RISE Act & the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students and transgender students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for all forms of state financial aid. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid provides a pathway for these qualified students to apply for Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants. Please note, the RISE Act does not exempt applicants from meeting existing MAP eligibility criteria.

Criteria:
- Noncitizen student who has not obtained lawful permanent residence:
  - resided with his or her parent or guardian while attending an Illinois public or private high school;
  - graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois;
  - attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma;
  - provides an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so;
  - and has not established a residence outside of Illinois.
- Transgender student who is disqualified for failure to register for selective service:
  - Must meet MAP eligibility requirements

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is now open for the 2020-2021 school year. Similar to the FAFSA, the applicant will be required to provide 2018 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned. Dependent students will also need to provide information about their parents.

Please reach out to the Financial Aid office at 815-802-8550 for more information or apply online at ISAC.org.

NOTE: This application pathway is an alternative application for students who are disqualified to apply for federal aid through the FAFSA application pathway. It is not an additional grant opportunity.