



**AMENDED Zoom Meeting Information
CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

DATE OF MEETING NOTICE: May 5, 2020

May 15, 2020

9:00 am

Commission's Boardroom, 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA

Members

**Catalina Cifuentes (Chair), Jamillah Moore (Vice Chair), Judith Maxwell Greig (Secretary),
Juanita Doplemore, Hal Geiogue, Maria Manjarrez, Debra Maxie, Guillermo Mayer, Charles Nies,
Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Caroline Siegel-Singh, David Valladolid,
Marlene L. Garcia (Executive Director)**

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, this meeting will occur solely via remote presence. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N--29-20 suspended the requirements that a physical location be available for members of the public during a teleconference meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, and that at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in this notice.

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NOTE: Participants streaming the meeting over the internet will not be able to offer comments, ask questions, or otherwise participate in the meeting.

The Commission will meet to discuss and may take action on the following items:

1.	Call to Order and Roll Call	
2.	Public comment on items not on the agenda.	
	Note: The Commission and/or Committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting (Government Code Sections 11125, 11125.7(a)).	
3.	Chair's oral report on Commission related issues (Information)	
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	Marlene L. Garcia, Executive Director Teresita Martinez, Executive Fellow Executive Office	
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	Julia Blair, Interim Director Government Relations Melissa Bardo, Legislative Analyst Government Relations	
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	Patrick Perry, Director Data, Analysis, and Research Team Jessica Moldoff, Research Data Specialist Data, Analysis, and Research Team	

- 9. Leveraging CalFresh to support student basic needs (Information) 87**
- Alexis Fernández, Chief
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
California Department of Social Services
- Catalina Mistler, Interim Chief Deputy Director
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- Michael Lemus, Communications Manager
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- Judith Gutierrez, Policy and Project Management Analyst
Executive Office
- Teresita Martinez, Executive Fellow
Executive Office
- Tina Reynolds, Owner and CEO
Uptown Studios
- Mia Lopez, Product Manager
Uptown Studios
- 11. Consideration of the Cal-SOAP LA contract amendment (Action) 95**
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- 15. Presentation of Resolution to Nancy Anton and Glen Becerra, former Commissioners (Information)** 127
- Catalina Cifuentes, Chair
- Marlene L. Garcia, Executive Director
- 16. New business to be considered at future meetings (Information/Action)**
- 17. Adjournment**

Item 5

(Action Item)

Approval of minutes of December 5-6, 2019 and January 17, 2020

SUMMARY:

The Commission is asked to approve the attached minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Commission move to approve the minutes of December 5-6, 2019 meeting and January 17, 2020 teleconference meeting.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Catalina Mistler
Interim Chief Deputy Director
Executive Office

ATTACHMENT(S):

December 5-6, 2019 Commission Minutes

January 17, 2020 Commission Minutes



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Commission's Boardroom, 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Catalina Cifuentes, Chair
Jamillah Moore, Vice Chair
Judith Maxwell Greig, Secretary
Glen Becerra
Juanita Doplemore
Hal Geiogue
Debra Maxie
Guillermo Mayer
Wm. Gregory Sawyer
Caroline Siegel-Singh
David Valladolid

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Maria Manjarrez
Charles Nies

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Jake Brymner, State and Federal Policy Director with the Campaign for College Opportunity, expressed gratitude in partnerships with various organizations to ensure that financial aid is provided to all students in California, including

undocumented students. He was grateful to see how quickly the Commission staff implemented changes to the Competitive Program for Dreamer students and looks forward to more partnership opportunities with the Commission to increase service incentive programs and to help offset the cost of college attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes of June 13-14, 2019 and September 12-13, 2019 (Action)

The Commission **APPROVED** the minutes of June 13-14, 2019 meeting as presented.

MOVED Sawyer
SECONDED Becerra
CARRIED (11 to 0)

In Favor: (11): Cifuentes, Moore, Greig, Becerra, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid
Absent: (2): Manjarrez, and Nies

The Commission **APPROVED** the minutes of the September 12-13, 2019 meeting as presented.

MOVED Becerra
SECONDED Moore
CARRIED (11 to 0)

In Favor: (11): Cifuentes, Moore, Greig, Becerra, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid
Absent: (2): Manjarrez, and Nies

4. Chair's Report on Commission related issues (Information)

Chair Cifuentes thanked Commission staff for their work and excitement throughout the year participating in all the activities, events, and initiatives. She highlighted some key achievements of the College Affordability Summit, which took place in November 2019 and is looking forward to organizing more summits in the future to increase FAFSA/CADAA completion.

5. (Item 1) Executive Director's Report (Information)

Executive Director commended Chair Cifuentes for putting the College Affordability Summit together. She expressed the significance of bringing in multiple key stakeholders together to discuss and address the concerns of financial aid and basic needs. She emphasized the student voice panel, which provided a real insight of the struggles of current and future college students.

Executive Director also highlighted the success of the Cash for College workshop provided during the College Affordability Summit. She also announced that the Commission will host another year of the College Affordability Summit.

Executive Director Garcia shared the importance of the SEARS initial insights and how it is being received by stakeholders.

Executive Director Garcia thanked the Commissioners for taking time to host and attend various outreach events. She provided an update on current and future outreach events for the year.

Executive Director Garcia also provided an update on the Cal Grant Reform Workgroup and the Washington D.C. advocacy trip.

Commissioner Greig asked if the Cal-SOAP direction is to head towards financial aid outreach on financial literacy instead of college readiness, which is stated on the report. Executive Director confirmed that financial literacy is the one of the main goals of the vision, with the context of college readiness.

Executive Director Garcia introduced the Executive Office's Executive Fellow, Teresita Martinez. Ms. Martinez was invited to speak and talk about what her expectations are with her time at the Commission.

Executive Director Garcia also announced the launch of the Employee Recognition program which honors three exemplary staff. She welcomed the three employees: Patricia Hammond, Staff Services Manager of the Customer Assistance and Program Unit, Lisa Wright, Staff Services Manager of the System Analysis and Operation Unit, and Kelly O'Brecht, Budget Analyst in the Fiscal Administration and Service Division.

6. (Item 2) Election of Commission Officers (Action)

Virginia Jo Dunlap, Chief Deputy Director/Chief Legal Officer, announced that the current three incumbents are the candidates nominated for each of their respective officer positions and after comments by the candidates, the Commission could vote for all the positions in one motion.

The Commission unanimously **APPROVED** the election of officers Catalina Cifuentes, Chair, Jamillah Moore, Vice Chair, and Judith Maxwell Greig, Secretary.

MOVED Becerra
SECONDED Valladolid
CARRIED (11 to 0)

In Favor: (11): Cifuentes, Moore, Greig, Becerra, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Absent: (2): Manjarrez, and Nies

7. (Item 3) Consideration of the 2020 Commission meeting calendar (Action)

Virginia Jo Dunlap, Chief Deputy Director/Chief Legal Officer, explained that the proposed dates for 2020 meetings were presented at the September meeting. She also noted that the items that need to be addressed before making a motion are clarification for November and December meetings, and the meeting location for June.

Chair Cifuentes noted that based on the discussion at the September meeting, the December dates would be the best date for the last meeting of 2020. She opened the meeting for discussion and encouraged Commissioners who may have a conflict with those dates.

Commissioner Siegel-Singh commented that the December meeting will be an issue with the two student Commissioners as it could be the last week of class or finals.

Commissioner Geiogoue motioned to approve the Commission meeting dates with December 3-4 as the final meeting date of 2020.

Commissioner Sawyer also added that certain universities have pre-finals week, which would require the students to not participate in any activity.

Commissioner Becerra announced that a representative at the University of San Diego has offered to host the Commission meeting for June 2020.

Chair Cifuentes asked that student Commissioners reach out to other Commissioners if they need help with attending the Commission meetings on proposed dates of December.

The Commission **APPROVED** the January 17 (teleconference), March 26-27, May 15 (teleconference), June 25-26, September 24-25, and ~~November 12-13~~ **December 3-4** dates for the 2020 Commission meetings.

MOVED Geiogoue

SECONDED Valladolid

CARRIED (9 to 2 abstentions)

In Favor: (9): Cifuentes, Moore, Greig, Becerra, Doplemore, Geiogue, Maxie, Mayer, and Valladolid

Abstain: (2): Sawyer, and Siegel-Singh

Absent: (2): Manjarrez, and Nies

8. (Item 4) Update on Financial Aid and Cal Grant Reform (Information/Action)

David O'Brien, Director of Government Affairs, provided a brief summary of the discussion on the Cal Grant reform at September's Commission meeting. He proceeded to provide updates on the current activities with the Cal Grant workgroup, which includes looking at different options to streamline Cal Grant and models that serve the need of different student population.

Commissioner Becerra asked if transportation needs are factored into the discussion in the workgroup. Mr. O'Brien confirmed that transportation is a core component in cost of attendance, and the current strategy discussed is to help students take advantage of the current transportation resources available to them.

Commissioner Greig asked for more insight on the two Cal Grant Reform options mentioned in the Executive Director's report. Mr. O'Brien noted that the framework considered the type of students, and presented the two options as follows:

1. Maintain the current entitlement program and create an option for returning students
2. Consolidate all entitlement programs into one grant

The discussion on the Cal Grant reform options continued.

Commissioner Geiogue asked that the status of the Cal Grant workgroup be added as an item for the January teleconference meeting, and that the time for the teleconference not be limited to one-hour. Executive Director Garcia agreed to provide an update on the workgroup at the January teleconference meeting and will include necessary background information for Commissioners.

Commissioner Moore recommended that institutional representatives from each segment be invited to explain how the two Cal Grant Reform options will impact the process for each segment. Commissioner Moore clarified that it could be the January or March meeting, as long as each segment is provided enough time to review and discuss the impact of the options before presenting it to the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 4 UPDATE ON FINANCIAL AID AND CAL GRANT REFORM

There was no public comment.

9. (Item 5) Update on the Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) (Information)

Patrick Perry, Director of Policy, Research, and Data Team, provided an update on the data and research team. Mr. Perry invited Dr. Jessica Moldoff, Research Specialist, to present on the initial findings in the Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS).

Dr. Moldoff presented on housing and food insecurity findings.

Mr. Perry highlighted the Housing Spotlight handout and announced that more briefings will be provided in the coming weeks on food insecurity.

Commissioner Sawyer asked if there was a question in the survey which asked the students if they reached out to different resources and programs on campus. Dr. Moldoff responded that the survey did not have a follow-up question which asked whether the student reached out to other campus resources. Commissioner Sawyer added that this question can help different campuses find out what other campuses are offering so that they can possibly offer something similar.

Commissioner Geiogue suggested providing actual numbers of students on spotlights instead of percentage so it can make the report more impactful. Commissioner Doplemore also suggested providing a comment box for students to type in the different resources.

Commissioner Mayer asked if the percentage of housing can be compared to the total cost of college attendance for students. He explained that the rate of homelessness dramatically increased once housing constitutes more than 30 percent of total income. Mr. Perry responded that students were asked for an estimated total cost of attendance in the survey and the team can look into that information for a percentage. Commissioner Mayer asked if this information can be shared with other state agencies as a means to build partnerships. Mr. Perry responded that team will look into how to communicate the information.

Commissioner Becerra also asked if there can be a spotlight on transportation issues. Mr. Perry responded that the team can look at some of the transportation

issues in the survey and will consider the different requests from the Commissioners.

Chair Cifuentes asked that the information be broken down by specific regions and presented to those regions during the briefings. Mr. Perry explained that the current data is broken down on a macro and micro level and can also be broken by regions as well.

10. (Item 6) Update on the Grant Delivery System Modernization Project (Information)

Gurinder Bains, Chief Information Officer, provided an update on the Grant Delivery System Modernization project (GDSM) and explained that the launch date was delayed due to the implementation of the new program for supplemental aid for students with dependent children.

Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, also indicated that in addition to the student with dependent children program, the awards to Dreamers in the Competitive program was a priority to implement which led to significant changes to the legacy Grant Delivery System (GDS) and GDSM. She noted that the additional opportunity to have testing done by staff has allowed the team to improve the final product.

Commissioner Geigogue asked for clarification of dates for the GDSM and students with dependent children. Mr. Bains confirmed that December 10th will be the launch date of students with dependent children on the GDS, and December 16th will be the launch date for GDSM.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 6 UPDATE ON THE GRANT DELIVERY SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROJECT

There was no public comment.

11. (Item 7) Update on CSAC's branding and logo (Information)

Chair Cifuentes welcomed Bryan Sapp, Media Relations Manager, Tina Reynolds, Owner and CEO of Uptown Studios, and Mackenzie McKinney, Product Manager of Uptown Studios to present.

Mr. Sapp introduced Tina Reynolds and Mackenzie McKinney to present on the communications and brand audit.

Ms. Reynolds briefly summarized the method behind the research. Ms. McKinney presented on the findings of the audit.

Ms. Reynolds directed the Commissioners to the handout provided and explained how each logos were designed.

The Commissioners were provided an opportunity to offer feedback on each logo.

Commissioner Sawyer suggested a tagline underneath the logo to make it stand out.

Commissioner Becerra suggested that the focus group on the logos include educational and legislative partners.

Commissioner Geiogoue suggested that the current logo be included in the focus group to see if there can by changes to the existing logo instead of creating a completely new one.

Commissioner Siegel-Singh asked if there can be one unified logo with the only change of text for each different program. She added that this will maintain consistency and still associate each program with the California Student Aid Commission, if the different programs are listed in smaller font below the California Student Aid Commission.

After the Commissioners provided their feedback to all the proposed logos, Ms. Reynolds thanked them and advised them that she will take the information back to the team.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 7 UPDATE ON CSAC'S BRANDING AND LOGO

There was none.

12. (Item 8) Update on Research Unit Workplan and Strategic Initiatives (Information)

Patrick Perry, Director of Policy, Research and Data, provided an update on the research unit work plan and strategic initiatives.

Commissioner Greig asked how the Commission's current data is stored. Mr. Perry explained that most information is pulled from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), which is stored in the legacy Grant Delivery System.

Commissioner Greig asked about how the data provided can still protect students' confidential information. Mr. Perry explained that personal information, such as social security numbers, are removed from the data extraction that are provided to requestors.

