

# Free State Initiatives to ASSIST YOUR STUDENTS!

isac.org



## Participate in College the Changes Everything® Campaign

The 2022-23 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid are available to students beginning October 1, 2021. College Changes Everything (CCE) Campaign activities offer support to students who are completing college and financial aid applications at the same time.

### College application and financial aid application completion workshops in your school and online

- Get the tools you need to provide college application and financial aid workshops for your students, including free assistance from the ISACorps to support your workshops.
- During the 2020 CCE Campaign, ISAC and our partners conducted more than 1,500 outreach events across the state, including almost 800 Financial Aid Application Completion Workshops and more than 94 College Application Workshops with schools and other organizations from more than 300 Illinois cities and towns.

[collegechangeprogram.org/ccemonth](https://collegechangeprogram.org/ccemonth)

## FAFSA® Completion Initiative: Increase the FAFSA completion rate of your students

Illinois has a graduation requirement that high school seniors in Illinois public high schools file the FAFSA or, if eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid in order to receive their high school diploma. Participating in the FAFSA Completion Initiative and taking advantage of ISAC's free professional development training can help your staff successfully implement this mandate.

- School receives information on the financial aid application filing status of each of its students.
- Aggregate data provided on the overall senior class, such as the colleges to which they have sent their FAFSA info and the EFC distribution of senior class, among other data elements.
- ISAC can support your financial aid application completion initiatives with free financial aid application completion workshops, as well as one-on-one assistance for families. For more information on workshops, visit [isac.org/calendar](https://isac.org/calendar)

[isac.org/home/fafsa](https://isac.org/home/fafsa)

## ISACorps

### ISAC field staff assist students with the college-going process

- Recent college graduates hired for a two-year commitment serve as near peer mentors to students, with a focus on first generation and/or low income students.
- Extensively trained in financial aid and other components of the college-going process, ISACorps members conduct financial aid presentations, lead financial aid application completion workshops, assist with college application workshops, provide one-on-one mentoring, and conduct a variety of other related services.
- ISACorps members are located throughout the state; bilingual staff available.



[isac.org/ISACorps](https://isac.org/ISACorps)

College Access and Outreach

Capacity Development and Training

[isac.initiatives@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.initiatives@illinois.gov)

## Professional Development

### Increase your knowledge, support your students

- ISAC's professional development programs offer free workshops for high school counselors, mentors, and community partners throughout the state.
- Workshops give professionals a detailed understanding of the financial aid process and its programs through the use of case study scenarios and real life examples.
- Topics include how to properly fill out a FAFSA, determining financial aid eligibility, working with special student populations, elements of the financial aid offer, and more.
- ISAC also provides training and assistance to schools in understanding and adopting the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework.
- Continuing education credits are available.



[isac.org/PD](https://isac.org/PD)

## Transcript Exchange

### Send transcripts electronically at no charge

- Through the ISAC Transcript Exchange, any high school in Illinois can use Parchment to send electronic transcripts at no cost to the student or the school.
- Students can use Parchment's 100% online process to place a transcript request anytime, anywhere, and have it sent to any participating college worldwide, including the NCAA and the Common App.

[isac.org/transcript-exchange](https://isac.org/transcript-exchange)



### Help students get smart about going to college

The ISAC Student Portal has all the tools your students need to help them with college planning, financial aid, student loans and money management, and even careers and job search –all free and just a click away!

- College and Scholarship Search: search colleges and a nationwide database of scholarships.
- Financial Aid Tools: eligibility calculators, a financial aid game, and a tool to compare financial aid award letters.
- Money Management: budgeting and student loan repayment tools.
- Career and Job Search: research careers, build a resume, and search robust job boards for full-time positions, summer jobs, or internships in Illinois.
- College Planning Tips: including a handy interactive college checklist and short videos that answer questions about college planning and financial aid.
- ISAC Program Applications/Status: students can check MAP paid credit hours and apply online for several state grant and scholarship programs.
- Find a local ISACorps member or free college planning/financial aid workshop.

[isac.org/studentportal](https://isac.org/studentportal)

## ISAC College Q&A

### Mobile answers for students on the go

- Students have a lot of questions about planning for college and financial aid – now they can get answers sent directly to their phones!
- ISAC College Q&A can help support your students with a free text messaging service that allows them to get their questions answered and receive important information about college planning events and deadlines – all via text.
- It's easy to get started: students simply text their first and last name to the phone number listed in their area code.
- With more than 10,000 participating, ISAC College Q&A is a growing go-to resource for students and parents.

[isac.org/collegeqa](https://isac.org/collegeqa)