



Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois and Federal Financial Incentives

This document serves as a resource for scholarship, grant and loan repayment options available, but not limited to, Illinois educators seeking financial help while pursuing a professional educator license in Illinois. All of the below information is compiled from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission website found at <https://www.isac.org/>.

Financial Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



The first step in the financial aid process. This application will use income, assets, and other factors to determine the amount that will be contributed towards college expenses.

More info:

<https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/completing-the-fafsa/index.html>

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid



Allows eligible undocumented students and transgender students disqualified from federal financial aid due to failure to register for Selective Service to apply for all forms of state financial aid.

More Info:

<https://studentportal.isac.org/en/alternativeapp>

Scholarship Programs

The Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program



If: 1) student plans to teach at a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary school, or secondary school, for which the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has determined that no less than 30 percent of the enrolled students are African American/Black, Hispanic American, Asian American, or Native American; and 2) student is of African American/Black, Hispanic American, Asian American or Native American origin, then student may qualify for up to \$5,000 per year as part of the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program. Funds from this program may be used to pay for tuition, fees and room and board, or commuter allowances, if applicable.

More info:

<https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/minority-teachers-of-illinois-mti-scholarship-program.html>

Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois



The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program encourages academically talented Illinois students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching careers, especially at high-need, hard-to-staff schools by providing tuition assistance (tuition, fees and room and board or commuter allowance) at one of the participating colleges. The recipient may qualify for up to \$2,500 as a freshman or sophomore, and up to \$5,000 as a junior or senior.

More info:

<https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/golden-apple-scholars-of-illinois.html>

Grants/ Work Study

Federal PELL Grant



This grant is need-based and can help students pay for any educational expenses, such as tuition, fees, room and board, and/or living expenses. Available to undergraduate students, the maximum award is \$6,495 for the 2021-22 academic year.

More info: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/federal-pell-grant.html>

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)



This is a need-based grant available to undergraduate students. First priority for this grant is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients.

More info: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/federal-seog.html>

Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant



This grant is designed to benefit current and prospective teachers. Recipients of this grant must sign an agreement to meet specific teaching requirements within eight years after completing the program for which the grant was received. If the teaching requirement is not fulfilled, the grant must be repaid as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. The maximum TEACH Grant amount is up to \$4,000 per academic year. Maximum aggregate awards are \$16,000 for students working toward their first undergraduate or post-baccalaureate (nondegree) program, and \$8,000 for graduate students.

More info: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/TEACH-grant.html>

Work-Study Programs



A need-based financial aid program that allows students to work part-time to help pay for college. A Federal Work-Study job is different from other jobs for the following two reasons: (1) the hours are flexible to ensure that students have enough time to study, and (2) when students apply for financial aid the following year, the money earned through this program isn't used to determine financial need.

More info: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/work-study-programs.html>

Loan Repayment

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program



The Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program provides awards to encourage academically talented Illinois students to teach in Illinois schools in low-income areas.

More info:

<https://www.isac.org/students/after-college/forgiveness-programs/illinois-teachers-and-child-care-providers-loan-repayment-program.html>

Other Resource



Teacher education program specific opportunities – side by side comparison chart:

<https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/MTI-scholarship/media/CMPTEACHIFTC.pdf>



Each college and university may have additional scholarship opportunities specific to its students. Please reach out to your college/university department of financial aid to learn about additional opportunities that may be available.