Commissioner Geiogue asked if all data are under the Data, Analysis and Research Team. Mr. Perry responded that Gurinder Bains, Chief Information Officer, currently has ownership of the data, which is stored and retained on the backend. He explained the collaboration processes between divisions to carry out data requests.

Commissioners continued the discussion on strategies to improve data.

Chair Cifuentes suggested that Commissioners send Mr. Perry a list of wishes for data to report out at future meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 8 UPDATE ON RESEARCH UNIT WORKPLAN AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

There was no public comment.

13. Recess for Committee meetings

Chair Cifuentes announced that the Commission meeting would recess for lunch and after, the following committee meetings would report:

- *Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee meeting*
- *Student Impact Committee meeting*
- *Strategic Policy and Planning Committee meeting*
- *Personnel, Evaluation and Nominations Committee meeting*

Chair Cifuentes recessed the Commission meeting at 12:25 p.m.

14. Reconvene Commission meeting and Recess Commission meeting to Friday, December 6, 2019

Chair Cifuentes reconvened the Commission meeting at 4:53 p.m. and announced that the meeting will be recessed to Friday, December 6, 2019.

Chair Cifuentes recessed the Commission meeting at 4:54 p.m.

JUDITH MAXWELL GREIG
SECRETARY



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 6, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Commission's Boardroom, 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Catalina Cifuentes, Chair
Jamillah Moore, Vice Chair
Judith Maxwell Greig, Secretary
Glen Becerra
Juanita Doplemore
Hal Geiogue
Debra Maxie
Guillermo Mayer
Wm. Gregory Sawyer
Caroline Siegel-Singh
David Valladolid

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Maria Manjarrez
Charles Nies

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was no public comment.

13. (Item 18) Presentation by statewide student organizations (Information) – taken out of order

Chair Cifuentes invited the presidents from the University of California (UC) Student Association and California State University (CSU) Student Association to present to the Commission.

David O'Brien introduced Varsha Sarveshwar, president of UC Student Association, and Michael Wiafe, president of CSU Student Association, and invited them to present on their organizations.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 18 PRESENTATION BY STATEWIDE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

There was no public comment.

14. (Item 19) Student loan debt (Information) – taken out of order

David O'Brien, Director of Government Affairs, introduced the following presenters to speak on student loan debt: Laura Szabo-Kubitz, Associate California Program Director of The Institute of College Access and Success (TICAS), Hans Johnson, Director of Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) Higher Education Center, and Arnie Sowell, Vice President of California Policy of NextGen America.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 19 STUDENT LOAN DEBT

There was no public comment.

12. (Item 17) Update on the Child Savings Programs RFA (Information) – taken out of order

Steve Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Director of Customer Relations Branch, provided a background on the Child Savings Account Programs Request for Application (RFA). Ramona Carlos, Manager of Specialized programs, provided an update on the development of the Child Savings Programs RFA. She noted that staff have drafted an RFA and are waiting to establish a council before presenting the RFA to the Commission.

Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, confirmed that staff plans to provide a draft version of the RFA to the Commission at the March 2020 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 17 UPDATE ON THE CHILD SAVINGS PROGRAMS RFA

There was no public comment.

3. Committee Report Items

Chair Cifuentes announced that the Commission will move to reports from each committee.

Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee Report - Glen Becerra, Committee Vice Chair

4. (Item 9) Update on state and federal legislation and issues affecting Commission programs (Information/Action)

Committee Vice Chair Becerra invited David O'Brien, Director of Government Affairs, to provide a summary of the state and federal legislation issues affecting Commission programs.

5. (Item 10) Operations budget update (Information)

Committee Vice Chair Becerra invited Rhonda Pascual, Interim Chief of Fiscal Administrative Services Division, and Vivian Su, Interim Fiscal Manager, to provide a summary on the operations budget. He provided a quick overview of the 2018 budget expenditure and operational support budget.

Executive Director noted that a workforce audit will take place before staff can prepare a budget change proposal (BCP) for the Commission to review.

Student Impact Committee Report - David Valladolid, Committee Vice Chair

6. (Item 11) Update on Competitive Cal Grant Program (Information)

Committee Vice Chair Valladolid provided a summary of the Competitive Cal Grant Program.

Commissioner Greig asked if the Committee and staff understood why the percentage of paid rate dropped after succeeding 100 percent in other years. Chair Cifuentes clarified that institutions are preparing for the students with dependents program, which has led to a delay in the payment and recycling process.

Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, also added that the Commission has been asked by institutions to delay the payment process in order for the institutions to meet their census. Ms. Mistler stated that staff plans to be more aggressive in awarding more students in order to meet the 100 percent paid rate.

Strategic Policy and Planning Committee Report - Debra Maxie, Committee Chair

7. (Item 12) Update on engagement of stakeholders and partnerships (Information)

Committee Chair Maxie provided a summary of the update on engagement of stakeholders and partnerships.

8. (Item 13) Report on the auxiliary corporation (Information)

Committee Chair Maxie provided a brief summary of the report on the auxiliary corporation. She invited Virginia Jo Dunlap, Chief Deputy Director/Chief Legal Officer, to elaborate on the item.

Ms. Dunlap briefly explained some of the requirements for the Commission to receive philanthropic donations. She also provided examples of how other state entities use philanthropic donations. She added that the Committee has asked staff to develop models for the Commission to review.

10. (Item 15) Closed Session – taken out of order

Committee Chair Sawyer announced that the full Commission would meet in closed session.

Ms. Virginia Jo Dunlap, Chief Deputy Director/Chief Legal Officer, announced that the full Commission would meet in Closed Session to discuss and may take action on personnel matters pursuant to California Government Code, Section 11126(a).

The full Commission went into Closed Session at 12:02 p.m.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION and RESUME COMMITTEE REPORT ITEMS - Personnel, Evaluation and Nomination Committee Report - Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Committee Chair

9. (Item 14) Closed Session

Committee Chair Sawyer reconvened Open Session at 12:11 p.m. and announced that there was nothing to report from the Committee.

15. New business to be considered at future meetings (Information/Action)

Commissioner Geiogue noted the concerns expressed about the December meeting conflicting with finals week for students. He added that based on his review of the UCSD and USC academic calendars for this year, there does not appear to be a conflict, however, in the future, the Commission should check on school calendars to limit academic concerns for student Commissioners.

Executive Director added a few items for future meetings as follows:

1. Invite segmental leadership partners to provide their perspective on Cal Grant Reform proposals
2. Bring back refined logos to the March meeting, including upgrade of current logo
3. Present strategies on competitive Cal Grant unpaid rate
4. Update on Inland Empire Cal-SOAP RFA
5. Present concept paper proposal on auxiliary corporation
6. Invite Department of Social Services to present on CalFRESH and strategies to ensure students have easy access to these benefits

Commissioner Greig asked for an update on research plan. Commissioner Doplemore asked that an update on the Child Savings RFA be on the agenda for March meeting.

Commissioner Becerra asked if the student loan debt can continue to be an item for future meetings. Commissioner Siegel-Singh suggested to look at ways students are financing their education at the low-income, middle-income, and high-income levels. She added that this could help the Commission determine whether the current income brackets are serving the correct group of students. Executive Director Garcia responded that the two items could be a future research agenda item.

Commissioner Geiogue asked to invite the other two student groups to present at the next meeting. Commissioner Becerra also asked for a list of student association events that Commissioners can attend.

Chair Cifuentes suggested to collaborate with State Board members to see what they offer students in regards to college affordability.

11. (Item 16) Presentation of Resolution to Nancy Anton, former Commissioner (Information)

The Commission did not visit this item and tabled it for a future meeting.

16. Adjournment

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

JUDITH MAXWELL GREIG
SECRETARY



**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, January 17, 2020

10:00 am

Commission's Boardroom, 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Catalina Cifuentes
Jamillah Moore
Judith Maxwell Greig
Juanita Doplemore
Hal Geiogue
Maria Manjarrez
Debra Maxie
Guillermo Mayer
Charles Nies
Wm. Gregory Sawyer
Caroline Siegel-Singh
Glen Becerra
David Valladolid

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Catalina Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

There was no public comment.

3. Chair's oral report on Commission related issues (Information)

Chair Cifuentes provided a brief update on Commission related issues. She announced plans for the 2020 College Affordability Summit in Sacramento in the third week of November 2020. She elaborated on some of the current planning progress.

4. Executive Director's oral report (Information)

Executive Director Garcia provided an update on Commission related issues. She thanked Governor Newsom for the generous budget which supports the work of the Commission. She also announced Commissioner Geigogue's new appointment and expressed the Commission's excitement to continue having him.

Executive Director Garcia provided an update on the Cal Grant Reform and briefly explained the process of collaboration with stakeholders.

Executive Director Garcia also announced that the February 20 special Commission meeting will be hosted at the State Capitol. She added that more information will be provided as the date approaches.

Executive Director Garcia briefly explained the space plans to accommodate more staff and the impact it may have on future Commission meetings.

Executive Director Garcia also introduced the Commission's new General Counsel, Julia Blair. She also announced that Media Relations Manager, Bryan Sapp, is moving on to the California Department of Education.

6. Consideration of the Request For Application (RFA) for Cal-SOAP Inland Empire (Action)

Chair Cifuentes asked to address item 6 first and recused herself.

Vice Chair Jamillah Moore asked Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, Steve Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Director of Customer Relations Branch, and Ramona Carlos, Manager of Specialized Programs, to present on this item.

Mr. Caldwell provided a brief background on the Inland Empire Cal-SOAP Request for Application (RFA). He noted that the scoring committee comprised of staff from various units at the Commission.

Ms. Mistler announced that based on the applications received and utilization of scoring rubric, staff recommended that the 2-year grant be awarded to two consortia led by University Enterprises Corporations at California State University (CSU), San Bernardino and the Riverside County Office of Education.

Commissioner Geiogue asked if the 25 percent reduction disproportionately hurt one of the programs.

Mr. Caldwell explained that staff considered funding all three entities, however, it would cut back the funding to 45 percent. He explained that the decision to award the top two applicants would result in a lower cut back. Mr. Caldwell added that applicants were asked to submit a revised budget to meet the total available funds.

Commissioner Greig asked about the outcome measures for both of the entities. Mr. Caldwell indicated that there were different outcome measures related to data gathering, in addition to building partnerships that can assist with improving the data collected.

The Commission **APPROVED** staff recommendation to award the 2019-20 through 2020-21 Cal-SOAP Inland Empire grant to two consortia led by University Enterprises Corporations at the California State University, San Bernardino, and the Riverside County Office of Education.

Moved By Sawyer
Seconded By Maxie
Carried (12 to 0)

In Favor (12): Moore, Greig, Doplemore, Geiogue, Manjarrez, Maxie, Mayer, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, Becerra, and Valladolid
Recuse (1): Cifuentes

5. Update on 2020-21 State Budget including items relating to Commission programs and operations (Information/Action)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 5 UPDATE ON 2020-21 STATE BUDGET INCLUDING ITEMS RELATING TO COMMISSION PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

There was no public comment.

David O'Brien, Director of Government Affairs, provided a summary of the Governor's January proposed 2020-21 State Budget and directed the Commissioners to the attachments. He announced that the administration approved 15 new positions for the Commission.

Mr. O'Brien highlighted the following financial aid programs that impacts the Commission:

1. Establishing a working group on student loan debt - \$5 million (one-time) fund
2. Full funding of the Grant Delivery System Modernization - \$5.3 million fund

3. Maintaining the maximum Cal Grant tuition award (\$9,084) for students attending private, nonprofit institutions - \$21.6 million from General Fund
4. Adjusting Entitlement Cal Grant and Cal Grant for Students with Dependent Children funding
5. Adding staff and implementing resources at CSAC

Mr. O'Brien also added that the budget included office space acquisition to move the Commission headquarters to West Sacramento, CA. He noted that the move process may take more than a year.

Commissioner Geiogue asked to have a future agenda item on the new program for students with dependent children to get an understanding on how the program runs over time. He also asked about what the "drivers" are that was referenced in the letter from legislators, in the Cal Grant Reform. Mr. O'Brien responded that the Commission can suggest drivers, which act as barriers to college affordability, such as access to CalFresh benefits and housing agencies.

Commissioner Siegel-Singh asked if there is a timeline for the working group on the student loan debt program, and an update on numbers of award for students with dependent children. Mr. O'Brien provided an update on total awards offered and noted that the information could easily change and may not reflect real time data. He also added that there has been no update or clarification on the timeline for the student loan debt program.

Chair Cifuentes asked about the paid rate for students with dependent children. Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, explained the self-certification process for students with dependent children and that staff are communicating with institutions and students to assist with the payment process.

Executive Director confirmed that the students with dependent children will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Commissioner Mayer asked why the adjustments for the Cal Grant Program costs has decreased. Mr. O'Brien explained the budget projections with Department of Finance and Legislative Analysis Office, and how the adjustment does not mean a negative impact to the Cal Grant program.

Commissioner Siegel-Singh asked about the University of California Regents cohort proposal and how the Commission plans on implementing the changes if the Regents vote to push it through. Ms. Mistler responded that it would require significant changes to the current legacy system, such as reprogramming awards

to tie to each cohort. She added that the changes would have to be in place right away in order to be implemented for the Fall 2020 award season.

7. New business to be considered at future meetings (Information/Action)

Executive Director Garcia noted that the students with dependent children will be on the next agenda, with emphasis on paid rate and awards offered.

8. Adjourn

Chair Cifuentes congratulated Commissioner Geiogue on his reappointment.

The Commission teleconference meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

JUDITH MAXWELL GREIG
SECRETARY

Item 6

(Information Item)

Update on Cal Grant Modernization and Four-Part Strategy Amid COVID-19 Crisis

SUMMARY:

This item presents an update on Cal Grant Modernization given the onset of COVID-19. In response, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) staff have developed a four-part plan for addressing students' financial aid and basic needs to successfully persist and graduate from college.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2019, Senator Connie Leyva and Assemblymembers Kevin McCarty and Jose Medina, authors of the two financial aid reform bills, Senate Bill 291 and Assembly Bill 1314, requested that the Commission convene and lead a stakeholder group to make formal policy recommendations for Cal Grant reform legislation. The Cal Grant Reform Work Group, convened by Chair Cifuentes and Executive Director Garcia in October 2019, ultimately narrowed down the options to a single proposal that redesigns the Cal Grant program based on whether a student starts their journey at a California Community College or a four-year institution.

