

ISAC Update

May 2012



Legislative Update

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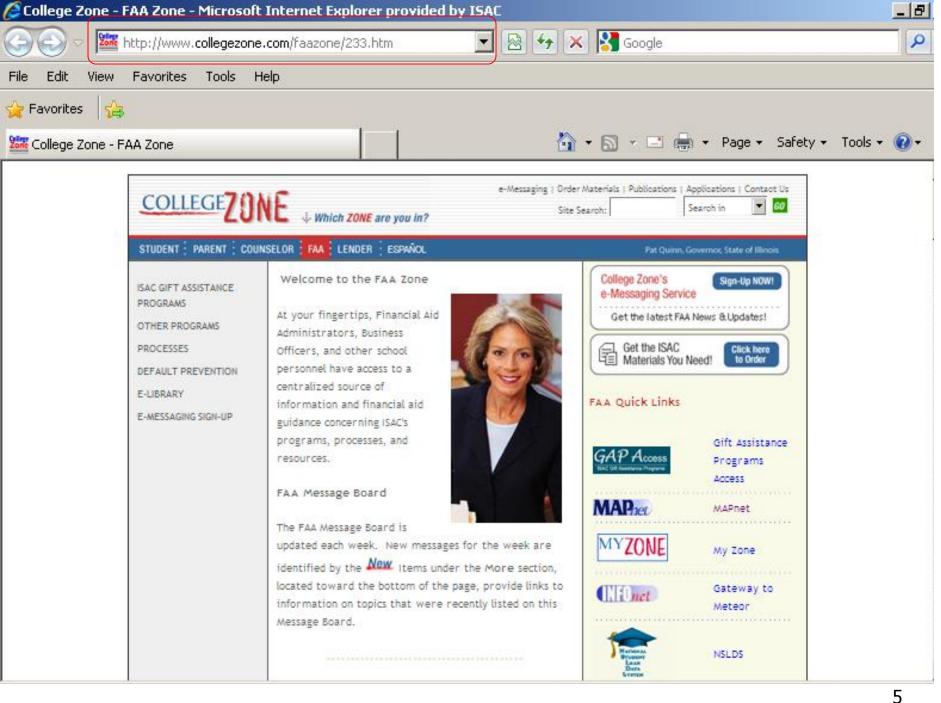


