

Funding Year	Total Appropriated Amount	Allocated to Schools	Disbursed to Schools	For Award Year	School spending reported to ISAC
FY19 July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	\$25 million	August 2018	June 2019	2019-20	June 2020
FY20 July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	\$35 million	August 2019	June 2020	2020-21	June 2021
FY21 July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	\$35 million	August 2020	June 2021 (in process)	2022-23	June 2022
FY22 July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	\$35 million	August 2021	June 2022	2022-23	June 2023
FY23 July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$35 million	August 2022	June 2023	2023-24	June 2024
FY24 July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	\$50 million	August 2023	June 2024	2024-25	June 2025
FY25 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	\$50 million	August 2024	June 2025	2025-26	June 2026

Each AIM HIGH school will need to provide ISAC six reporting pieces by June 15, 2026, for the 2025-26 AIM HIGH award year.

1. Summary Document

The Summary Document will contain totals and summarizing data for the 2025-26 award year. These items will include:

- a) The name of the institution, date of certification, the name and signature of the institution's certifying official attesting that the figures in the document are true and complete to the best of their knowledge at the date of certification, preferred contact information, and any other such information including explanatory comments an institution wishes to include.

- b) The school's statement on the program's impact on tuition revenue, enrollment goals, access, and affordability. Specificity on outcomes, including providing actual increases in numbers and/or percentages is encouraged. Verbatim data from institutions may be included in any annual program impact reporting and/or publications.
- c) The total of State funds received by the institution (allocation) from FY25 funds for the 2025-26 award year.
- d) Total amount of state funds awarded under the program for the 2025-26 award year. Net, after student refunds. The 2025-26 award amount total may include awards made from previous year funds. ISAC is using a "first-in, first-out" approach to school spending for AIM HIGH. In each award year the State allocation from previous years starting in FY19 is first being used to fund awards. Once the FY20 amount is fully spent, the institution will begin to pay awards from its FY22 allocation, etc.
- e) Total amount of institutional funds used to match all State funding awarded for the 2025-26 award year. Net, after student refunds.
- f) Total unduplicated headcount of students receiving state funds for the 2025-26 award year. Net, after student refunds.
- g) Total unduplicated headcount of students receiving matching funds for the 2025-26 award year. Net, after student refunds.
- h) Cumulative total amount of all state funds unexpended and being retained by the institution.

2. Awarding Data File

The Awarding Data File will be an Excel file containing a payment record for each fiscal transaction (payment, refund) for each term for each awarded student in 2025-26 award year. The file may contain multiple records for each student as needed to reflect each payment or refund concerning that student. The file will be organized on a term basis and intended to collect term by term payments. **The file will be organized in a spreadsheet style instead of a normalized database style.** Each record would have the following elements:

- a) Unique student identifier- in a format determined by the reporting institution (no spaces). If a student is named Jane Doe in one awarding term in a year and Jane Doe-Smith in a different awarding term in a year, her unique identifier should stay the same. If Jane Doe is awarded in program year one and awarded again in subsequent program years, her unique identifier should stay the same.
- b) Transaction date- Date for the transaction being reported in the record. Last year this was collected in date format. For the 2025-26 award year please report this data in string MMDDYYYY format. July 4, 1776 should be reported as 07041776. Please report 99999999 for an unknown date.
- c) Transaction term- Term of record for when the award or refund is being made. Annual awards may be assigned a single term of payment or split across multiple terms. Character format; term abbreviation and 2-digit year- AAYY (e.g. FA20, SP21)

