



2020-2021

Financial Aid Offices in the State of Illinois have Guidance On The **RISE Act!**

The **RISE Act** extends eligibility for Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) gift assistance programs. These programs include the Monetary Award Program (MAP), the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program and the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program. Students are not exempted from meeting existing program eligibility criteria.

Unable to complete the #EarlyFAFSA?

The **RISE Act** opens opportunities for students who are ineligible for federal financial aid. Instead of completing a FAFSA to determine MAP Grant eligibility, students would complete an Illinois-specific online, interactive application patterned after the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The online application will be available on January 1, 2020 for the 2020-21 award year.

Students must provide Northeastern Illinois University Admissions Office with an affidavit stating that an application will be filed to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the student is eligible to do so.

RISE Act MAP Grant application Process

- Pre-screening questions at the beginning of the online application will help students determine which application (**RISE** or FAFSA) should be completed
- If an applicant's answers to the pre-screening questions reflect the **RISE Act** application should NOT be completed, a message will advise them to seek assistance from their high school guidance counselor, financial aid advisor or an ISACorps member on steps to completing the FAFSA
- Similar to the FAFSA, skip logic will assist students in completing the **RISE Act** online application
- An Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be calculated – similar to the FAFSA – and MAP award amounts will be calculated for eligible students

Applying for Other ISAC Programs

Applications for ISAC programs other than MAP will be updated accordingly to accommodate the **RISE Act** provisions.

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