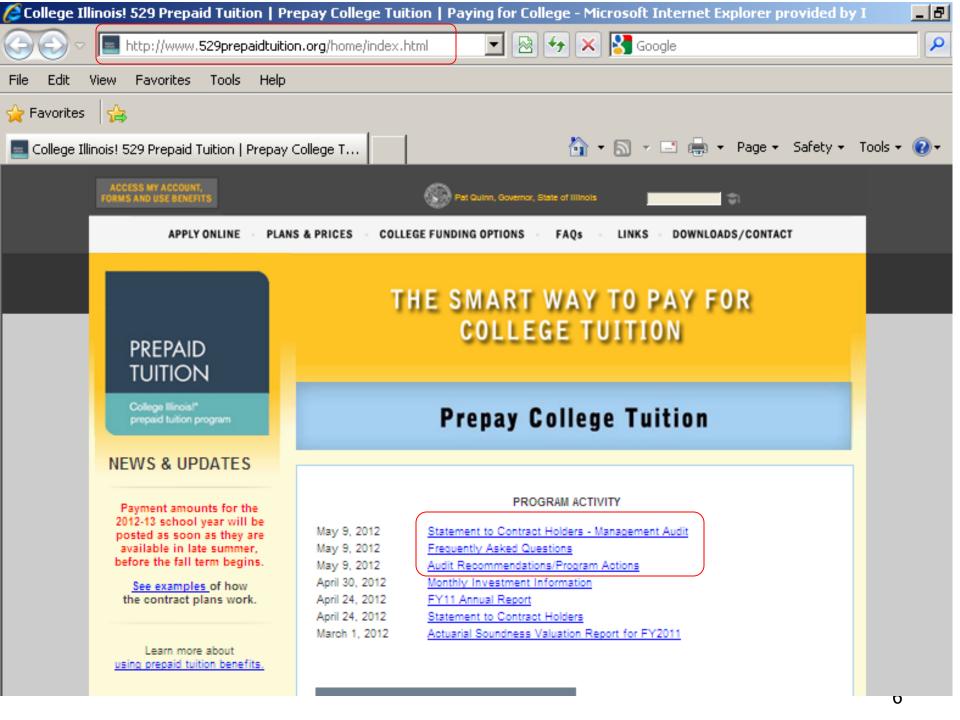


General News

- ISAC's new URL: isac.org
 - collegeillinois.org will redirect
 - May still see collegezone.com on some pages until transition is complete
- College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program
 - Management Audit was recently released by the Auditor General of the State of Illinois
 - 529prepaidtuition.org







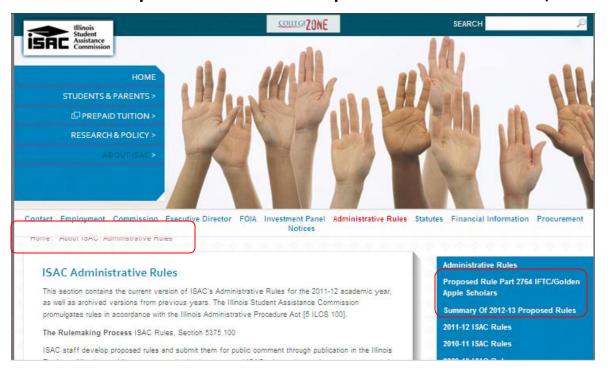


Commission Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2012
 - At ISAC's Deerfield office
 - A list of agenda items will be available online prior to the meeting date
 - Check the ISAC's Governing Board: The Commission web page at isac.org
- Two remaining meetings scheduled for 2012
 - September 14, 2012 at College of DuPage
 - November 16, 2012 at Harold Washington College

Proposed Changes for 2012-13 Administrative Rules

 Proposed administrative rules to accommodate the transition of funding from the Illinois Future Teachers Corps (IFTC) to the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program are available for review through the expiration of the public comment period on June 11, 2012.



Proposed Changes for 2012-13 Administrative Rules

- ISAC's proposed rules, emergency rules and amendments for the following Parts were published in the *Illinois Register* on January 13. The public comment period ended on February 27.
 - Part 2730 Illinois National Guard (ING) Program proposed amendment clarifies and separates the requirements for the reconciliation of ING data and ING funds.
 - Part 2731 Grant Program for Dependents of Correctional Officers proposed amendment clarifies and separates the requirements for the reconciliation of data and funds for the Grant Program for Dependents of Correctional Officers.
 - Part 2732 Grant Program for Dependents of Police or Fire Officers proposed amendment clarifies and separates the requirements for the reconciliation of data and funds for the Grant Program for Dependents of Police or Fire Officers.

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- Part 2733 Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program proposed amendment clarifies and separates the requirements for the reconciliation of IVG data and IVG funds.
- Part 2735 Monetary Award Program (MAP) The proposed amendment to 2735.30(p) introduces change to restrict MAP payment for graduate-level coursework based on school practices found during program reviews.
 - Section 2735.30(q) introduces changes to limit the number of times MAP benefits can be used for repeat courses based, in part, on changes to federal regulations (34 CFR 668.2).
 - Section 2735.40(m) is amended to introduce changes to clarify and separate the requirements for the reconciliation of MAP data and funds.

Proposed Changes for 2012-13 Administrative Rules

- Part 2754 John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program ISAC was designated by the Office of the Governor as the State administrative agency responsible for oversight of this federal program and distribution of funds in Illinois. Proposed rulemaking for the program set forth the applicant eligibility requirements and program procedures.
- Part 2774 College Planning Act PA 97-289 created the College Planning Act, a program that provides low-income and first-generation students in Illinois with targeted services administered by ISAC to promote college awareness and planning, including without limitation postsecondary and career counseling programs, college admission, scholarship, and financial aid applications, simplified admission or financial assistance application programs. Proposed rulemaking for the programs set forth the participant eligibility requirements, program procedures and participant agreements.
- Part 2775 Illinois Prepaid Tuition Program The Illinois Prepaid Tuition
 Program is being amended to include the taxpayer identification number as
 authorized in Public Act 97-233. Other revisions clarify time limits and
 restrictions for usage of program benefits.