In February 2020, the Commissioners and stakeholders were presented the proposal; they expressed support and provided feedback for further consideration. The Commission directed staff to finalize the report and Cal Grant Modernization proposal, with final approval from the Chair and Vice Chair, on behalf of the Commission, before submitting the work to the Legislature and the Governor's Office. The report, titled [Cal Grant Modernization: A Vision for the Future](#), was published on March 6th, 2020 and received support and positive responses from key policymakers and stakeholders.

UPDATE ON CAL GRANT MODERNIZATION DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS:

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Commission has focused on addressing the immediate emergency basic needs of students while keeping Cal Grant Modernization a high priority. Increasing support for basic living expenses was the centerpiece of the Cal Grant Modernization proposal and continues to be the Commission's focus during this unprecedented crisis. Commission staff have developed a four-part strategy to guide their work in serving students with high-financial need over the next couple of years.

1. **Immediate term (now through summer).** Support colleges and universities in distributing federal emergency financial aid from the CARES Act as quickly as possible. Additionally, the Commission has requested the Governor to issue an Executive Order that temporarily

California Student Aid Commission

relaxes Cal Grant verification requirements. Given that schools and offices closed, the Commission has requested the following:

- Delay the deadline for Cal Grant GPA verification until September 2, 2020;
 - Waive the requirement that students must verify high school graduation; and
 - Waive the requirement for California Dream Act Application (CADAA) students to register for the federal Selective Service Registration system; CADAA students are required to submit manual application forms which currently are not being processed during the shut-down.
2. **Short-term (2020-21 academic year.)** The focus of this strategy is to target emergency financial aid relief to high-need students who are least likely to receive federal emergency relief aid. Currently, Cal Grant B students receive non-tuition Access Awards of \$1,672. This program serves the highest-need students, a significant number of whom are community college students and undocumented students.

The Commission and the Community College Chancellor's Office have co-signed a letter to Governor Newsom requesting \$29.1 million to fund an emergency, one-time \$500 supplemental award to all eligible Competitive Cal Grant B FAFSA filers (70,944) and all Cal Grant B CADAA filers (11,728) for the upcoming 2020-21 academic. Cal Grant B students have great financial need and their families are most likely to be impacted significantly by the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergency supplemental grant would be added to the existing \$1,672 Cal Grant B Access Award for a total of \$2,172 and would be prorated by their enrollment status.

Community college students were disadvantaged by the CARES Act funding distribution that was based on Pell Grant participation, a metric that does not reflect the true number of students with need because of under-participation in this federal program. The U.S. Department of Education recently issued new guidance stipulating that undocumented students are prohibited from receiving the CARES Act emergency aid funds.

This request to the Governor urged that resources to fund the proposed Cal Grant award augmentation be drawn from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER and/or State General Funds, or a combination of the two.

3. **Medium-term (2021 Legislative Session).** The focus of this strategy is advocate for new legislation in the 2021 Legislative Session that implements the proposed Cal Grant Modernization framework within existing funds. This step would enact the framework for Cal Grant Modernization and target funding to implement the initial phase of implementation. Commission staff would begin working with a large and diverse coalition of interests in the fall 2020 to support Cal Grant Modernization during the 2021 Legislative Session as a strategy to rebuild the California workforce and new economy. Staff would also leverage philanthropic organizations to support this effort. There is strong interest in keeping the

California Student Aid Commission

momentum going for Cal Grant Modernization and continue advocating for students' financial aid and basic needs.

4. **Long-term (when the economy improves).** This phase would fully fund Cal Grant Modernization as envisioned in the final report submitted to the legislature on March 6, 2020. Given the economic downturn, this phase would require a deep analysis and identification of viable funding options. For this strategy to be successful, Cal Grant Modernization must be perceived as directly tied to California's economic recovery. The top-line message is that California college students are needed to supply the talent pipeline to uplift the future workforce and economy more than ever before.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Marlene L. Garcia
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT(S):

Letter from Senator Leyva and Assemblymembers Medina and McCarthy

California Legislature

September 10, 2019

Catalina Cifuentes
Chair, California Student Aid Commission
P.O. Box 419027
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026

Dear Chair Cifuentes:

We write this letter to request the formation of a working group led by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to assist the state Legislature's work on reforming California's financial aid system. We value the Commission's leadership on financial aid issues, and know that it shares our concern that the current system leaves too many needy college students without aid or without enough aid to successfully complete college without accumulating unmanageable debt.

Both AB 1314 (Medina) and SB 291 (Leyva) were introduced this year to improve the Cal Grant system and better serve the needs of today's students. The goals of these bills include:


- Expanding eligibility so that all students with financial need are eligible to receive financial aid at California's public postsecondary institutions, regardless of their age, time out of high school, or high school academic performance, with particular emphasis on expanding the amount of aid available for community college students.
- Increasing Non-Tuition Awards by linking a student's financial aid to the total cost of attendance; not just tuition and fees, but also housing and food, transportation, textbooks and supplies.
- Supporting Career Education and Degree students to ensure a student has access to financial aid regardless of whether the student seeks to complete a degree, certificate, or high-quality, short-term career program.

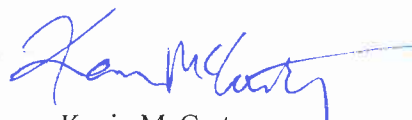
Both bills are works-in-progress that could benefit from technical expertise and further engagement with higher education stakeholders. We are specifically requesting that the working group review the bills and provide recommendations and costs estimates to us by March 1, 2020. We also request that the working group's recommendations include at least the following components:

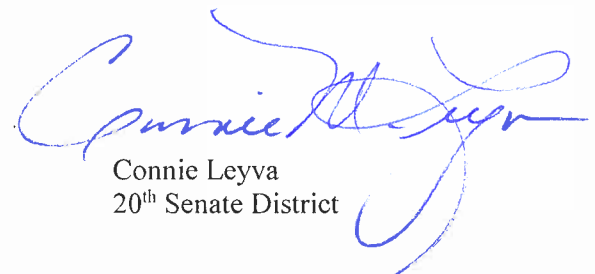
- The text of specific changes in statutes and the budget bill necessary to implement the plan including details of a funding formula that addresses total cost of attendance, prioritizes students with the highest need, provides options for phasing-in a funding formula, and determines increased state costs associated with this formula.
- Estimates of participation in the reformed program in the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 fiscal years.
- Estimates of the costs of implementation in the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 fiscal years.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely


Jose Medina
61st Assembly District


Kevin McCarty
7th Assembly District


Connie Leyva
20th Senate District

Item 7

(Information Item)

Update on 2020-21 State budget/May Revise, and legislative issues and federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the 2020-21 State budget and legislation relevant to the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) programs and policy priorities. This item also provides an update on the higher education provisions of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

State Budget

In January 2020, Governor Newsom released his [proposed 2020-21 budget](#). At the time, the Department of Finance (DOF) estimated revenues of \$151.6 billion for the fiscal year and \$153 billion in proposed spending. The State was expected to end the new fiscal year with \$20.5 billion in reserves. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed life as we know it, including at the State Capitol. Stay-at-home orders have kept policymakers away from Sacramento since March while the Governor and his Administration focus on managing the health crisis and the needs of Californians, including coordination with both federal and local government officials.

The Legislature has not initiated the budget process, waiting instead for a new budget proposal in the May Revise; the May Revise will reflect the State's new reality – higher costs, an economic downturn, and substantial revenue losses.

Commission staff will provide the status of all budget requests addressed in the Governors May Revise budget, which will not be released until right before the May 15th Commission meeting.

The Legislature still faces a June 15th constitutional deadline for adoption of the state budget. The current plan is that the Legislature will pass a baseline “workload budget” (described below) before the June 15 Constitutional deadline, and then return after summer recess to revisit the budget based on tax revenues now tied to a July tax filing deadline.

California Student Aid Commission

Please see the attached budget letter from the Director of the Department of Finance (DOF), Keely Bosler, informing state agencies that the Department “will now reevaluate all budget changes within the context of a workload budget, based on the merits of each proposal and ultimately subject to the availability of funding.” This will include all Spring Finance Letter requests as well as previously approved adjustments in the Governor’s proposed 2020-21 Budget. Commission staff developed the attached update on the 2020-21 State Budget, which prioritizes and outlines the agency’s essential budget requests that were contained in the Budget Change Proposals and Spring Finance Letter in light of the current health crisis. Additionally, please see the attached requests to the Governor’s Office for emergency grants to students and consideration of Executive Order actions.

State Legislation

During the Commission meeting on March 26, 2020, the Commission adopted positions on four high priority bills: [AB 376 \(Stone\)](#), [AB 2030 \(Rubio\)](#), AB 2819 (Limón), and [SB 860 \(Beall\)](#). The attached Priority Legislation document provides an update on these bills.

Federal CARES Act

On March 27th, the President signed into law the bipartisan [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act \(CARES Act\)](#), a \$2 trillion emergency economic relief package in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included critical aid to help address the needs of students, student loan borrowers, and colleges and universities. The attached Summary of the Federal CARES Act outlines the higher education provisions in the CARES Act as well as an update on the implementation of these provisions.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Julia Blair, Interim Director
Government Relations

Melissa Bardo, Legislative Analyst
Government Relations

ATTACHMENT(S):

Department of Finance – Budget Letter to State Agencies

Update on 2020-21 State Budget

Request to the Governor’s Office for Emergency Grants to Students

Updated Request to the Governor’s Office for Emergency Grants to Students

Request to the Governor’s Office for Consideration of Executive Order

Update on Priority State Legislation

Summary of the Federal CARES Act

BUDGET LETTER

NUMBER:	20-08
SUBJECT:	2020 BUDGET CHANGE LETTERS AND MAY REVISION
DATE ISSUED:	March 24, 2020
REFERENCES:	SUPERSEDES: BL 20-04, BL 19-19

TO: Agency Secretaries
Department Directors
Departmental Budget and Accounting Officers
Department of Finance Budget and Accounting Staff

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

This BL informs agencies and departments of revisions to the 2020-21 Budget Change Letter (Spring Finance Letter) process previously established in BL 20-04, as well as budget policy criteria described in BL 19-19.

Background

On March 4, 2020, the Governor declared a state of emergency to help the state prepare and respond to COVID-19. Since then, state departments have been engaged in numerous and various response activities and the Legislature appropriated up to \$1.1 billion General Fund to support these and local efforts. Despite the sustained efforts, the virus continues to spread and is impacting nearly all sectors of California's economy. Among these impacts is a severe drop in economic activity, with corresponding negative effects on anticipated revenues. The impact on revenues could be immediate, affecting the 19-20 fiscal year, and will certainly produce impacts for the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year and beyond.

Evaluation of Spring Finance Letters and May Revision Requests

As a result of the conditions noted above, the Department of Finance will now reevaluate all budget changes within the context of a workload budget, based on the merits of each proposal, and ultimately subject to the availability of funding. This includes all Spring Finance Letter requests, all potential adjustments to be included in the May Revision, as well as previously approved adjustments incorporated in the Governor's Budget. This reevaluation applies to all support and local assistance adjustments, inclusive of Capital Outlay and information technology projects. It also applies to all funds and all departments, including those departments not directly under the Governor's authority.

Government Code Section 13308.05 defines a workload budget as "the budget year cost of currently authorized services, adjusted for changes in enrollment, caseload, or population, or all of these changes and any of the following:

- (a) Statutory cost-of-living adjustments.
- (b) Chaptered legislation.
- (c) One-time expenditures.
- (d) The full-year costs of partial-year programs.

- (e) Costs incurred pursuant to constitutional requirements.
- (f) Federal mandates.
- (g) Court-ordered mandates.
- (h) State employee merit salary adjustments.
- (i) State agency operating expense and equipment cost adjustments to reflect price increases."

As indicated above, the Department of Finance will reevaluate both Spring Finance Letter requests and already approved adjustments included in the Governor's Budget within this definition of workload budget. This definition is intended to provide a general framework for evaluating both new and existing proposals and adjustments. Resource constraints may ultimately force a prioritization even within this definition. As a result, agencies and departments should have no expectation of full funding for either new or existing proposals and adjustments. The only exception to this new evaluation criteria will be proposals or adjustments necessary to support the emergency response to COVID-19. New requests which fall outside these parameters will not be reviewed.

BL 20-04 had established a deadline of March 27, 2020, to discuss any proposed May Revision adjustments with your Program Budget Manager. Given the timing of this BL issuance, agencies and departments should work with their Program Budget Manager to establish acceptable alternative timelines for the discussion and submission of May Revision requests.

If you have questions regarding this BL, please contact your Program Budget Manager.

/s/ Keely Bosler

KEELY BOSLER
Director

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

Update on the 2020-21 State Budget

SUMMARY

The Governor's proposed 2020-21 State Budget released in January, included:

1. **Establishment of a working group on student loan debt**, to provide outreach and assistance to students on types of loans and existing repayment and forgiveness programs.
2. **Maintaining the maximum Cal Grant tuition award (\$9,084) for students attending private nonprofit institutions**, provided this sector meets the annual statutory target for enrolling students via the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway.
3. **Full funding (\$5.3 million) of the Grand Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) project** for the third (and projected final) year of project costs.
4. **Approval of 15 new positions at CSAC**, including positions to bring the agency into compliance with its recent designation as a Voter Registration Agency, and to fully implement the new financial aid and outreach programs established in the 2019-20 Budget Act.
5. **Adjustments to Entitlement Cal Grants and Cal Grant for Students with Dependent Children funding**, consistent with revised caseload estimates provided by the Commission.

These and other budget proposals are now uncertain given the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 health crisis. California is now facing serious budget challenges likely leading to difficult choices in the months and years ahead.