- d) State AIM HIGH grant dollars awarded - Actual awarded dollars to a student. This should be net, after refunds, if refunds are not reported in additional fields or as additional records for the student. If a student receives two payments in two terms there will be two records. If a student receives one payment per term there will be two records with the date and term when each payment was made. If a student receives a single payment intended as an annual award, there will be one record with the date and term when the payment was made.
- e) State AIM HIGH grant dollars refunded- Dollars refunded from a student account. If a student initially receives \$1,000 in state funds and this award amount is later reduced to \$750, the institution should report either a \$750 net award in a single payment record as mentioned above or a \$1,000 award and a \$250 refund as two separate payment records. Institutions should not report both a grant amount and a refund amount in the same record. The sum of state dollars awarded at the student record level minus the sum of state dollars refunded at the student record level should equal the total amount of state funds awarded under the program for the year as included in the Summary Document. All reported nonzero dollar amounts (awards and refunds) shall be reported as positive numbers.
- f) Matching AIM HIGH grant dollars (as defined in Section 5, MOE of this document) awarded- Again, net after refunds unless an additional record with refund amounts are included. The student populations awarded between State and Matching funds may be the same, overlap partially, or be entirely distinct.
- g) Matching AIM HIGH grant dollars refunded- Dollars refunded from a student account. If a student initially receives \$1,000 in matching funds and this award amount is later reduced to \$750, the institution should report either a \$750 net award in a single payment record as mentioned above or a \$1,000 award and a \$250 refund as two separate payment records. Institutions should not report both a grant amount and a refund amount in the same record. Institutions should not report both state and matching amounts in the same record. The sum of matching dollars awarded at the student record level minus the sum of matching dollars refunded at the student record level should equal the total amount of matching funds awarded under the program for the year as included in the Summary Document.
- h) Term hours enrolled at date of transaction- The term hours the student was enrolled at the time of the payment or refund. The term hours at the time of payment should be reported regardless of whether the payment is intended as term payment or an annual payment.
- i) University GPA- University GPA of record at the time of payment. A student receiving a payment in term one and a payment in term two should have a GPA reported in each payment record. The GPA can be the actual GPA at time of payment, the most currently available GPA (GPA of record), or a university developed GPA. The GPA used would be assumed to be consistent with SAP reporting guidelines. University GPA's are assumed to be on a 4-point scale. If possible, GPA's should be reported with two decimal places, e.g. 3.00 instead of 3. The field should be blank for students without a university GPA (e.g. incoming freshmen). Reported GPA will be checked against program requirements for audit purposes.
- j) Program name- University determined program name. Universities may operate multiple programs with AIM HIGH funds. The programs may have different awarding criteria. Students may be paid in multiple programs. If a student receives two payments in a term, one from

Program X and one from Program Y, the school should provide two payment records. If a student receives a single payment in a term sourced from multiple programs, the school should break up the payment for reporting purposes and report the portion from each source as a separate payment. Students receiving payments from multiple programs will require multiple records to report correctly.

- k) Comment- A text field for comments. May be used to identify special circumstances regarding payment, clarifying information, special codes, or other data as needed.

AIM HIGH funds are not required to be matched at the student level, only at the aggregate level (the types of funds which can be counted for matching are specified in item 5, MOE) AIM HIGH funds may not be used for summer term awards.

3. Student Information File

The Student Information File will be an Excel file containing characteristics for each awarded student in the reporting year. There should be one and only one record for each awarded student. It is assumed many of the demographic elements for awarded students will not change on a term basis. Information that is not available for a student should be reported as unknown. Each record would have the following elements:

- a) Unique student identifier corresponding to and in the same format as the unique identifiers used in the Awarding Data file. As noted above, a student awarded in program year one and awarded in again in program year two should have the same unique identifier
- b) SSN unless not applicable (undocumented student) – only last four digits required. If leading zero(s) please provide those – “0560”; use “9999” if not applicable.
- c) Last name- including suffix, spaces, and additional characters. Smith, James Jr, el Adreel, van der Forge, O’Flannon, Jimenez-Alonso. The name used at time of payment is preferred, otherwise the most current name should be used.
- d) First name- The name used at time of payment is preferred, otherwise the most current name should be used.
- e) Middle name or initial- The name used at time of payment is preferred, otherwise the most current name should be used.
- f) DOB- in MMDDYYYY format- 07041776. 99999999 should be used for an unknown DOB.
- g) School assigned grade level at the time of current year award or the most current school assigned grade level. If a student receives two payments in an academic year, e.g. the first one first term as a sophomore and the second one second term as a junior, the school should select whether to report the student as a sophomore or a junior but should report only one grade level for the student. This should be reported as numeric (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) where 1 = Fr, 2 = So, 3 = Jr, 4 = Sr, and 5 = unclassified.
- h) Race/Ethnicity- ISAC is using the IBHE/IPEDS reporting categories in which race and ethnicity are a single determination. If a student's response to the ethnicity question (Hispanic, Y or N) was a yes, the student would be reported using the code for Hispanic. If the response to the ethnicity

question is no, the student should be reported using a race code. One numeric code should be reported per student

- (1) Hispanic/Latino
- (2) American Indian or Alaska Native
- (3) Asian
- (4) Black or African American
- (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- (6) White
- (7) Two or more races
- (8) U.S. non-resident
- (9) Race/ethnicity unknown
- (10) Middle Eastern or North African

Given the program eligibility requirements (8) should be an unused code. The most current data or data at the time of initial awarding and cohort determination should be used.