2011-12 PROGRAM NEWS



Monetary Award Program

- June 1, 2012 is the priority payment claim deadline for 3rd term (3rd quarter and 2nd semester for colleges where the 2nd semester begins after February 15).
 - To be considered timely, payment claims must be received at ISAC by 7 p.m. (CT) on June 1.
 - Any initial claims made after the deadline date will be placed in a lower priority consideration for payment.
- June 4, 2012 will be the last day 2011-12 Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) data will be received at ISAC and accepted for MAP.



- Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program
 - Certifications available for completion in My Zone
 - Only applicants with a complete and eligible certification record will be considered for an award
- Golden Apple Scholars Programs
 - Certifications will be available in My Zone in early to mid June



- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
 - Spring term payment claims are due on or before May 25
 - Even though ISAC will not reimburse schools for spring term, payment requests must be submitted so eligibility units can be assessed to students' accounts
- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant
 - The summer term application deadline date is June 15
- Grant Programs for Dependents of Police, Fire and Correctional Officers
 - The summer term application deadline date is June 15



2011-12 Close Out

- All submissions of 2011-12 payment requests for ISAC programs must be received on or before July 1, 2012
 - Includes initial and supplemental claims



- Monetary Award Program
 - The deadline to submit 2011-12 MAP cancellations, refunds, or reductions via MAPnet is 7 p.m. on July 27, 2012
 - MAPnet application for 2011-12 becomes available for only historical view on August 1, 2012
 - Letters detailing the outstanding amount each institution must refund to ISAC for the 2011-12 academic year will be mailed to financial aid directors in late spring or early summer



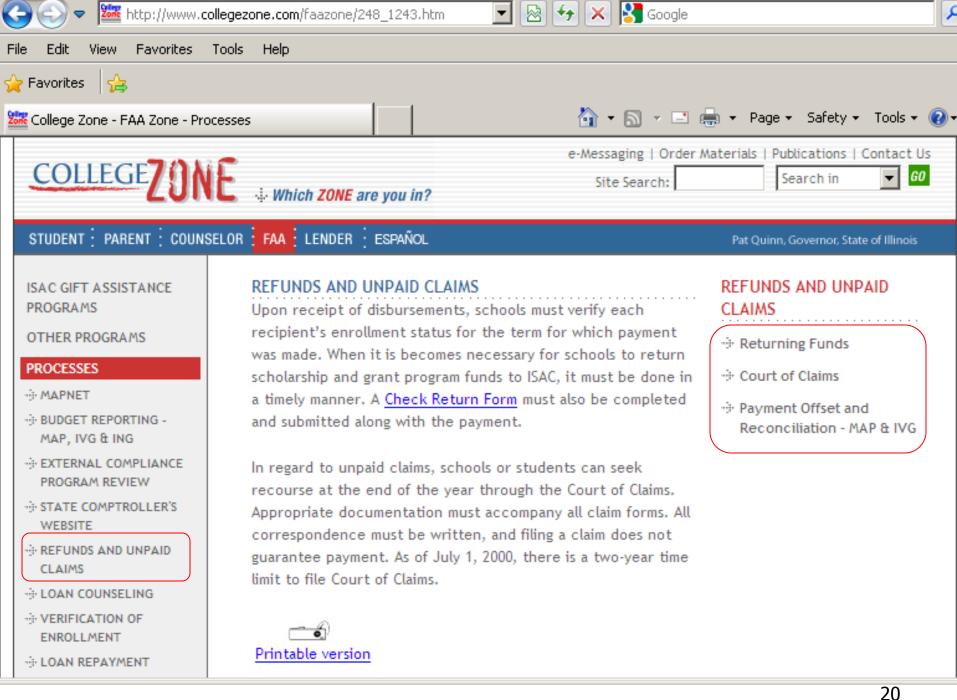
2011-12 Close Out

- Reconciliation Reminders
 - Finalize reconciliation and report all cancellations as soon as possible
 - Guidance is provided in the Processes section of the FAA area of ISAC's website
 - Payments must be reconciled on a student-bystudent basis
 - Due to the offset process for MAP and the IVG Program, funds should be returned to ISAC only after a final reconciliation has been completed to close-out the regular school year