In a recent [publication](#), the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) noted three main cost drivers of the State's fiscal condition: (1) higher costs to respond directly to the public health emergency; (2) higher indirect costs associated with economic circumstances resulting from COVID-19, such as increasing demand for unemployment and food assistance; and (3) revenue losses as a result of economic disruption.

The LAO stated in another recent [publication](#) that the State has an estimated \$17.5 billion in reserve accounts, as of February 2020, not including the Proposition 98 School Reserve. The LAO notes that the state will enter this period of economic uncertainty with significant reserves; but that shortfalls in revenues tied to a significant recession could significantly exceed reserves. Similarly, the [Public Policy Institute of California \(PPIC\)](#) agrees that a severe recession will pose significant budgetary challenges despite healthy budget reserves. Thus, cautious spending of these reserves is warranted given that the economic impacts of COVID-19 will span multiple years.

New Legislative Process for the 2020-21 Budget

With the crisis at hand, the Legislature is waiting for a *new budget proposal* via the Governor's May Revise which will be the *new starting point* for budget deliberations. Most anticipate the final state budget will provide minimal and baseline funding for most programs not directly related to COVID-19. The Commission, like all other state agencies, received a budget letter

(see Department of Finance – Budget Letter to State Agencies) from Keely Bosler, Director of the Department of Finance, requesting a review of all agency budget priorities and indicating that all budget requests will be analyzed by the Administration in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis. Staff are working closely with the Governor’s Office and the DOF to reevaluate and prioritize agency budget requests; but more importantly to make sure that students get the support they need during these challenging times and can continue their education. The Legislature is expected to consider this new budget between mid-May and the June 15th constitutional deadline for passing a State Budget.

Given that tax filing deadlines have been extended to July, the State will likely not have an accurate picture of revenues until late July or early August. Thus, once the State has received information on actual revenues, the Legislature is expected to revisit the 2020-21 State Budget and adjust accordingly via budget trailer bills. Many expect that this second round of budget negotiations or “August Revise” will lead to difficult budget cuts for many state agencies, colleges and universities, and potentially even student aid programs.

Federal Support

The federal government has provided significant support to California via the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Act; the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA); and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The attached document entitled “Summary of Federal CARES Act” provides an overview of the CARES Act, which includes significant higher education relief funding. The LAO noted in a recent [publication](#) that these federal actions will mitigate some of the adverse budgetary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; but this funding does not address the major sources of budgetary strain – lower revenues.

Staff have engaged in initial discussions with the Administration regarding how the Commission might get involved in making sure students get the support and resources they need for basic needs like housing, food, technology, etc.

UPDATE ON CSAC BUDGET CHANGE PROPOSALS

In September 2019, the Commission submitted several Budget Change Proposals (BCPs), requesting state operations funding:

- **Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM)** – third and final year of project costs;
- **National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)** – compliance with state and federal NVRA requirements; CSAC was recently designated as a Voter Registration Agency by the Secretary of State’s (SOS) office;
- **Office space acquisition** to accommodate growing staff levels;
- **New positions**, typically referred to as Personnel Years (PYs), and funding to implement new financial aid programs that were funded in the 2019-20 budget.

The Governor’s Budget Proposal for 2020-21 approved additional funding and positions for these BCP requests, summarized in Table 1 below. However, given that the DOF has indicated that these BCP approvals will be re-considered in the context of the current health crisis and economic uncertainties for the May Revise, the Commission submitted a prioritization of BCP

requests with some revised requests. Table 1 below compares the BCPs that were approved in the *Proposed 20-21 Budget* with the Revised Request. All BCP request were modified with the exception of the GDSM BCP.

Table 1: Updates to CSAC BCPs

BCP	Proposed 20-21 Budget	Revised Request (Minimum Required)
Grant Delivery System Modernization	\$5,300,000	\$5,300,000
National Voter Registration Agency (NVRA) Compliance	\$479,000 ongoing (6.0 PYs)	\$334,375 (4.0 PYs) \$400,000 one-time to develop website interface between CSAC and SOS
Office Space Acquisition	FY 20-21: \$1,846,000 FY 21-22: \$930,000 (ongoing)	FY 20-21: \$380,000 FY 21-22: \$941,000 (ongoing)
Dreamer Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) Program	\$294,000 ongoing (3.0 PYs)	\$294,000 (3.0 PYs)
Child Savings Account (CSA) Grant Program	No additional funding (2.0 PYs)	1.0 PY No additional funding
Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) Program	No additional funding (4.0 PYs)	2.0 PYs No additional funding

UPDATE ON CSAC SPRING FINANCE LETTERS

In February 2020, the Commission submitted to the Department of Finance five Spring Finance Letter (SFL) requests:

- **Auxiliary Authority** to allow the Commission to accept philanthropic funds to advance its mission of enhancing college affordability without further encroaching on state General Fund resources.
- **Regulations & Rulemaking Authority** to implement programs more effectively and efficiently given that several specialized programs (i.e. GSTG, Chafee Grant for Foster Youth Program, and the CSA Grant Program) contain statutory ambiguities.
- **Adjustments to Cal-SOAP augmentation in the 2019-20 Budget** to allow the Commission to utilize these funds more effectively.
- **Research Division personnel** to enhance research capacity of the agency.

However, given that the DOF has indicated that these SFLs will be considered in the context of the current health crisis and economic uncertainties for the May Revise, the Commission submitted a prioritization of SFL requests with some revised requests. Table 2 below compares the SFLs that the Commission originally submitted in February with the revised requests.

Table 2: Updates to SFL Requests

Spring Finance Letter	Amount/Positions Requested	Revised Request
Auxiliary Authority	No fiscal impact	
Regulations & Rulemaking Authority	General regulatory authority \$137,208 ongoing (1.0 PY)	General regulatory authority only; no fiscal impact
Cal-SOAP - request to convert \$1.5 M in local assistance to state operations for Cal-SOAP data collection	No fiscal impact: this funding was already previously allocated in the 2019-20 Budget Act	
Cal-SOAP – request to carryover \$3.5M in Cal-SOAP local assistance to FY 2020-21	No fiscal impact: this funding was already previously allocated in the 2019-20 Budget Act	
Research Division – upgrading and adding PYs	\$279,000 ongoing (upgrade 4 PYs; 1.0 new PY)	Request withdrawn



California Student Aid Commission
Marlene L. Garcia, *Executive Director*
11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916-464-8271

California Community Colleges
Eloy Ortiz Oakley, *Chancellor*
1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
916-445-8752

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are writing to you today on behalf of the most vulnerable population in our public higher education system – the lowest income and desperately struggling college students hit hardest by COVID-19.

On April 14th, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced the highly anticipated release of \$3 billion in emergency education relief to be distributed to Governors across the country. California is expected to receive over \$355 million from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). On behalf of the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office), **we urge you to consider directing a portion of these funds towards student financial aid to support emergency basic needs.**

The Commission and the Chancellor's Office request an allocation from the GEER Fund of \$25 million to provide one-time additional relief to current competitive Cal Grant B Access Award recipients. The Commission administers the Cal Grant program, which provides financial aid coverage for tuition and fees to eligible low- and middle-income students. The Cal Grant B award provides an additional Access Award to low-income students of up to \$1,672 per year for living expenses. An allocation of \$25 million would provide an additional **\$500 supplement to the Cal Grant B Access Award**, adjusted by enrollment status (i.e. part-time vs. full-time), to **71,804 Cal Grant B recipients** (new and renewal awards) in the Competitive Cal Grant program. Adjusting for enrollment intensity, the average award to students would be approximately \$330.

An estimated 70 percent of these Cal Grant B recipients attend California Community Colleges, which saw the least amount of per-student support from the CARES Act due to an allocation formula that favors institutions with high numbers of Pell Grant recipients. The COVID crisis has not lessened Community College students' challenges; if anything, it has exacerbated them, with many students losing their jobs

and finding themselves unable to afford the basic needs to succeed in college. With the existing Cal Grant framework, the Commission has the capacity and infrastructure to target resources to students with financial needs efficiently.

The COVID-19 health crisis has resulted in a significant economic strain on our state and the economic impact on California college students is no exception. Students were already vulnerable and struggling to cover the costs of food, housing, transportation, and childcare even before the health crisis. For example, the Commission's recent [Student Expenses and Resources Survey \(SEARS\)](#) indicated at least one-third of students had experienced food or housing insecurity in any 30-day period. Now, in the midst of campus closures and shelter-in-place orders, many students have found themselves and/or their parents unemployed and uncertain about what the future holds for their education. It is more critical than ever that California prioritize financial resources for students' basic needs. Their livelihoods – not just their success as students – depends on it.

The Commission and the Chancellor's Office commend Congress' passage of the CARES Act, which included \$1.7 billion in higher education emergency relief funding for California from the Education Stabilization Fund, half of which will go directly to students in the form of emergency grants. This will provide critical aid to help address the needs of students, especially those who have lost their jobs. However, with little guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education, many uncertainties remain about which students will be able to access this relief, including undocumented students who are ineligible for federal financial aid. Furthermore, campus financial aid offices will likely be overwhelmed as they grapple with student appeals and how to equitably administer the relief funding. It is widely expected that this funding will not be enough to meet the needs of students or institutions.

As part of the statewide response to COVID-19 fallout, the Commission and the Chancellor's Office endeavor to be part of the solution and ensure that college students are not left behind. While we are sensitive to the challenges involved in prioritizing federal and state spending, we urge you to provide as much relief as possible for California's college students. We believe it is critical for state to ensure that any COVID-19 relief efforts benefit ALL college students with financial need. Investing in college affordability for Californians will help mitigate the unfolding economic decline. Today's college students will be crucial to our state's economic recovery in the years to come.

To this end, while we recognize that the State's fiscal condition has changed significantly in recent weeks, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to systemic financial aid reform to reduce the total net cost of attendance our lowest-income students face. The COVID crisis has only exacerbated the challenges our students face in financing their total college costs; balancing work and studies; and attending full-time and transferring or graduating in a timely manner. We hope to continue working with your Administration and the Legislature on this issue that is so vital to California's future.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and are tremendously grateful for your steady leadership during this unprecedented time. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us to discuss this further.

Signed,



MARLENE L. GARCIA
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission



ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY
Chancellor
California Community Colleges

CC: Lande Ajose, Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education, Governor's Office
Anthony Williams, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
California State Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins
California State Senate Minority Leader Shannon Grove
California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron
Senator Richard Roth, Chair of Budget Subcommittee on Education
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair of Subcommittee on Education Finance
Chris Ferguson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance



California Student Aid Commission
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1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
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April 24, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Revised request to letter dated April 21, 2020 due to new guidance from U.S. Department of Education regarding aid to undocumented students

Dear Governor Newsom:

As you know, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) released new guidance earlier this week that undocumented students do not qualify for certain federal CARES Act Funding. This action has a significant impact on the request the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) submitted to the Governor earlier this week.

Here is the relevant excerpt from the [guidance](#):

What students are eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)?

Only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA. Students who have not filed a FAFSA but who are eligible to file a FAFSA also may receive emergency financial aid grants. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school in an approved homeschool setting.

While this guidance may not directly apply to the **Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF)**, it may be more advisable at this time to provide aid to

undocumented students via state sources rather than federal stimulus funds. Thus, we have slightly revised our ask.

The Cal Grant B program provides tuition and fee assistance (full coverage at UC and CSU) to low income students. Additionally, students may receive a \$1,672 Access Award per year for living expenses. The **average family income** of a student receiving a Cal Grant B award in the 2018-19 academic year was **\$19,700**. Clearly, students receiving a Cal Grant B have great financial need that is likely only exacerbated by the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The table below shows a breakdown of the total number of students in each program and the total cost associated with providing those students with a \$500 supplemental emergency grant to their Access Award (prorated by enrollment) for the 2020-21 award year. The yellow highlighted rows represent our ask to the Governor.

FAFSA Filers – 2020-21 Award Year			
	Number of Students	Percent CCC Students	Total Cost
Cal Grant B Entitlement	180,020	38%	\$85M
Cal Grant B Competitive	70,944	71%	\$24 M
Total	250,964	n/a	\$109 M
CADAA Filers – 2020-21 Award Year			
	Number of Students	Percent CCC Students	Total Cost
Cal Grant B Entitlement	10,868	44%	\$4.7 M
Cal Grant B Competitive	860	78%	\$0.4 M
Total	11,728	n/a	\$5.1 M

All estimates are based on May Revise projections and include new 2020-21 awards and renewal awards.

The Commission and the CCCCO recommends:

1. For FAFSA filers: The State provide a **\$500 supplemental emergency grant (prorated by enrollment) to all Cal Grant B recipients in the Competitive Cal Grant pool, funded by the federal GEERF funds.** For **70,944 students** (FAFSA filers only), this would work out to an estimated **\$24 million**. Note we separated out the CADAA filers from the original \$25 million ask in light of the aforementioned federal guidance.
2. For CADAA filers: The State provide a **\$500 supplemental emergency grant (prorated by enrollment) to all Cal Grant B recipients in both the Competitive AND Entitlement Cal Grant pools, funded by the State General Fund.** For **11,728 students** (CADAA filers only), this would work out to an estimated **\$5.1 million**.

In summary, the total ask is \$29.1 million. For reference and comparison, the cost to fund ALL Cal Grant B recipients - regardless of whether they are FAFSA or CADAA filers - would be \$114.1 million (\$5.1 million of which would likely need to come from State sources).

There are currently 11,728 CADAA students (undocumented students apply for aid via the California Dream Act Application or CADAA) receiving Cal Grants B awards – 860 CADAA students in the Competitive pool and 10,868 CADAA students in the Entitlement pool. Because there are only 860 CADAA students in the Competitive Cal Grant B pool, **we recommend that the State fund a \$500 supplemental emergency grant to the Access Award (currently \$1,672) for ALL 11,728 Cal Grant B CADAA recipients.**

We did not include CADAA students receiving Cal Grant A because they currently do not receive Access Awards. The Commission would need to create a new program to provide Access Awards to Cal Grant A CADAA students, an effort that would involve significant staff time and programming costs.

Undocumented students and families are often front-line workers and early responders during this COVID-19 crisis. The fact that they are not eligible for any federal stimulus funding only underscores the dire need to provide emergency aid to undocumented students pursuing a college education.

