NEIU
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

STRANGER THINGS THIS FALL

ARE WE IN THE 'UPSIDE DOWN'?

FALL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE 1

Illinois RISE Act

The RISE Act stands for the **Retention of Illinois Students & Equity Act**. The RISE Act allows certain students who are not eligible for federal student aid to apply for state financial aid through the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

On July 24, 2026, a federal district court ruled that the current version of the Illinois RISE Act, is unlawful. As a result of the ruling, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is prohibited from providing state financial assistance to undocumented students under the current version of the RISE Act for the 2026-2027 academic year. A revised version of the 2027-2028 application will be available October 1, 2026.

Impacted students are encouraged to utilize the following resources and support:

- **Illinois Student Assistance Commission**: RISE Act FAQ and Resources
- **NEIU Institutional Scholarships**: NEIUport, My Financial Aid tab, Applying for Scholarships - AcademicWorks
- **Financial Aid Walk-In Advising**: Building D, Room 200
    - Monday and Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
    - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Financial Aid Appointments**: Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment
- **Undocumented Student Resources and Support**:
    - Student Affairs Undocumented Student Liaison at (773) 442-4601.
    - Walk-In Hours: Administration Building – Building C, Room C-336, Monday-Friday 1:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

What is OB3A and what does it mean to Borrowing Loans?

SCHEDULE OF LOAN REDUCTION

Eligibility to borrow through the Federal Direct Loan program requires a minimum of 6 credit hours. Eligibility to borrow annual limit requires 12 credit hours for undergraduates and 9 credit hours for graduate (masters). All borrowers enrolled less than full-time, require pro-ration of loan eligibility, with exception of Parent PLUS and GRAD PLUS.

NEW ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS (FULL TIME ENROLLMENT FOR ALL TWO TERMS)

Freshmen, dependent - $5,500 ❖ Freshmen, independent - $9,500 ❖ Sophomore, dependent - $6,500
Sophomore, independent - $10,500 ❖ Junior/Senior/TLP/2ndBA - $12,500 ❖ Graduate masters - $20,500

FALL Important Dates & Deadlines

FALL Book Advance w/Follett Bookstore
August 10 – September 4

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE HOLD
For balances > $2,000 absent payment plan
or ‘authorized financial aid
September 4, 2026

FALL Financial Aid Disbursement
September 10

Deadline for 2025-2026 Verification Documents
September 1, 2026

FALL Refund Distribution
September 23, 2026

LAST DAY TO DROP at 100% refund
September 3, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

STRANGER THINGS

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE HOLDS
Email: StudentPaymentServices@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-5165

CASHIERS
Telephone: (773) 442-5184

FINANCIAL AID
Email: Financial-Aid@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-5016

SCHOLARSHIPS
Email: Scholarships@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-4606

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
Email: Student-Employment@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-4696

STUDENT LOAN DEPARTMENT & CREDIT BALANCE REFUNDS
Telephone: (773) 442-5175