2011-12 Close Out

- Reconciliation Reminders
 - Promptly return amounts due to ISAC after a final reconciliation
 - This will assist in the decision making process regarding the release of MAP late claims
 - Appropriation balances are impacted by the return of program funds
 - Use Check Return Form to specify programs, amounts, terms, check information, etc.



ISAC GIFT ASSISTANCE **PROGRAMS**

OTHER PROGRAMS

PROCESSES

- APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID
- → MAPNET
- BUDGET REPORTING -MAP, IVG & ING.
- → STATE COMPTROLLER'S WEB SITE
- REFUNDS AND UNPAID CLAIMS
- LOAN ORIGINATION

REFUNDS AND UNPAID CLAIMS

Upon receipt of disbursements, schools must verify each recipient's enrollment status for the term for which payment was made. When it is becomes necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, it must be done in a timely manner. A Check Return Form must also be completed

CLAIMS

- Returning Funds
- Court of Claims
- → Payment Offcet and



year).

1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209 866.247.2172 e-mail: schoolservices@isac.org

GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CHECK RETURN FORM

To ensure that refunds are credited to the proper account (both school and/or student) and ISAC Gift Assistance program, please include the information requested below with the check.

If you are submitting one check, refunding funds for more than one program or academic year, be sure to report the dollar amount being refunded for each program/year.

Please submit all refund checks to: BFD Division - J10

ISAC

1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

DATE SENT TO ISAC			
SCHOOL NAME			
MAP CODE /ED CODE/IVG CODE			
PROGRAMS (S)			
ACADEMIC YEAR (S)			
TERM (S)			
CHECK #			
AMOUNT OF CHECK	\$		
REASON FOR CHECK RETURN (check one)			
[] Returning Amount Due to ISAC (as shown on ISAC letter indicating total due at end of			



2012-13 PROGRAM NEWS



- Budget Packets are due to ISAC on or before June 1, 2012
 - All participating Illinois colleges must submit
 - Two versions
 - MAP only
 - MAP, IVG and ING
 - Instructions can be accessed online via the Budget Reporting area in the Processes section of the FAA area of ISAC's website.
 - Additional information was provided in an April 5 e-Message.

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GO

STUDENT PARENT COUNSELOR FAA LENDER ESPAÑOL

Pat Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois

ISAC GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

OTHER PROGRAMS

PROCESSES

- · MAPNET
- → BUDGET REPORTING -MAP, IVG & ING
- -- EXTERNAL COMPLIANCE PROGRAM REVIEW
- ---- STATE COMPTROLLER'S WEBSITE
- · REFUNDS AND UNPAID CLAIMS
- -- LOAN COUNSELING
- · · · VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
- -- LOAN REPAYMENT
- → REINSTATEMENT OF TITLE IV ELIGIBILITY
- -- LOAN REHABILITATION
- → RECORD RETENTION

DEFAULT PREVENTION

E-LIBRARY

E-MESSAGING SIGN-UP

BUDGET REPORTING - MAP, IVG & ING

Pursuant to ISAC Rules [Section 2700.30 (e)], postsecondary institutions participating in gift assistance programs with ISAC shall annually report tuition and fee charges to ISAC on or before June 1st preceding each academic year.

There are two types of Budget Packets depending on the program participation. The Gift Assistance Budget Packet allows colleges participating in the Monetary Award Program (MAP), Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG), and the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Programs to enter their budget information on one form. Colleges that participate only in MAP will complete the Monetary Award Program (MAP) Budget Packet.

Only one of the budget packet types must be completed and is due to ISAC on or before June 1, preceding the academic year. Review the Gift Assistance Budget Packet Instructions and the MAP Budget Packet Instructions before completing either budget packet.

Tuition and Fee Amounts Finalized after June 1st.