Staff have been researching various possibilities to meet this need and would be happy to discuss in light of this new federal guidance.

Signed,

MARLENE L. GARCIA
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY
Chancellor
California Community Colleges

CC: Lande Ajose, Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education, Governor's Office
Anthony Williams, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
California State Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins
California State Senate Minority Leader Shannon Grove
California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron
Senator Richard Roth, Chair of Budget Subcommittee on Education
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair of Subcommittee on Education Finance
Chris Ferguson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance

GPA VERIFICATION FOR CAL GRANT ENTITLEMENT AWARDS

Recommendation for Executive Order

To ease administrative barriers for students that would otherwise qualify for a Cal Grant Entitlement award ([High School Entitlement](#) or [Transfer Entitlement](#)), the Administration should consider postponing the deadline by which students must verify their grade point average (GPA) from *March 2, 2020* to *September 2, 2020*.

Estimate of Students Potentially Impacted

According to the [Race to Submit](#) dashboard, there are **4,083 students** who have completed the appropriate financial aid application but are missing a verified GPA for Cal Grant consideration.

Relevant Statute(s): Education Code Sections [69434\(b\)\(1\)](#), [69435.3\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#), [69436\(b\)\(1\)](#)

Background

GPA Verification Process

To be considered for a 2020-21 new Cal Grant Entitlement award, a completed financial aid application and a certified Grade Point Average (GPA) must be submitted by the March 2nd deadline. GPAs are accepted only if certified by a school electronically or if submitted by a student via the [Cal Grant GPA Verification Form \(G-4\)](#). Pursuant to [Assembly Bill 1091](#) (Garcia, Chapter 637, Statutes of 2015-16), high schools are required to submit their first round of GPA verifications for their student seniors by October 1st of the application year. This allows the Commission to start processing awards early (before the March 2nd deadline) given that financial aid applications open starting October 2nd.

GPA Verification Appeals Process

State regulations ([5 CCR § 30023](#)) allow Cal Grant applicants to appeal the late submission of their Cal Grant GPA via the [Late Cal Grant GPA Appeal Form \(G-17\)](#) if circumstances beyond their control delayed or prevented them from submitting a verified GPA by the March 2nd filing deadline. Schools can also appeal the GPA submission deadline by submitting [appeal letters](#). The deadline for late GPA appeals is May 18th, 2020.

Problem/Issue

The Commission has already received most of the required GPA submissions for the 2020-21 Cal Grant Entitlement awards. However, the late GPA appeal process for entitlement awards allows students and schools to submit late GPA appeals to the Commission until May 18th. Because schools are closed during the COVID-19 health crisis, the Commission's Call Center has received several calls from students that they will not be able to meet the late GPA appeal deadline because their school is closed. Furthermore, the late GPA appeal process can be very time-consuming because of the review process.

The Commission recommends extending the Cal Grant GPA submission deadline to September 2nd so that students can bypass the appeals process altogether and have until Fall to submit their verified GPA. Entitlement awards are processed on a weekly basis, so as long as the Commission receives a verified GPA by September 2, students would still be processed for Cal Grant consideration early in the academic year.

Alternative Options/Considerations

Waiving GPA Verification

Postponing the GPA verification deadline begs the question: Why not waive the requirement for 2020-21 altogether – at least for those that are currently appealing for late GPA submission? The Commission has considered this option but still recommends postponement of the requirement rather than waiving the requirement. The Commission's Grant Delivery System (GDS) requires a GPA entry to process a Cal Grant award. If the Commission were to waive the GPA verification requirement for a specific population of students, this would require significant staff work to re-program GDS and would still delay the distribution of awards.

GPA Verification for Competitive Cal Grant

Another issue that the Commission considered was postponing the GPA verification deadline for the Competitive Cal Grant program as well. However, the Competitive Cal Grant program has several different deadlines and requirements to consider:

- Competitive Cal Grant for High School students: deadline to apply is **March 2nd** of application year and deadline to submit a verified GPA is **March 23rd**
- Competitive Cal Grant for California Community College (CCC) transfer students: deadline to apply and submit a verified GPA is **September 2nd** of the award year

Furthermore, the [Competitive Cal Grant](#) program has a limited number of new awards to disburse each year, and GPA is needed for the scoring matrix to determine which applicants will receive a Competitive award. Competitive awards are processed in cycles rather than on an ongoing basis. Thus, delaying the GPA verification deadline to September 2nd (for High School students) would significantly delay awarding since the Commission will have to process one-by-one as GPAs are submitted.

HIGH SCHOOL VERIFICATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL ENTITLEMENT CAL GRANT**Recommendation for Executive Order**

To ease administrative barriers for students that would otherwise qualify for a Cal Grant High School Entitlement award, the Administration should consider waiving the requirement that students verify their high school graduation for the 2020-21 award year.

Estimate of Students Potentially Impacted

In the 2018-19 award year, the Commission withdrew 6,768 Cal Grant Entitlement awards from students for failure to verify high school graduation. For the 2019-20 award year, there are currently 1,771 Cal Grant Entitlement awardees that have still not yet verified high school graduation and therefore have not received payment. **High school graduation verification for 2020-21 awards will open in May 2020, once high school graduations start taking place.**

Relevant Statute(s): Education Code Sections [69432.92](#), [69433.9\(e\)\(2\)](#), [69434\(b\)\(8\)](#), [69435.3\(a\)\(8\)](#), [69436\(b\)\(9\)](#)

Background**Graduation Verification for High School Entitlement awards**

To receive a High School Entitlement award, a student's high school graduation must be verified after meeting all other eligibility requirements. If the high school or student fails to verify high school graduation, there will be a hold on student payment.

High schools and high school districts are [required](#) to verify the graduation of their pupils (via WebGrants) as soon as possible upon graduation but no later than August 31st. If graduation cannot be verified (i.e. due to transferring or summer school), students have the option of self-certifying high school graduation. In this scenario, students are required to submit a copy of their high school diploma or equivalent upon graduation and a High School Graduation Certification form (G-8).

If there are remaining students that applied for financial aid but whose high school verification is still pending, the Commission will send records of those students to the California Department of Education (CDE) at the end of the calendar year. By the spring of the award year, the Commission receives a data match from CDE confirming graduation for many of those students. On average each year, the Commission verifies graduation for approximately 17,000 students via the CDE data match. (Source: CSAC data).

Graduation Verification for Transfer Entitlement awards

Transfer entitlement recipients can verify their high school graduation on the [Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement Certification Form \(G-6\)](#). This self-certification process for transfer entitlement students **does not** require proof of a high school diploma or equivalent because transfer entitlement recipients are transferring from a CCC where a high school diploma or equivalent is already required for admission.

Graduation Verification for Competitive awards

The Competitive Cal Grant program does not require high school verification (Education Code Section [69437.6](#)).

Problem/Issue

With high schools being closed during the COVID-19 crisis, the process of verifying high school graduation may be burdensome for school districts and high school administrators. Furthermore, if schools are unable to complete this requirement, this administrative barrier falls on the student and could potentially delay their receipt of financial aid. For students whose high school graduation is verified through our CDE data match, their payment hold is typically removed during March or April of the award year, which is well into the second semester of their academic year. Waiving the high school verification requirement will allow the Commission to bypass the lengthy process of data-matching with CDE. Given that students are already struggling with COVID-19 economic decline, it is imperative we administer aid to students as quickly as possible to prevent college dropout or burdensome college debt.

Furthermore, if students are attending a California Community College or a Cal Grant-eligible four-year institution, a high school diploma (or equivalent) is already required for admission to these campuses. Therefore, high school graduation verification for the purposes of state financial aid is a redundant and unnecessary administrative process that only seeks to exclude otherwise eligible students.

Alternative Options/Considerations

An alternative option would be to allow students to receive aid immediately (upon completion of other eligibility criteria) and allow high school verification to take place at a later time. The Commission does not recommend this alternative option as this would simply be pushing an administratively complex process further down the line and given the devastating impacts COVID-19 has already had on California, recovery for students and school districts will take years. Waiving high school verification (either temporarily or permanently) conforms with recommendations made by the [Cal Grant Reform Work Group](#) to streamline Cal Grant eligibility requirements.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Recommendation for Executive Order

To allow undocumented students to continue to access state aid during the COVID-19 crisis, the Administration should consider waiving the Selective Service registration requirement for undocumented students for the 2020-21 award year.

Estimate of Students Potentially Impacted

For the 2019-20 academic year, 1,969 undocumented students were awarded a Cal Grant that were required to register with Selective Service. So far, for the 2020-21 academic year, there are **1,845 undocumented students** that have been awarded a Cal Grant Entitlement award and are required to register with Selective Service. The Commission has not yet processed Competitive Cal Grants so there may be additional undocumented students that qualify in the coming months.

Relevant Statute(s): Education Code Sections [69433.9\(b\)](#), [69400](#)

Background

To be eligible for a Cal Grant award, a student must be in compliance with all applicable federal Selective Service Registration requirements. This means that with very few exceptions, all males between the ages of 18 and 25 (including undocumented males) must register with the Selective Service System.

Students that do not have a social security number (SSN), or have been issued an SSN through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, can apply for state aid via the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and then register for Selective Service by completing a paper [Selective Service Registration form](#). These forms are then mailed to the U.S. Selective Service Registration Information Office. Once the form is processed, students will receive a Registration Acknowledgment in the mail that they can send their financial aid office (normally 4-6 weeks to process manual forms). Once financial aid offices receive a copy of the Registration Acknowledgement, they may disburse the award. Note that there is *no* option to submit Selective Service registration [online](#) for students without a social security number.

Problem/Issue

As campuses have been working with undocumented students to complete their Selective Service registration via paper forms, the U.S. Selective Service Registration Information Office has been informing campuses that they have halted all paper registration processing due to COVID-19 telework requirements. This affects students' financial aid processing. Campuses have requested that the Commission temporarily suspend this requirement for undocumented students – at least until the U.S. Selective Service Registration Information Office resumes processing paper registration forms – so that students can still receive their Cal Grant award.

Alternative Options/Considerations

If temporarily waiving the Selective Service registration requirement for undocumented students to receive state aid is not feasible, there may be alternative mechanisms of certifying that students submitted the registration form. For example, the Commission could require students to self-certify via WebGrants for Students that they submitted the Selective Service registration

form, rather than campuses requiring that students submit a copy of their Registration Acknowledgement. Alternatively, the self-certification process could be done at the campus level. The self-certification process is currently used to verify that students with dependents receiving a \$6,000 access award have dependents under the age of 18.

This alternative option would not necessarily require an Executive Order but would still present administrative barriers to students. It may also place administrative burdens on campus financial aid offices who are currently grappling with how to administer federal stimulus funding.

AB 376	Mark Stone (D – Scotts Valley)	
<i>Subject:</i> Student loan servicing		
<i>Status:</i> Senate Appropriations (two-year bill)		<i>Program Affected:</i> None
<i>Commission Position:</i> SUPPORT		

SUMMARY

[AB 376](#) establishes the ***Student Borrower Bill of Rights*** and imposes new requirements on student loan servicers. Specifically, this bill:

- Prohibits student loan servicers from engaging in **abusive practices** (i.e. misapplying borrower payments, misrepresenting or omitting information, etc.).
- Requires student loan servicers to give borrowers **timely and accurate information** and guarantee other protections to borrowers.
- Establishes the position of the **Student Borrower Advocate**, under the Department of Business Oversight (DBO), to review complaints from borrowers.
- Tasks the DBO with **new monitoring requirements**, including creating a new “student loan industry report card” to measure effectiveness of different servicers.
- Authorizes victims of industry abuse to bring a **private right of action** against servicers that violate these provisions.

BACKGROUND

The Student Loan Servicing Act (SLSA), originally established in 2018 by AB 2251 (Stone, Chapter 824, Statutes of 2016) requires student loan servicers to obtain a license from the DBO to operate in California. The SLSA also imposes requirements on student loan servicers, prohibits certain practices, and places oversight of student loan servicers with the Commissioner of DBO.

FISCAL IMPACT

None to the Commission.

STATUS UPDATE

There has been no confirmation yet that the bill will move forward given anticipated changes to the legislative process as a result of COVID-19.

Bill Summary

AB 2030	Blanca Rubio (D – Baldwin Park)
<i>Subject:</i> Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program	
<i>Status:</i> Assembly Higher Education	<i>Program Affected:</i> Cal Grant for students attending ICCUs
<i>Commission Position:</i> SUPPORT	

SUMMARY

[AB 2030](#), known as the “**College Opportunity Act**,” would establish a statutory formula to determine the **maximum Cal Grant award** for new recipients attending **independent California colleges and universities (ICCUs)**, commencing with the 2021-22 award year. This bill specifies that the maximum award level would be tied to **68.17 percent of the average cost of educating a California State University (CSU) Cal Grant recipient**. This bill also specifies that the maximum Cal Grant award level may instead be determined by the annual Budget Act if the affected institutions, as a sector, do not accept a specified number of **associate degrees for transfer (ADTs)** in any given year.

BACKGROUND

The Cal Grant award for students attending ICCUs is currently determined by the annual State Budget Act. The maximum Cal Grant tuition award for students attending these institutions has lost considerable value in recent years, unlike the Cal Grant tuition award for students attending public, four-year institutions, which is statutorily linked to systemwide tuition and fees. The award peaked at \$9,708 in 2000 and has since been reduced to \$9,084 – less than 65 percent of its inflation-adjusted value. Prior to 2000, the maximum Cal Grant award at private, non-profit institutions was tied to a formula that increased annually by attempting to capture increases in college costs and living costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), the sponsor of AB 2030, estimates first-year implementation General Fund costs of just over \$7 million, with ongoing costs totaling \$22.5 million over three years. The award in the first year would increase by \$624, making the total award \$9,708.

STATUS UPDATE

There has been no confirmation yet that the bill will move forward given anticipated changes to the legislative process as a result of COVID-19. Given the budget outlook, AICCU has indicated a willingness amend the formula to make the bill cost neutral in the first year. This would be done by adjusting the floor of the award formula to \$9,084, where the current award amount is currently set.

