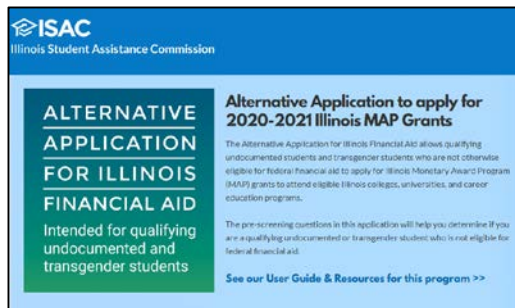


Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid User Guide (abridged)

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act, which went into effect on January 1, 2020, provides that “a student who is an Illinois resident and who is not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid, including, but not limited to, a transgender student who is disqualified for failure to register for selective service or a noncitizen student who has not obtained lawful permanent residence, shall be eligible for state financial aid and benefits ...”.



The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has developed the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid to provide a pathway for students who meet the provisions of the RISE Act to apply for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) for the 2020-21 award year. The Alternative Application collects much of the same data as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), but is administered by ISAC.

The Application Process

Complete Pre-Screening Questions



- Questions will be presented to help determine if you are eligible to complete this application or if you should complete the FAFSA.
- You will be provided with guidance on which application to complete after completing the pre-screening questions.
- Data collected in the pre-screening questions will be retained by ISAC and will not be shared with the colleges.

Create Student Profile



- If the pre-screening questions determine that you should proceed with this application, then you will be prompted to create an ISAC Student Profile.
- An e-mail address and challenge question will be required.
- After creating your profile, an ISAC ID Number will be assigned to you by ISAC.

Provide Student and Parent Data



- There are seven sections in the application which collect demographic and financial information about the applicant, and about the parent(s) for dependent students.
- Separate e-mail addresses are required for the applicant and the parent so that a PIN can be sent to them to electronically sign the application.
- Both the student and parent(s) should provide 2018 tax and/or income information for the 2020-21 award year application.

Review, Sign, and Submit

- E-mail messages will be sent to the addresses provided in the application and each will contain the PIN number the student and parent will need to sign the application.
- Student applicants will be presented with an Eligibility and Certification/Affidavit statement which should be carefully reviewed, and if in agreement, applicants can proceed and provide their electronic signature (PIN).
- Once all required data and signatures have been provided, the application can be submitted to ISAC electronically.

Tips and Notes About Completing the Application

There are **seven sections** in the application:

- Section 1 – Demographic information about the student
- Section 2 – Student’s income and asset information
- Section 3 – Questions to determine if a student is dependent or independent
- Section 4 – Demographic and financial information about the applicant’s parents
- Section 5 – Household information about independent students
- Section 6 – School choices
- Section 7 – Review/edit data provided, certify eligibility and accuracy of information, and electronically sign the application

Here is a **list of documentation needed** to complete the application:

- 2018 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- List of colleges the student would like to attend
- Parents of dependent students will also need most of the same information listed above

Here is important information **about the PIN** you’ll need to sign the application:

- ISAC will provide separate four-digit Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) to the student and parent that must be used to electronically sign the application.
- The PINs will be sent to the e-mail addresses that are provided on the application.
- The student and parent must provide two separate e-mail addresses.
- The application is not considered complete and cannot be submitted until electronic signatures (PINs) have been provided.

Here is some other helpful information:

- A **Save** function is available in the application that will allow you to save your data and return at a later time to finish completing the application.
- If you forget your log-in information, you can contact ISAC at 1-800-899-4722 for assistance. Select Option 3.
- If, as a dependent applicant, you are unable to provide parental data due to a special circumstance or unique situation (such as fleeing an abusive home) you should contact the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend for guidance and assistance.

Here is important information about ISAC’s Privacy Policy:

- ISAC respects your right to privacy. ISAC is committed to ensuring that your personal, professional and financial information is secure. We have taken numerous steps to help safeguard the integrity of our communications and computing infrastructure, including but not limited to authentication, monitoring, auditing, and encryption. Security measures have been integrated into the design, implementation and day-to-day practices of the entire ISAC operating environment as part of our continuing commitment to risk management. Please read ISAC’s [complete policy](http://isac.org) at isac.org to understand how your personal information will be used.