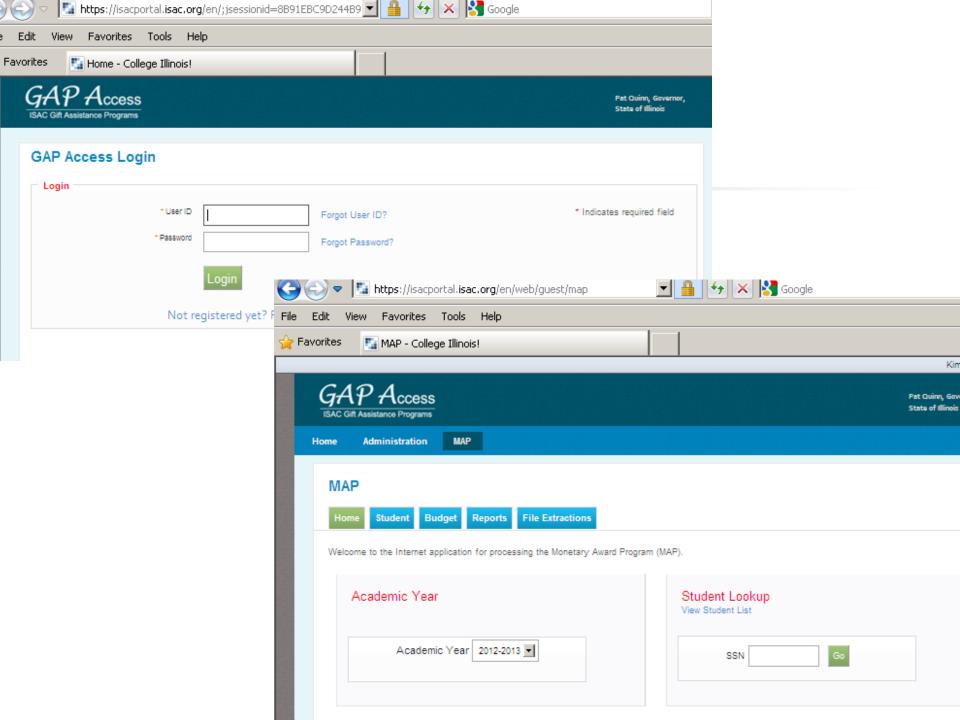
Under 2700.30 (e) of the ISAC Rules, any tuition and/or mandatory fee increases reported after June 1st would not be utilized in the calculation of gift assistance benefits for the coming academic year. The rules do not specify, but it is normally assumed, that such increases in tuition and/or fees

BUDGET REPORTING -MAP, IVG & ING

- · Gift Assistance & MAP **Budget Packet**
- Gift Assistance Budget Reporting Instructions
- MAP Budget Reporting Instructions
- · MAP, IVG & ING Budget FAQs

- Monetary Award Program
 - Announcement of 2012-13 MAP grants is suspended for students whose initial 2012-13 FAFSA was received by CPS on or after March 20, 2012
 - MAP eligibility information is available via the GAP Access portal
 - Accessible each day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (CT).
 - 2012-13 Start-Up Formula
 - Maximum award amount reduced by 5%
 - Effective annual maximum is \$4,720
 - 2012-13 Recompute Formula
 - To be determined when appropriation is finalized





- Illinois National Guard Grant Program
 - Online application for 2012-13 is available
 - Accessible in Students & Parents area at isac.org
 - Used for Fall 2012, Spring 2013 and Summer 2013
- Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers
 - Application for 2012-13 is available for applicants to download and print
 - Accessible in Students & Parents area at isac.org.
 - Used for Fall 2012, Spring 2013 and Summer 2013



- Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)
 - Award Notifications and Rights and Responsibilities forms were sent to 250 eligible applicants on April 24, 2012
 - Letters were also sent to qualified applicants who were not selected
 - ISAC is no longer accepting applications for the 2012-13 SETTW Program

