

# Parent & Family Newsletter



## Welcome

Your student is about to begin an exciting new chapter at Illinois State University. Whether they're just starting out or returning to campus, *Parent and Family Services* is here to support you throughout their journey.

Each month during the academic year, you'll receive this brief newsletter to keep you informed about helpful resources, important dates, and University events.

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## University Housing Move-in Information

Students moving into University Housing must select a Move-In appointment through the [Housing and Dining Portal](#). Move-In for fall 2025 begins Tuesday, August 12, and continues through Saturday, August 16. Before Move-In, please review the [Move-In page](#) for helpful information about traffic patterns, prohibited items, suggestions for what to bring, and more.

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## Welcome Week: August 12-17

Welcome Week features daily events and activities designed to help students connect with others, explore campus resources, and feel at home at Illinois State.

Students are encouraged to check out the [Welcome Week schedule](#) to make the most of their experience. Unlike the summer Preview program, which included family and guest participation, Welcome Week is focused exclusively on the student experience.

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## Understanding Students' Protected Records

Illinois State University faculty and staff are required to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Faculty and staff can answer general questions about university policies and procedures but are not allowed to release student-specific educational record information without the student having completed a FERPA waiver. For more information, visit [Registrar.IllinoisState.edu/FERPA](https://Registrar.IllinoisState.edu/FERPA).

Students may also authorize disclosure of confidential health care or mental health care records if they wish. Providers cannot disclose this information to parents/families without the student's specific written consent. For more information, contact [Student Health Services](#) and/or [Student Counseling Services](#).

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## Immunization Requirements & Deadline

All students taking on-campus coursework are required to submit immunization records by Friday, August 29 (the 10th day of class). Students may upload their records electronically by signing into their [secure health portal](#). Records can also be sent to Student Health Service's [Secure Medical Records Drop Box](#). Please visit the [immunization requirements](#) page for specific requirements and other information.

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## Download the Safe Redbirds App

Safe Redbirds is Illinois State University's official safety app, providing emergency alerts and quick access to safety resources.

Both students and family members are encouraged to download it from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

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## Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

[ISU Emergency Alert](#) is the University's emergency notification and warning system. The University Police Department will issue an initial Alert following confirmation of a reported emergency and an assessment of an immediate threat to the University community. Initial Alerts and subsequent updates will be posted on the [Illinois State University website](#).

Family and community members are encouraged to enroll in the system by texting **ISUAlerts** to 67283. Students register to receive alerts by logging on to [MY.IllinoisState.edu](https://MY.IllinoisState.edu) and adding their text-enabled mobile number in the Emergency Alerts section.

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## Accessing Your Student's Financial Account

Students can grant parents or other payers access to their financial accounts by designating them as Authorized Users. This provides online access to view the On-Demand statements, make online payments, enroll in a payment plan, and receive emails regarding the payment plan. It also allows the Student Accounts staff to speak with the Authorized User about account information.

Authorized User information is confidential. Payment methods saved under the Authorized User are not viewable on the student's portal. If there are multiple Authorized Users on an account, they cannot see any information regarding other users.

For instructions on how to become an authorized user, visit the [Student Accounts website](#). To navigate the online billing portal as an Authorized User, view the comprehensive list of [Student Accounts "How to Guides."](#)

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### **Festival ISU: August 26 and 27**

Encourage your student to attend Festival ISU, Illinois State's two-day student involvement fair, happening on the Quad from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on August 26 and 27. With more than 350 Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and campus departments, it is a fantastic opportunity to explore ways to get involved.

Each day showcases different categories of RSOs, and students can meet with organization members, learn about volunteer and leadership opportunities, and enjoy plenty of giveaways. To make the most of the event, students are encouraged to visit the [Festival ISU website](#) and preview the participating groups.

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### **Family Weekend: September 19-21**

Family Weekend provides families with an opportunity to visit their students and experience Illinois State University together. Make some Redbird memories September 19-21 by enjoying Redbird football, dueling pianos, [Comedian Ryan Hamilton](#), special planetarium shows, and more. Families can choose to spend the day or the entire weekend with a wide range of activities planned. Registration is not required for Family Weekend; however, some events require advance ticket purchases. For a schedule of events or to purchase tickets, visit the [Family Weekend website](#).

Parent and Family Services at Illinois State University  
Dean of Students Office  
387 Student Services Building  
Campus Box 3090  
Normal, IL 61790-3090  
(309) 438-2008  
[ParentServices@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ParentServices@IllinoisState.edu)