Bill Summary

AB 2819	Monique Limón (D – Santa Barbara)	
<i>Subject:</i> California Student Opportunity and Access Program		
<i>Status:</i> Assembly Desk		<i>Program Affected:</i> Cal-SOAP
<i>Commission Position:</i> SPONSOR		

SUMMARY

[AB 2819](#) would modernize the functions and priorities of the **California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP)**. Specifically, this proposal would update the statutes governing Cal-SOAP to reflect an enhanced focus on helping students and families: understand the **true costs of college**, understand **college financing options** (*i.e.* family contributions, financial aid, student loans, and work contributions), and **apply for financial aid**. This bill includes a provision that encourages Cal-SOAP consortia to target services and outreach to **historically underserved students**, including current and former foster youth, undocumented students, and LGBTQ+ students. Furthermore, this bill would make it the goal of the 15 regional Cal-SOAP projects to employ historically underserved undergraduate students to mentor Cal-SOAP students as “**college success coaches**.” Lastly, this bill would require **reporting and outcomes measurement** for middle- and high-school students receiving services through Cal-SOAP consortia.

Background: Cal-SOAP, created by the Legislature in 1978, consists of 15 regionally based projects overseen by the Commission. Currently, Cal-SOAP has a statutory mandate to improve access to higher education through raising the academic achievement levels of underserved populations. While many Cal-SOAP projects have made college affordability a priority, the governing statute has not been updated significantly in over 40 years. Numerous programs seek to prepare underserved students for college but few focus on helping students understand the true cost of higher education and supporting them through the financial aid application process.

FISCAL IMPACT

While this bill may require Cal-SOAP consortia to shift their funding towards college affordability efforts, there are no anticipated costs to the Commission for this bill.

STATUS UPDATE

The office of Assemblymember Monique Limon agreed to carry Cal-SOAP legislation described in the above summary. Commission staff drafted language and the author’s office plans to gut-and-amend AB 2819. However, even though the amendments were submitted, AB 2819 has not been formally amended because the Assembly Desk has been closed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. On Monday, April 27 Assemblymember Limón’s staff informed our office that the Assemblymember is holding AB 2819 given an evaluation of the bill against Covid-19 criteria from Committees, and the bill would not be set for hearing.

Bill Summary

SB 860	Jim Beall (D – San Jose)	
<i>Subject:</i> Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program: postsecondary education financial aid applications		
<i>Status:</i> Senate Education		<i>Program Affected:</i> None
<i>Commission Position:</i> SUPPORT		

SUMMARY

[SB 860](#) would require local educational agencies to include in their **Foster Youth Service Plans** a description of how they will coordinate efforts to ensure **completion of financial aid applications for foster youth students** in 12th grade as a condition of receiving funds from the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program.

Background: Existing law establishes the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, under the administration of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to provide supplemental funding to county offices of education for the purpose of coordinating services and ensuring positive educational outcomes for foster youth students.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill may result in an increased demand for trainings provided by the Commission's Program Administration and Services Division (PASD).

STATUS UPDATE

There has been no confirmation yet that the bill will move forward given anticipated changes to the legislative process as a result of COVID-19. SB 860 was scheduled to be heard in Senate Education on March 25th; but the hearing was postponed by the committee. The author's office has indicated they intend to move forward with the bill.

SUMMARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION RELIEF – FEDERAL CARES ACT

Updated April 24, 2020

On March 27th, the President signed into law the bipartisan [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act \(CARES Act\)](#), a \$2 trillion emergency economic relief package in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Broadly, the measure provides emergency federal funding for unemployment benefits, food aid, hospitals, and schools and universities, including a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund that will be allocated to state, tribal and local governments. The CARES Act also includes critical aid to help address the needs of students, student loan borrowers, and colleges and universities.

The summary below outlines the higher education provisions in the CARES Act. A summary of the entire CARES Act, section-by-section, can be found on the [U.S. Senate website](#).

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION-RELATED WAIVERS (Title III)

Title III, Subtitle B of the CARES Act includes a slew of education waivers meant to relax administrative provisions related to federal financial aid. Specifically, this legislation:

- Waives the institutional matching requirement for **campus-based aid programs**. [Section 3503]
- Allows institutions to transfer unused **work-study** funds to be used for supplemental grants. [Section 3503]
- Allows institutions to award **Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG)** to students impacted by COVID-19. [Section 3504]
- Institutions may issue **work-study** payments to students who are unable to work due to work-place closures as a lump sum or in payments similar to paychecks (for up to one academic year). [Section 3505]
- For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID-19:
 - Excludes the term from counting towards **lifetime subsidized loan eligibility**. [Section 3506]
 - Excludes the term from counting toward **lifetime Pell eligibility**. [Section 3507]
 - The student is not required to repay **Pell grants** or **federal student loans** to the USDE. [Section 3508]
 - The student's grades do not affect a student's federal academic requirements to continue to receive **Pell Grants or student loans** (waiving SAP requirements). [Section 3509]
- Requires the Secretary to defer **student loan payments, principal, and interest** for 6 months (through September 30th, 2020), without penalty to the borrower for all federally owned loans. [Section 3513 – more information on this below]
- Authorizes the Secretary of Education to waive or modify current allowable uses of funds for **institutional grant programs** (TRIO/GEARUP/Title III/Title V/and sections of Title

VII) so colleges can re-deploy resources and services to COVID-19 efforts. Permits institutions to request waivers from the Secretary of Education for financial matching requirements in competitive grant and other MSI grant programs in the Higher Education Act so colleges can devote institutional resources to COVID-19 efforts. [Section 3518]

- For teachers who could not finish their year of teaching service as a result of COVID-19, their partial year of service shall be counted as a full year of service toward TEACH grant obligations or **Teacher Loan Forgiveness**. Waives a requirement that teachers must serve consecutive years of teaching service for Teacher Loan Forgiveness eligibility, if a teacher's service is not consecutive as a result of COVID-19. [Section 3519]

SUMMARY OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (Title V)

Title V of the CARES Act would provide **\$150 billion to state, tribal and local governments** to cover costs that:

- Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency caused by COVID-19
- Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved for the state or government
- Were incurred between March 1, 2020, and Dec. 30, 2020.

Each state would receive funds based on population (Census data), with no state receiving less than \$1.5 billion. A portion of each state's allocation will go to local governments. Only local governments with populations over 500,000 are eligible for funding. Based on early estimates from the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), California is estimated to receive over \$15 billion. Under the Act, the Treasury Secretary is required to release funds to states within 30 days of the bill's enactment.

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND (Title VIII)

The CARES Act appropriates \$30.75 billion to an "Education Stabilization Fund," administered by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). This pool of funds is divided up as follows:

- **\$3 billion for Governors to distribute at their discretion (divided up among states)**
 - Governors can distribute these funds to K-12 local education agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHEs) that have been most impacted by coronavirus. The purpose of these funds is to support ongoing operations and the ability of LEAs/IHEs to deliver education and services to students.
 - According to the [Legislative Analyst's Office \(LAO\)](#), California is expected to receive **\$355 million** from this **Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF)** for educational institutions at any level.
 - The Commission submitted a proposal to the Governor's Office requesting part of this GEERF funding be allocated towards emergency financial aid grants for certain Cal Grant B recipients.

- **\$13.5 billion for formula grants to states for elementary and secondary education.**
- **\$14.25 billion for higher education emergency relief** to defray expenses, such as lost revenue and technology costs related to a transition to distance education.
 - According to the LAO, California is expected to receive **\$1.7 billion** from this **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)** for colleges and universities.

Of the \$14.25 billion appropriated for colleges and universities via the HEERF, approximately **\$13 billion (90 percent) will be allocated directly to institutions of higher education for emergency relief.** Here are the provisions associated with this funding:

- Half of any funding (approx. \$6.975 billion) that colleges/universities receive must be used to provide emergency financial aid grants directly to students for expenses related to COVID-19 disruptions (e.g. food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare).
- Funding is heavily weighted towards colleges/universities with large shares of Pell Grant recipients - three quarters of this funding will be distributed based on enrollment of Pell students (not including those exclusively enrolled in online courses prior to coronavirus).
- Funding can be used to cover any costs associated with changes to delivery of instructions due to COVID-19.
- Funding cannot be used for recruitment, bolstering endowments, or building athletic/religious buildings on campus.

As a condition of receiving funds, states must commit to maintaining current levels of funding for K-12 and public higher education for the next three fiscal years (based on previous three fiscal years). This is known as a “maintenance of effort” requirement. However, this provision can be waived by Secretary of Education for states experiencing extreme financial distress.

Institutions receiving aid are to sign a **certification of agreement to receive funding.** Highlights of that agreement include:

- Institutions must provide 50% of the funds as “emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).”
- The campus has the “discretion to determine the amount of each individual emergency financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws including non-discrimination laws.”
- The Secretary of Education “recommends the maximum Federal Pell Grant for the applicable award year as an appropriate maximum amount for a student’s emergency financial aid grant in most cases, and the [institution] should be mindful of each student’s particular socioeconomic circumstances in the staging and administration of these grants.

- The Secretary “strongly encourages the [institution’s] financial aid administrator to exercise the use of professional judgment...to make adjustments on a case-by case basis to exclude individual emergency financial aid grants from the calculation of a student’s expected family contribution”
- CARES Act funds are not considered federal financial aid under Title IV.
- The funds “shall not be used for any purpose other than the direct payment of grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care”
- Campuses have one year to spend the funds.
- Campuses agree to reporting requirements and agree to consent to examination of records.

The allocation formula is as follows:

- 90% of the funds will be awarded to institutions of higher education (IHEs) based on two formula factors:
 - 75% of the funds will be awarded to IHEs based on each IHE’s share of full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of Pell Grant recipients who were not enrolled exclusively in distance education prior to the coronavirus emergency, relative to the total FTE enrollment of such individuals in all IHEs; and
 - 25% of the funds will be awarded to IHEs based on each IHE’s share of FTE enrollment of students who were not Pell Grant recipients and who were not enrolled exclusively in distance education prior to the coronavirus emergency, relative to the total FTE enrollment of such individuals in all IHEs.

The allocation that each institution will receive is available on the USDE’s [website](#). The USDE also released [guidance](#) that only students who are eligible to participate in Title IV financial aid programs can receive federal relief aid. This means that undocumented students will not qualify for federal relief from this Fund.

SUMMARY OF TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS (Title III, Subtitle B, Section 3513)

The CARES Act also includes provisions related to relief for student loan borrowers. Specifically, this bill:

- Direct the USDE to **automatically suspend payments on most federal student loans through September 30th, 2020.**
 - No interest will accrue during this payment suspension
 - Suspended payments will not affect credit score

- Suspended payments will not interrupt progress towards any federal loan forgiveness programs like Public Service Loan Forgiveness or income-based repayment
- Does not apply to private loans, federal Perkins loans, or federal loans held by private lenders
- **Prohibits the USDE from garnishing wages, tax refunds or Social Security benefits of defaulted borrowers through September 30th.**
 - USDE has already started the process of refunding \$1.8 B in tax refunds/federal benefits that were garnished since March 13th when the national emergency was declared.
- **Students will not have to repay student loans they took out for a term they couldn't complete because of COVID-19.**

The CARES Act also **temporarily expands the existing tax exclusion for educational assistance provided by employers**. The tax break would enable an employer to provide up to \$5,250 toward an employees' education costs (existing law) or toward an employees' existing student loan debt (new temporary benefit). This benefit would be excluded from the beneficiary's wages and therefore not taxed. (Subtitle B, Section 2206).

Item 8

(Information Item)

Update on COVID-19 Student Survey and other research and data initiatives

SUMMARY:

This informational item will provide an update on activities currently underway in the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) Data, Analysis, and Research Team (DART).

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

The outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has become a major disruption to colleges and universities across California, with institutions canceling in-person classes and moving to online-only instruction. The pandemic has also altered nearly every aspect of college life, from admissions and enrollment to delivery mode and grading policies to financial aid and basic needs (food, housing, transportation, technology). Federal emergency aid monies (CARES Act) have been allocated to campuses, who are actively marketing its availability to students. The closures of higher education campuses, as well as disruptions to K-12 schools, have significant impacts on both current and future students' ability to receive and manage financial aid.

The long-term financial strains of the outbreak will be felt in the potential for declining retention and lower fall enrollments. Recent surveys and new projections suggest fall enrollments will be disrupted:

- A national survey from the Art and Science Group found that nearly two-thirds of prospective students are concerned they may not be able to attend their first-choice postsecondary institution. The survey found the largest reason for concern is that the school may no longer be affordable but worries about the admissions process were also considerable.
- Another survey found that nearly 70% of high school seniors believe their financial ability to attend college will be impacted by the pandemic.
- According to data from the National College Attainment Network, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completions for the 2020-21 school year are down 2.6% compared to the prior year.
- Estimates from the American Council on Education forecast that enrollments for the next academic year will drop by 15%, including a 25% decline in the number of international students.

California Student Aid Commission

CSAC Requested to Project Cal Grant Demand for 2020-21 and Beyond

Both the State Department of Finance (DOF) and the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) have recently requested that Commission assist them in forecasting a revised future Cal Grant demand for FY 20-21 and beyond. While the Commission should be able to distribute any and all available student financial aid it has available high-need eligible students, there are some trends in student behavior and choice architecture that could affect Cal Grant distributions. Additionally, the Commission also wishes to see how student perceptions about basic needs, loss of available income and knowledge of available emergency aid has been affected by COVID-19.

Proposed Student Survey

Commission staff is working with a research partner, Dr. Michal Kurlaender (UC Davis School of Education), on developing an electronic survey to be administered in May, 2020 asking these and other questions to assist in estimating future demand, monitoring student perceptions and intentions, and developing/modifying policies and programs to aid the State and students.