ISAC Training Events and Conference Calls

- Financial Aid 101 Workshops
 - June 6 at Prairie State College
 - June 12 at ISAC's Springfield Office
- Financial Aid 201 Workshops
 - June 7 at Prairie State College
 - June 13 at ISAC's Springfield Office
- Executive Briefing Conference Call
 - June 26 at 2 p.m.
 - Details will be provided via an e-message in June
- GAP Access/MAP User Group Sessions
 - Late summer/early fall 2012

Other Events

- College Changes Everything
 - July 12 at Tinley Park Convention Center
 - Sponsored by KnowHow2GoIllinois
 - Organized by:
 - Lt. Governor's Office
 - Illinois Student Assistance Commission
 - Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - Illinois Community College Board
 Illinois State Board of Education
 - Women Employed
 - Illinois College Access Network
 - Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities



Other Training Events

- 2012 NASFAA Conference
 - July 22-25 in Chicago, IL
- 2012 MASFAA Summer Institute
 - June 5 8 in Duluth, MN

Extra line breaks in this message were removed.

ADMINISTRATION of USA Financial Aid Offices <FINAID-L@lists.psu.edu> on behalf of From:

HARRISON WADSWORTH < hwadsworth@WPLLC.NET >

To: FINAID-L@LISTS.PSU.EDU

Cc:

Subject: [FINAID-L] VA webinar offered on Obama Executive Order and other veterans issues

Seeing the discussion on the VA, I thought some might be interested in this COHEAO webinar next week with an administrator from the DVA. Here is the announcement.

Harrison Wadsworth

Executive Director, COHEAO

COHEAO is pleased to announce it will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, May 31, "An Update from the Department of Veterans Affairs." If you or (your colleagues) are seeking information on the administration of VA education benefit programs, this is a webinar you won't want to miss.

Register today!

On Thursday, May 31, Marie George, Chief Education Liaison for the Department of Veterans Affairs will join COHEAO to discuss Chapter 33 Benefits, the recently signed executive order on veteran and servicemember students, and the implementation of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act. George's presentation will focus largely on the administration of the Chapter 33 benefits including such topics as "Last Dollars Applied"

to tuition and fee rules, "No Break" coverage, returned funds processes, and steps the VA is

Sent: Tue 5/22/2012 4:57



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Description

Registration

Event Details

An Update from the Department of Veterans Affairs

May 31, 2012 02:00pm - May 31, 2012 03:30pm (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Event Type: Webinar