- i) Transfer student- Schools should report a numeric flag of 1 or 0, where 1 = Yes and 0 = No.
- j) Disability status- Schools should report a numeric flag of 1 or 0, where 1 = Yes and 0 = No. Blank is Unknown. ISAC is aware this information may not be available for many students.
- k) ACT test score- Schools should provide a numeric figure representing ACT score if collected and if known. The score used to determine program eligibility (if required) is preferred. Schools will determine how to develop the score figure and select which score or average of scores to report in cases of multiple scores. Only one score per student record should be reported. The data should be reported as a two-digit figure between 1 and 36. Unknown should be reported as blank. Schools may select to report both an ACT and an SAT score for a student or to report a single score with the other score as unknown.
- l) SAT test score- Schools should provide a numeric figure representing SAT score if collected and if known. The score used to determine program eligibility (if required) is preferred. Schools will determine how to develop the score figure and select which score or average of scores to report in cases of multiple scores. Only one score per student record should be reported. The data should be reported as a three- or four-digit figure between 400 and 1600. Unknown should be reported as blank. Schools may select to report both an ACT and an SAT score for a student or to report a single score with the other score as unknown.
- m) High school GPA- High school GPA may not be available for all students. Schools should report the GPA data which are available. High school GPA's should be reported as the final GPA. Schools should report one high school GPA per student as available. ISAC would prefer high school GPA's be reported on a four-point scale if possible. The field should be left blank where GPA is unknown.
- n) High school GPA scale- Schools should report a value indicating the maximum GPA for the scale upon which the student's high school GPA is reported. "4" for a four-point scale, "5" for a five-point scale, etc.
- o) College program of study- 2- or 6-digit 2010 CIP code. Valid codes range from 010000 to 600602. ISAC will aggregate data using initial 2-digits of the code. Classification of a student into a code should be determined at a school selected point in time (beginning of year, beginning of

selected term), the time of payment, or the most recent available. One code should be reported per student. Codes are preferred in the form of xxxxxx although xx.xxxx is acceptable. Leading zeros should be preserved so that 090101 is not reported as the 5-digit code 90101. Unknown should be reported as blank (missing) and not as 999999.

- p) Gender- If known. Should be reported as a numeric value of 0, 1, 2, or 3 where 0 = missing, unknown, or prefer not to answer, 1 = Male, 2 = female, and 3 = any other gender category or classification including nonbinary. Missing, unknown, prefer not to answer may also be left blank.

The household income of the applicant at the time of initial application is to be used as the household income of the applicant for the program. Schools should not be verifying income eligibility for renewal grants. Therefore, not all recipients may be filing a FAFSA.

Relatedly, please note that (starting with the 2024-2025 collection) two of the data variables that we have asked for in past collections are now included in the FAFSA FTI data block – income and family size. ISAC will no longer be obtaining that data as well as MAP and Pell eligibility, and ZIP code from schools. We will be matching recipients back to the FAFSA and Alt App data ISAC has in house, which is why we have added last four digits of SSN to the variable list and why name and DOB are important. Also note that for the current (2025-2026) collection we have made slight revisions to the race/ethnicity and gender data collected to better align with revisions/updates we are seeing in this space.

4. Awarding Criteria

Schools need to provide a document with the awarding criteria for each program utilizing AIM HIGH funds for the award year the AIM HIGH funds are awarded (programs funded with both State and matching funds). The program names should correspond to the program names used in the student record level payment data. If awarding criteria change by cohort, this information should be provided. The intent is to gather the rules by which funds are awarded. Awarding criteria should be provided for both state funded programs and matching funded programs. An indication of whether each program is funded only with State money, only with matching money, or is funded with both State and matching money must be provided.

5. MOE data

Schools need to provide data regarding their 2025-26 Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The MOE information will be used to determine institutional eligibility and institutional allocations of FY27 funds to be awarded in 2027-28. The MOE elements to be reported shall include data (for undergraduate Illinois residents only) which was previously reported in the IBHE Student Financial Aid Survey (lettered references (representing institutional aid) included (c-g) below) as referenced in the individual school grant agreements. **Do not include AIM HIGH matching funds in the MOE.** ISAC will check the newly reported MOE (for the 2025-26 award year) against the baseline (2017-18 or 2021-22 award year,

whichever is lower) MOE to ensure the 2025-26 award year figure is at least equal or greater than the MOE baseline. Schools should report MOE data on the same basis for each year.