The proposed survey would feature the following:

- A random sampling of ~250,000 students who filled out the FAFSA in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 FAFSA cycles. The domain would include all FAFSA filers, not just Cal Grant eligible or recipients. With this, we will have a wider range of students' EFC to evaluate results (effects of COVID-19 on more vs less needy students.)
- The survey would be separated into two domains, each with slightly different (but many overlapping) questions:
 - A survey of "new" students, or those who would be first-time in Fall, 2020.
 - A survey of "continuing" students, or those who had previously enrolled somewhere in higher education.
- Students would be asked to self-provide their email address and consent to allow the Commission to use this as a key field back to their FAFSA/ISIR record so we can link this to other important information about the student and allow us to cross-tabulate results.
- A bank of ~ 20 questions maximum, to keep the survey brief (10-15 minutes.)
- A limited number of "open-ended" response boxes that allow a student to write in qualitative answers to certain questions (such as "How has COVID-19 changed your plans for college?" and "If you are not going to attend college in Fall, 2020, please tell us why?")

We anticipate the survey to be made available via email to students using contact information in their FAFSA/ISIR record in May 2020, with results available in June 2020. CSAC will share all results, (but not individual responses) publicly and to all segments for evaluation and analysis.

Included in this item is an update on the Student Expenses And Resources Survey (SEARS) Food Insecurity Spotlight Report.

California Student Aid Commission

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Patrick Perry, Director
Data, Analysis, and Research Team

Jessica Moldoff, Research Data Specialist
Data, Analysis, and Research Team

ATTACHMENT(S):

SEARS Food Insecurity Spotlight Report
DART PowerPoint Presentation

SEARS SURVEY SPOTLIGHT:

PRESENTED BY THE CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION



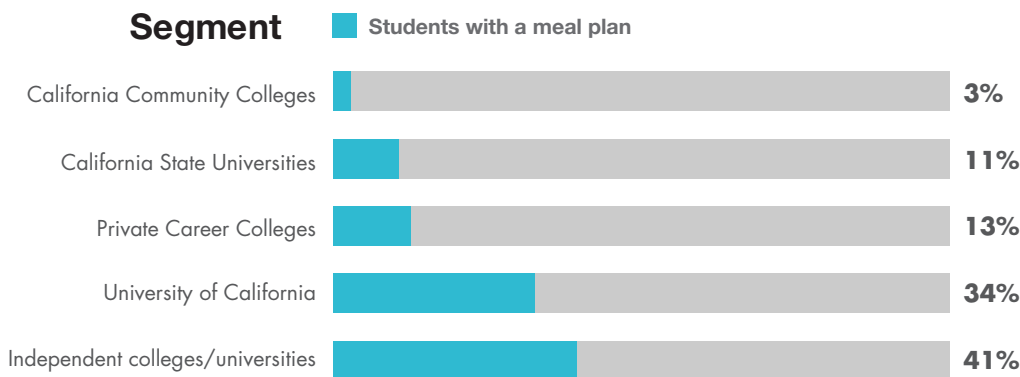
For more information please refer to our website
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Contact research@csac.ca.gov
with any questions

Food Insecurity

Affording college means more than just paying for tuition. A student must also pay for food, as well as books and supplies, housing, transportation, and other expenses. This spotlight brief explores what students told us in the 2018-19 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) about their experience paying for food while attending college.

How many students have a meal plan?

Each segment of higher education has a different percentage of students who report having a meal plan.



How much are students paying for food?

Across segments, 10% of students reported they have a campus meal plan and the average number of meals covered per week was 12. Of those with a meal plan, students reported spending an average of:

\$176/mo for food they buy in addition to their meal plan

Of those without a campus meal plan, students reported spending an average of:

\$316/mo for groceries and other food and snacks eaten and prepared at their residence

\$216/mo for food, snacks, and meals away from their residence, such as at restaurants or purchased from vending machines

“We college students try to make it through as comfortably as we can so it doesn’t effect our education, even if it means skipping a meal or two.

Student, Los Angeles

Food insecurity is correlated with lower grades in college.¹

“I love school. And I will not eat just to pay for school.

Student, Orange County

“I have not bought books/school supplies to be able to pay rent/food.

Student, Northern Inland

¹ See, for example, Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., Schneider, J., Hernandez, A., & Cady, C. (2018). Still hungry and homeless in college. Madison, WI: Wisconsin HOPE Lab; El Zein, A., Shelnutt, K., Colby, S., Olfert, M., Kattelmann, K., Brown, O., & Mathews, A. (2017). The prevalence of food insecurity and its association with health and academic outcomes among college freshmen. *Advances in Nutrition*, 8(1), 4; Maroto, M. E., Snelling, A., & Linck, H. (2015). Food insecurity among community college students: Prevalence and association with grade point average. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 39(6), 515–524

SEARS was administered between fall 2018 and spring 2019; all CSU and UC institutions participated in the survey while CCCs, non-profit private institutions, and private for-profit colleges were sampled by region. CSAC conducted the survey on a web-based survey platform and students were given four weeks to complete it. A total of 15,419 students were counted as respondents (about a 10% response rate) at 110 institutions across 5 segments.

Students' level of food security was classified based on the number of affirmative responses to a set of 10 questions² and students with very low or low food security levels were considered food insecure.



Overall, 22% of students reported very low food security, and 13% of students reported low food security, for a total of **35%** of students experiencing food insecurity.

The survey asked about specific challenges students encountered with food within the last 30 days:

56% said they often or sometimes couldn't afford to eat balanced meals

48% said they often or sometimes worried food would run out

41% said that often or sometimes the food just didn't last and they didn't have money to get more

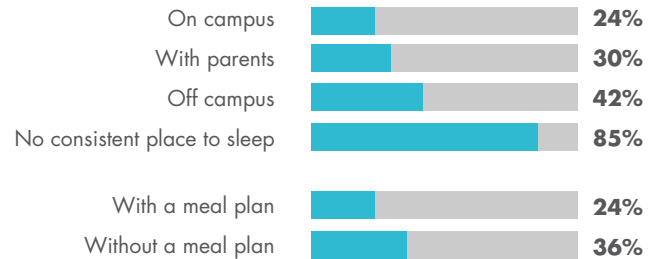
Of those who responded often or sometimes true to any of the above:

65% said they cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food

58% said they ate less than they felt they should because there wasn't enough money for food

49% said they were hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food

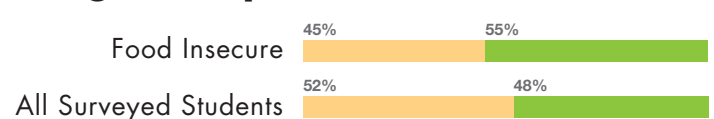
Students living on campus and those with a meal plan reported lower rates of food insecurity than those without. Even though students living on campus and students with a meal plan tend to have more resources, almost a quarter of both groups still experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days.



Students who were classified as food insecure were more likely to be:

- older (age 22 and above);
- female;
- Black or Hispanic/Latino³
- Having dependents

Age Group



The survey also asked students if they received food assistance from a variety of sources.

- 7%** reported using CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- 5%** reported using an on-campus food pantry
- 2%** reported using the Women, Infants, and Children Program
- 1%** reported using a community food pantry or meal provider
- 1%** reported using other student's meal plans

Among all students surveyed, **87%** did not receive any food assistance.

Among food insecure students, **82%** did not receive any food assistance.

² SEARS used the U.S. Adult Food Security Survey Module designed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/survey-tools/#adult>

³ Due to small sample sizes, the Commission doesn't report on other racial and ethnic groups, but acknowledges that they may also be struggling with food insecurity and other obstacles.



California Student Aid Commission

**SEARS Spotlight on Food Insecurity and
Update on COVID-19 Student Survey**

Presented by:

Patrick Perry

Director of Policy, Research, and Data

Jessica Moldoff

Research Specialist

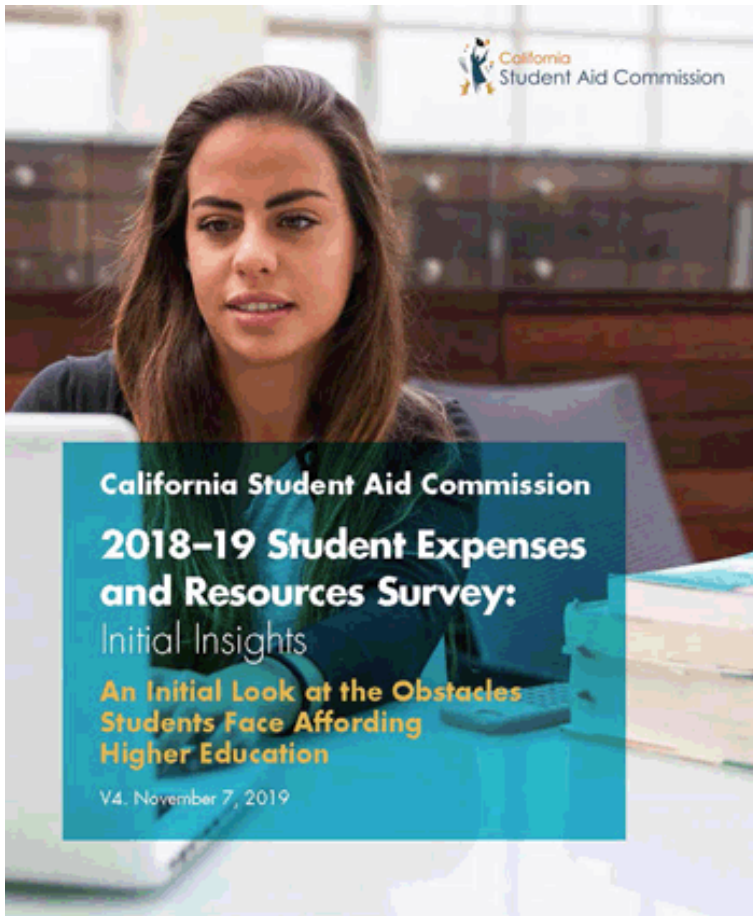
In support and partnership with:



Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS)

- Completed in 2019 after 10+ year hiatus
- Funded philanthropically (College Futures Foundation)
- Administration and analysis by Mathematica
- ~15,000 responses
- Used to create CSAC “Student Expense Budget”
- Survey provided lots of rich data on the status of students basic needs, expenses, resources

SEARS: Initial Insights



Non-tuition costs add up to

\$2K per month

Fortunately for students, some costs—most notably, textbooks—appear to have declined significantly since the last SEARS. Students in 2018-19 reported spending about half of the inflation-adjusted 2006-07 total on textbooks and other educational supplies. Students were asked to estimate their costs for college beyond tuition and fees in the following categories: books and supplies, food, housing, transportation, and personal expenses. The statewide average reported by students totals \$2,020 per month, or \$18,180 per nine-month academic year.

Many students perceive they do not have enough to cover costs

Unique to the 2018-19 SEARS was a series of questions asking students not just about their expenses or resources (such as work income), but their perception of their ability to cover the costs. For all major costs, students were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statement “I have enough resources to cover the following expenses.”

Tuition and fees and housing and utilities were top areas for which students indicated they did not have sufficient resources. Specifically, 38 percent disagreed that they have the resources to afford tuition and fees, 35 percent books and supplies, followed by 30 percent said the same for housing and utilities.

35%
have low or very low food security

35%
are housing insecure

Nearly one in three students report food and housing insecurity

The survey included two modules commonly used to measure housing and food insecurity: a 10-item set of the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) questions about food security and a 6-item set of questions about housing insecurity. Both items used a 30-day reference period. Based on their responses, 35 percent of students were classified as food insecure (defined as low or very low food security) and 35 percent were classified as housing insecure.

Living costs, especially housing, vary significantly by region

Unsurprisingly, living costs and other aspects of the college experience vary by region. The cost of housing, in particular, shows a wide variance across the 15 micro-regions of California – from \$753 per month in the Central Valley region to \$1,178 per month in San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

Similarly, the survey showed regional differences in housing and food insecurity. Housing insecurity was greatest in the Central Valley (42 percent) and Greater Sacramento (41 percent) regions, but met or exceeded 30 percent in all 15 micro-regions.

Students are shown in a classroom setting, some sitting at desks and others standing, engaged in learning activities.

SEARS: Spotlight on Housing

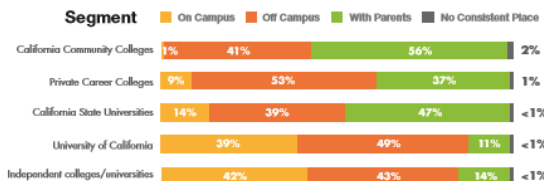
SEARS SURVEY SPOTLIGHT:
PRESENTED BY THE CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

HOUSING

Where students live can have a big impact on their lives and success in college. Among other things, it can affect their financial security, ability to balance school, work, and family responsibilities, and access to nutritious food. This spotlight brief explores what students told us in the 2018-19 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) about their housing experiences.

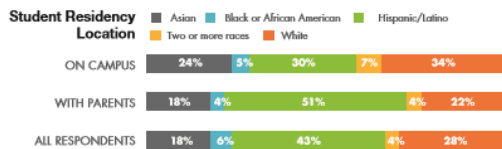
Where do students live?

Each segment of higher education has a different distribution of where students live while attending college:



Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Hispanic/Latino students disproportionately live with their parents while white students disproportionately live on campus. Hispanic/Latino students make up 43 percent of students, but 51 percent of students living with parents are Hispanic/Latino. 28 percent of students who are white, but 34 percent of students living on campus are white.¹



Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.



For more information please refer to our website <https://www.csac.ca.gov/sears>
Contact research@csac.ca.gov with any questions

“The main struggle is housing, since paying a huge amount for rent is very challenging. It also causes distraction, stress and inability to focus on studies.”

Student, South Central Coast

75%

of students age 21 and under across all segments either live on campus or with their parents.

“It’s been tough and hard to eat balanced meals and have a stable place to live. I had to couch surf for several weeks and sleep in my car due to lack of money.”

Student, East Bay

How much are students paying for housing?