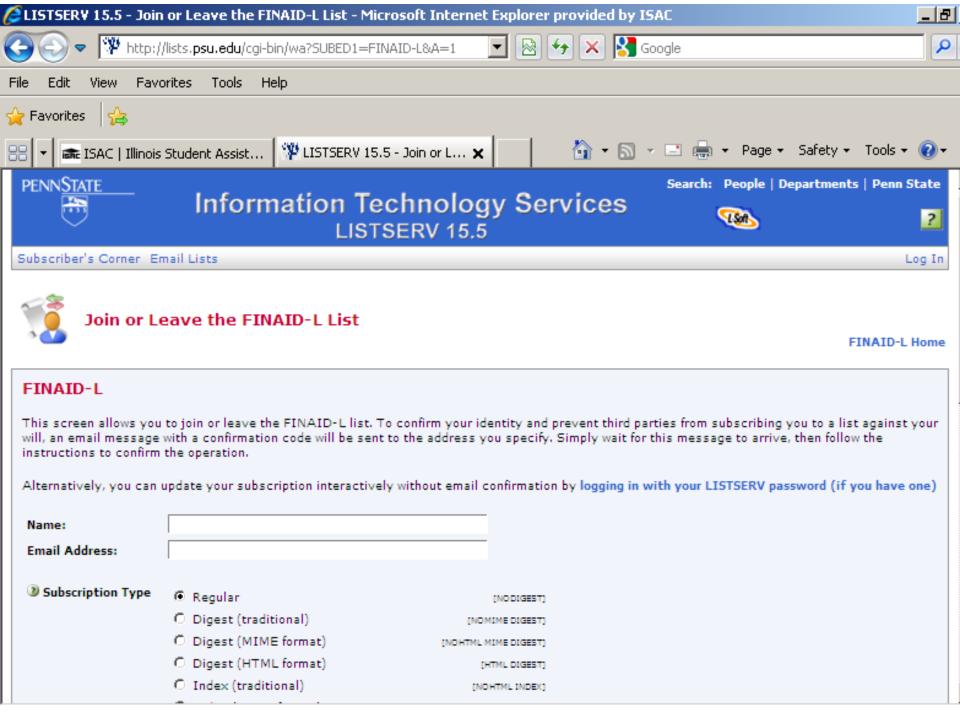
Category: Educational Seminar

Description

This webinar will provide an update from the Department of Veterans Affairs on the federal programs providing aid for these students. Marie George of the VA will disuoss Chapter 33 Benefits in-depth as well as providing information on the recently signed Executive Order regarding colleges and VA/DoD benefits. She will also highlight key aspects of implementation of the VOW to HIre Our Heroes Act

Registration Instructions

- What: COHEAO Webinar, "An Update from the Department of Veterans Affairs
- When: Thursday, May 31, 2012
- Costs: \$49 for COHEAO members/\$99 for Non-Members
- Additional Information: Contact Wes Huffman@wpllc.net, 202.289.3910)

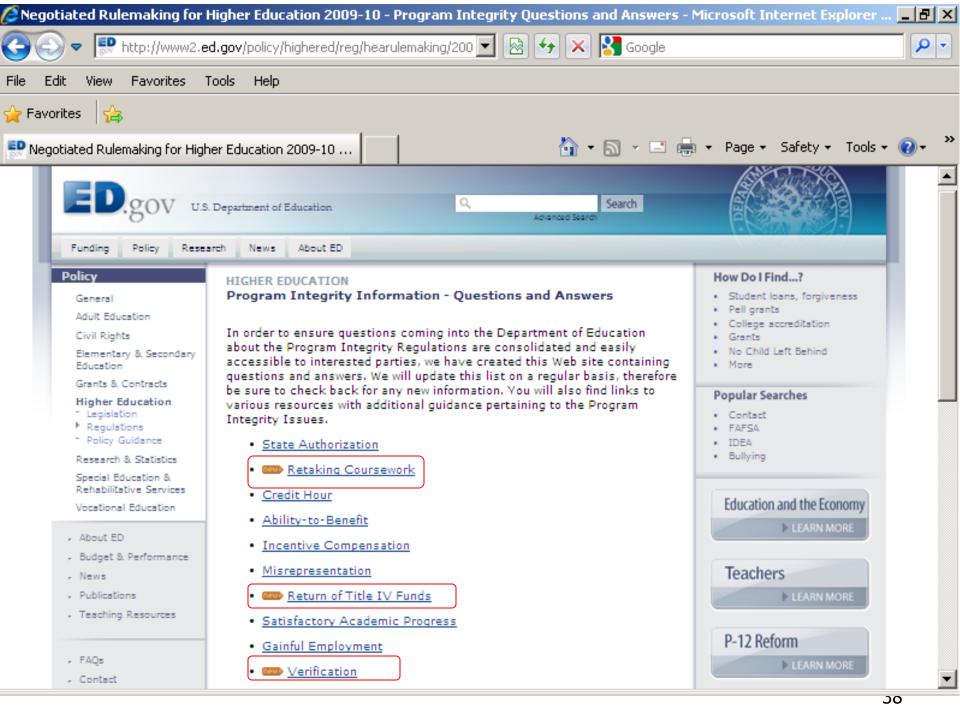


Federal News

- All EDconnect and TDClient Users must upgrade to EDconnect 8.1 or TDClient 3.2 by May 27, 2012.
 - A recent electronic announcement from ED indicates that, as of May 17, 74% of institutions had not yet completed this important upgrade and, as a result, risk losing access to their SAIG Mailbox(es).

Federal News

- Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) GEN-12-07 from ED provides updated guidance regarding the documentation that colleges must obtain to verify income and tax information.
 - For students and families unable to use the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval Tool or obtain an IRS Tax Return Transcript to complete the verification process, institutions may accept a signed copy of the 2011 IRS tax return as acceptable verification documentation until July 15, 2012.
 - After July 15, 2012, institutions must comply with the acceptable documentation requirements included in the July 13, 2011 Federal Register notice and in DCL GEN-11-13.



