	TBD	N
Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)	Y	Was March 1, 2026 (Can still apply but will only be considered after priority applications have been awarded)	N
Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (TISP)	N	TBD	Y
Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)	Y	April 30, 2026	Y
Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)	N	Rolling basis, must apply w/ enough time for ISAC to review application for the term recipient wants benefits used for.	N
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)	N	Same as ING above.	N
Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program (DEWSP)	N	October 1, 2026 – Full year consideration March 1, 2027 – Spring-term June 15, 2027 – Summer-term	Y
Grant Programs for Dependents of Police-Fire-Correctional Officers (PFC)	N	October 1, 2026 – Full year consideration March 1, 2027 – Spring-term June 15, 2027 – Summer-term	N


For more information on programs, see the individual program pages on [ISAC's website](#):

- [Monetary Award Program \(MAP\)](#)
- **Teacher Programs**
 - [Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program \(ECACE\)](#)
 - [Golden Apple \(GA\)](#)
 - [Special Educations Teacher Tuition Waiver \(SETTW\)](#)
 - [Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program \(TISP\)](#)
- [Nursing Education Scholarship \(NES\)](#)
- **Military Programs**
 - [Illinois National Guard \(ING\) Grant](#)
 - [Illinois Veterans Grant \(IVG\)](#)
- [Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program \(DEWSP\)](#)
- [Grant Programs for Dependents of Police-Fire-Correctional Officers \(PFC\)](#)



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

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