IBHE Student Financial Aid Survey Items (No AIM HIGH program funds)

- a) Total Scholarships, Grants, Fellowships, and Traineeships (03-01c)
- b) Talent Waivers - Academic (03-03b)
- c) Talent Waivers - Other Talent (03-03h)
- d) Other Waivers - Financial Aid Waivers (03-04d)
- e) Other Waivers - Special Program Waivers (03-04e)

The total of the above 5 items is the MOE figure. It should not include AIM HIGH state or matching funds.

A note about the terms Matching and Program Funds

Matching funds can be any new, non-loan financial aid except for non-loan financial aid that goes directly to the student (like MAP and Pell). It can include tuition waivers, state GRF, COVID money, etc. as long as it is new, non-loan financial aid above the baseline amount that is not provided to the student directly from a source outside of the school. Program funds as used in this document refers to both State AIM HIGH funds and the institutional funds used to match State monies.

6. Retention Status File

Schools will provide a file containing one record for each awarded student in the previous year's Student Information File who is NOT in the current year's Student Information File indicating the student's current status.

- a) Unique student identifier corresponding to and in the same format as the unique identifiers used in the Awarding Data file
- b) Previously Awarded Student Status-
 - (1) enrolled, eligible, unawarded
 - (2) enrolled non-eligible (as an example, the second year of a one-year award might be considered not eligible, a student's qualifying status may have changed)
 - (3) not enrolled; unknown status
 - (4) enrolled, awarded, not included in match
 - (5) not enrolled because graduated

The Retention Status File is intended to provide a status only for students awarded in the previous year who were not awarded in the current year. The Retention Status File and the Student Information File should be exhaustive and exclusive with regard to last year's Student Information File, meaning each student in last year's Student Information File should be in either this year's Student Information File or this year's Retention Status File.

Submitting the Required Files

The six required AIM HIGH reporting files should be submitted to ISAC by June 15, 2026 through the GAP Access system.

<https://isacportal.isac.org/en/>

The screenshot shows the 'User Login' page of the GAP ACCESS system. The header includes the 'GAP ACCESS' logo and the text 'ISAC Gift Assistance Programs'. On the right, it identifies 'JB Pritzker, Governor, State of Illinois'. The main content area has a light blue background with a central login form. The form includes fields for 'User ID' and 'Password', a 'Login' button, and links for 'Forgot Password? Forgot User ID?' and 'Click here to register'. Below the form is a 'COMPUTER SYSTEM USAGE WARNING' section with text regarding the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) computer system and its use for official business.

GAP ACCESS
ISAC Gift Assistance Programs

JB Pritzker, Governor,
State of Illinois

User Login

Login

User ID

Password

Login

[Forgot Password? Forgot User ID?](#)
[Click here to register](#)

***COMPUTER SYSTEM USAGE WARNING**

This is an Illinois Student Assistance Commission (State of Illinois) computer system, which may be accessed and used only for official business by authorized personnel. Unauthorized access or use of this computer system may subject violators to criminal, civil, and/or administrative action.

All information on this computer system may be intercepted, recorded, read, copied, and disclosed by and to authorized personnel for official purposes, including criminal investigations. Access or use of this computer system by any person, constitutes consent to these terms.

The screenshot shows the 'User Login: Success' page of the GAP ACCESS system. The header includes the 'GAP ACCESS' logo and the text 'ISAC Gift Assistance Programs'. On the right, it identifies 'JB Pritzker, Governor, State of Illinois'. The main content area has a light blue background. A dark blue navigation bar contains links for 'Administration', 'School', and 'Programs'. Below the navigation bar, the text 'User Login: Success' is displayed, followed by a 'Last Login' timestamp. A dark blue sidebar on the right contains links for 'MAP' and 'AIM HIGH'. The footer includes a blue bar with links for 'Contact ISAC', 'FAAs', 'MAP Program', 'MTI Program', 'ING Program', and 'IVG Program'. Below the footer is a copyright notice for 2021 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, including links for 'Terms of Use' and 'Privacy Policy'.

GAP ACCESS
ISAC Gift Assistance Programs

JB Pritzker, Governor,
State of Illinois

Administration School Programs

User Login: Success

Last Login: 2021-03-16 10:17:54 687

MAP
AIM HIGH

Contact ISAC FAAs MAP Program MTI Program ING Program IVG Program

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<https://isacportal.isac.org/en/web/guest/aim-high>