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HIGHER EDUCATION

Program Integrity Questions and Answers - Verification

Program Integrity Q&A

Questions on this topic are divided into the following categories:

- Introductory Verification Questions
- General Questions
- Applicants Selected for Verification by the Department
- Applicants Selected for Verification by the Institution
- Verification Items
- Updating Applicant's FAFSA Information
- Acceptable Documentation for FAFSA Information Selected for Verification

Introductory Verification Questions (IVQ)

IVQ-Q1. What is the effective date of the new regulations on the verification and updating of student aid application information for applicants who receive subsidized student financial assistance?

IVO-A1. The new regulations on the verification and updating of student aid application information for applicants who receive subsidized student financial assistance are effective July 1, 2012. Any FAFSA/ISIR selected for verification for the 2012-2013 award year and subsequent award years must be verified according to the new verification regulations. [Program Integrity Issues; Final Rule (Page 66832)] [Guidance issued 03/13/2012]

IVQ-Q2. What are the subsidized and unsubsidized student financial assistance programs?

IVO-A2. The subsidized student financial assistance programs are Title IV programs for which eligibility is determined on the basis of an applicant's EFC and include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study (FWS), Federal Perkins Loan, and subsidized Direct Loan programs. The unsubsidized student financial aid programs are the Title IV programs for which eligibility is not based on the applicant's EFC and include the TEACH Grant, unsubsidized Direct Loan, and Direct PLUS Loan programs. [Section 668.52] [Guidance issued 03/13/2012]

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Updates



institution in accomplishing this. Institutions that do not use the Department's sample worksheets must collect the documentation necessary to account for all sources of income. [Section 668.57(a)(4)(i)] [Guidance issued 03/13/2012]

DOC-Q8. For verifying child support paid, please clarify whether the institution is required to obtain the signature of the person who paid the child support?

DOC-A8. To minimize burden on families and institutions that would result by requiring the signature of the person who paid the child support, the signature of the applicant and, for a dependent student, one of the applicant's parents, on the Department's sample verification worksheets (or on a similar form developed by the institution) will meet the verification requirement for child support paid. This is because by providing those signatures the applicant, or parent, is certifying that the information provided is complete and accurate. This policy is consistent with our position to only require the applicant's signature and not the applicant's spouse and only one parent's signature for a dependent student when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). [Section 668.57(d)] [Guidance issued 03/13/2012]

DOC-Q9. May an institution accept or make a copy of an IRS transcript that was originally obtained from the IRS?

DOC-A9. Yes, an institution may accept or make a copy of an IRS transcript that was originally obtained from the IRS. [Section 668.57(a)(1) (i)] [Guidance issued 03/13/2012]

DOC-Q10. In some cases, when tax filers have visited an IRS field office to request an IRS Tax Return Transcript, the IRS office has, instead, provided tax filers with one of two documents: a Return Transcript for Taxpayer (RTFTP) or an Information Returns Processing Transcript Request -Wages (IRPTR-W). May an institution use these IRS provided documents to meet the verification requirements?

DOC-A10. An institution may accept as verification documentation any IRS tax transcript that includes all of the income and tax information required to be verified: adjusted gross income (AGI), U.S. income tax paid, Untaxed IRA Distributions, Untaxed Pensions, Education Credits, IRA Deductions and Tax Exempt Interest. Therefore, because the Return Transcript for Taxpayer (RTFTP) includes all of the above noted information, it can be used to meet the verification requirements. However, because the Information Returns Processing Transcript Request - Wages (IRPTR-W) only provides wage information it does not satisfy the verification requirements.

[Section 668.57(a)(1)(i)] [Guidance issued 05/04/2012]

Contact Information

- School Services Communication Center
 - Exclusively for school inquiries
 - Phone: 866.247.2172
 - Fax: 847.831.8549
 - E-mail: isac.schoolservices@isac.illinois.gov

- Kim Eck, Training Services
 - Phone: 217-785-7139
 - E-mail: Kimberly.Eck@isac.illinois.gov

Questions/Comments?



Thank you for participating today!