Students reported the following average monthly costs of housing:

\$1,235
On Campus/dorm

\$1,244
Off Campus: Rent/own

Housing challenges students encountered within the last 30 days:

- 21%** said they did not pay the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill
- 18%** said there was a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay
- 10%** said they did not pay or underpaid their rent or mortgage
- 10%** said they lived in a house or apartment with more people than were listed on the lease or rental agreement
- 5%** said they moved in with others, even for a little while, because of financial problems
- 2%** said they moved two times or more
- 1%** said they had no consistent place to sleep (e.g. homeless, couch-surfing, living in a car/shelter)

35 percent of students surveyed experienced one or more conditions of housing insecurity

All in all, 35 percent of students surveyed experienced one or more conditions of housing insecurity. Students experiencing housing insecurity reported unstable living conditions, which included the inability to pay rent or utilities, or the need to move frequently.²

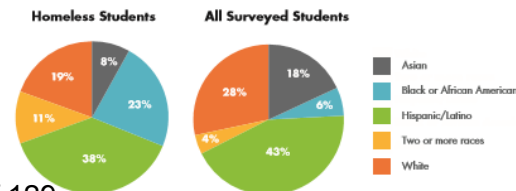
Students who were classified as housing insecure were more likely to be:

- older (age 22 and above);
- female;
- Black or Hispanic/Latino;
- having dependents

Housing insecurity is correlated with lower completion, persistence, and credit attainment.³

Homeless Students

While Hispanic/Latino students make up the largest percentage of homeless students, black students are disproportionately affected by homelessness.



70%

of homeless students are age 22 and older.

¹ Due to survey response rates, this survey did not collect statistically representative data on students from other racial and ethnic groups, but the Commission acknowledges that they may also be struggling with housing and other obstacles.

² Those with no consistent place to sleep are classified as housing insecure and those on campus are classified as housing secure. These groups did not see the housing insecurity module. ³ Becker, K. M. (2017). The evolution of poverty in higher education: Material hardship, academic success, and policy perspectives (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin.

Basic Needs Insecurity

Housing Insecurity

- A condition in which a student's living situation is unstable due to challenges such as inability to pay rent or need to move frequently
- 6 item set of questions
- 30 day reference period

Food Insecurity

- Limited or unpredictable access to nutritionally adequate food
- 10 item set of US Department of Agriculture's questions
- 30 day reference period

1 in 3 students report food and/or housing insecurity in the last 30 days

35%
are housing
insecure

35%
have low or very
low food security

19%
are both housing
and food
insecure

SEARS: Spotlight on Food Insecurity

SEARS SURVEY SPOTLIGHT:

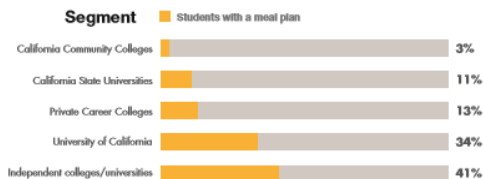
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“We college students try to make it through as comfortably as we can so it doesn't effect our education, even if it means skipping a meal or two.”

Student, Los Angeles

Food insecurity is correlated with lower grades in college.

“I love school. And I will not eat just to pay for school.”

Student, Orange County

“I have not bought books/school supplies to be able to pay rent/food.”

Student, Northern Indiana

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41% said that often or sometimes the food just didn't last and they didn't have money to get more

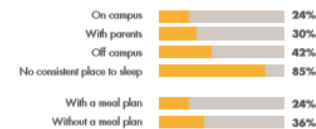
Of those who responded often or sometimes true to any of the above:

65% said they cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food

58% said they ate less than they felt they should because there wasn't enough money for food

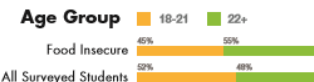
49% said they were hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food

Students living on campus and those with a meal plan reported lower rates of food insecurity than those without. Even though students living on campus and students with a meal plan tend to have more resources, almost a quarter of both groups still experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days.



Students who were classified as food insecure were more likely to be:

- older (age 22 and above);
- female;
- Black or Hispanic/Latino³
- Having dependents



The survey also asked students if they received food assistance from a variety of sources.

- 7x** reported using CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- 5x** reported using an on-campus food pantry
- 2x** reported using the Women, Infants, and Children Program
- 1x** reported using a community food pantry or meal provider
- 1x** reported using other student's meal plans

Among all students surveyed, **87%** did not receive any food assistance.

Among food insecure students, **82%** did not receive any food assistance.

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³ Small sample sizes, the Commission doesn't report on other racial and ethnic groups, but acknowledges that they may also be struggling with food insecurity and other obstacles.

Food Insecurity

- **56%** said often or sometimes couldn't afford to eat balanced meals
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- **41%** said often or sometimes the food just didn't last and they didn't have money to get more

*"I love school. And I will not eat just
to pay for school."
-Student in Orange County*

Food Insecurity

Of those who responded “often” or “sometimes” true to any of the above:

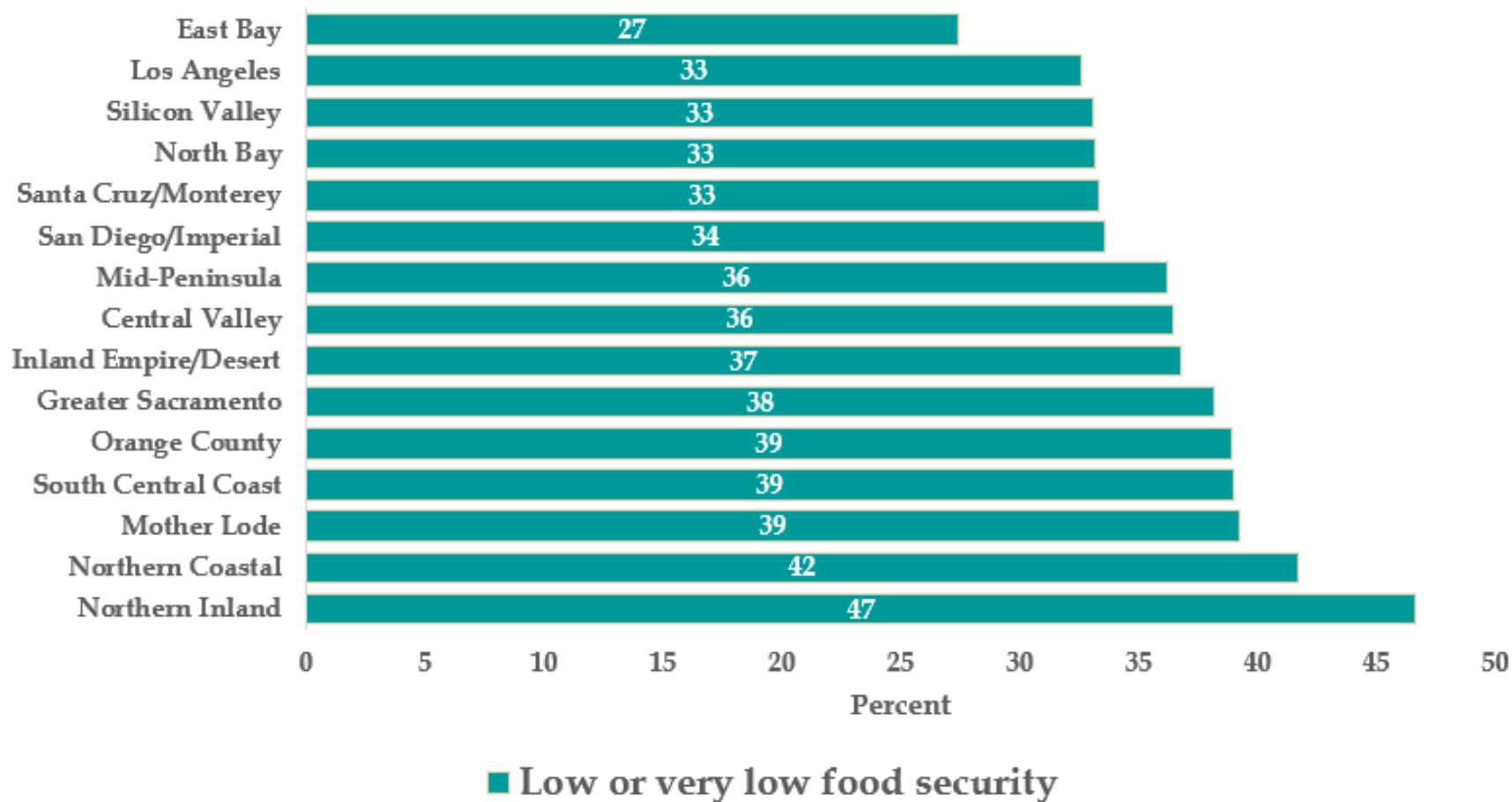
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*“I have not bought books/school supplies to be able to pay rent/food.”
-Student, Northern Inland*

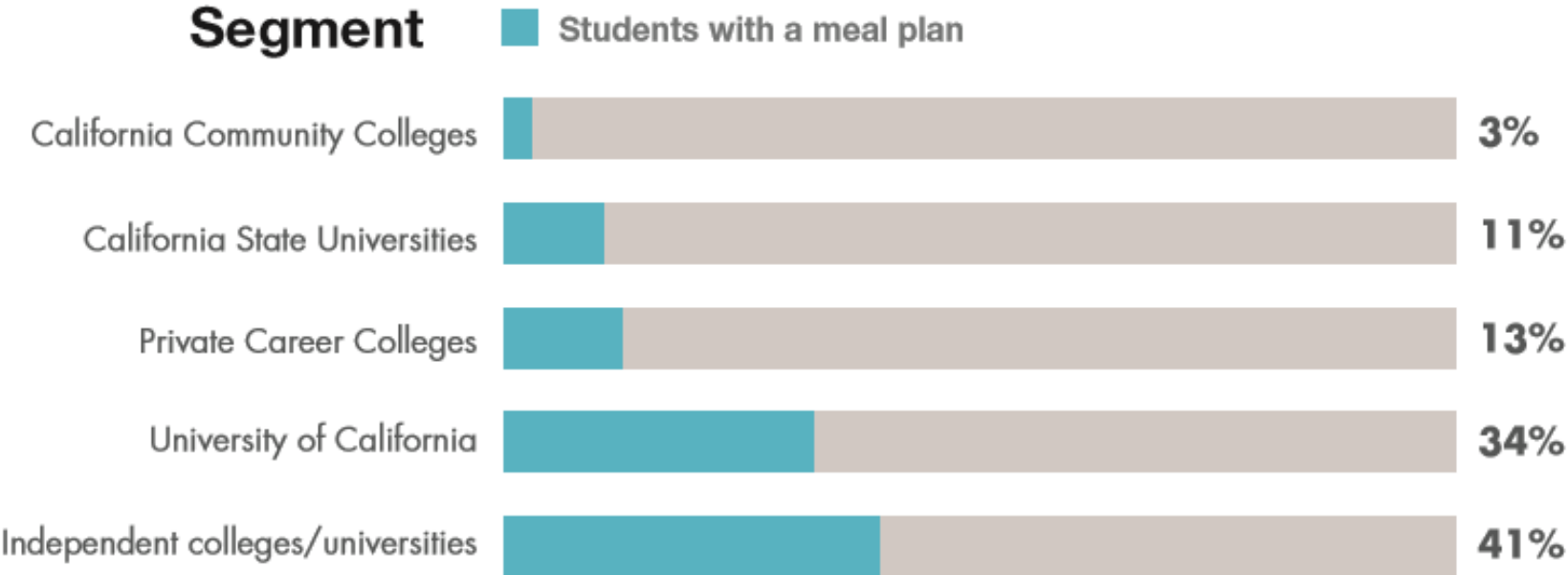
Demographics of Food Insecurity

- **Students who were classified as food insecure were more likely to be:**
 - Older (age 22 and above);
 - Female;
 - Black or Hispanic/Latino;
 - Have dependents.

Food Insecurity by Region



Students with Meal Plans



Costs of Campus Meal Plans (examples)

Student Meal Plan

Fall of 2018 Lassen College is pleased to announce the New and Updated Cougar Café meal plan. Enjoy healthy food options prepared daily at a reasonable cost to you. Parents you can rest assured your students will be well fed and students you will be able to focus on your education and not on cooking and clean up. Students will enjoy thirty-eight meals a month. The Cougar Café is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 6:30 pm for breakfast, lunch and dinner and Fridays from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm. The Lassen College meal plan begins the first day of each semester and ten percent of your meals purchased are available to rollover to the Spring Semester. Meals are non-transfereable. It is available in multiple payment options. Please contact Student Accounts to use your financial aid award to purchase a meal plan.

Total meals plan: **\$1150.00 : (24 Rollover) One meal per meal time per academic school day.**

150 meals plan: **\$975.00 (15 Rollover)**

100 meals plan: **\$750.00 (10 Rollover)**

- 150 meals @ \$9.75
- \$6.50/meal
- 84 meals per month=\$546

Costs of Campus Meal Plans (examples)

GOLD PLAN

Cost per Year	Approximate number of meals per week	Flex\$ per Year
2019-2020: \$4,906	15	\$150 (\$75 per semester)

Available to the Sac State community and all campus residents.

The Gold Plan is a great fit for athletes or students who stay on campus all week. The plan includes \$75 per semester in Flex\$, which may be used at any UEI-operated retail dining outlet. Ten guest passes to the Servery per semester are included, so bring a friend, your professor, or a family member!

GREEN PLAN


Cost per Year	Approximate number of meals per week	Flex\$ per Year
2019-2020: \$4,286	10	\$250 (\$125 per semester)

Available to the Sac State community and all campus residents.

The Green Plan is designed for someone who typically plans to dine on campus during the week. The plan includes \$125 per semester in Flex\$, which may be used at any UEI-operated retail dining outlet. Five guest passes to the Servery per semester are included, so bring a friend, your professor, or a family member!

- Annual \$4,906 for 15 meals/week
- \$6.81/meal
- 84 meals per month=\$572

Costs of Campus Meal Plans (examples)



\$1,940.00 [Add To Cart](#)

7-Day All-Access (Quarterly)

- Visit The Anteatory & Brandywine Any # of Times
- Use FlexDine at Campus Dining Locations
- Quarterly



\$1,649.00 [Add To Cart](#)

135 Meals + \$250 FlexDine

- Rolls Over Until End of School Year
- Use FlexDine at Campus Dining Locations
- Averages 5 Meals/Week for School Year

- \$1,940/quarter for full access
- \$7.69/meal
- 84 meals per month=\$646

Students with Meal Plans

- Across all segments, 10% of students reported they have a campus meal plan.
- The average number of meals covered per week on these plans was 12.

What are students paying for food?

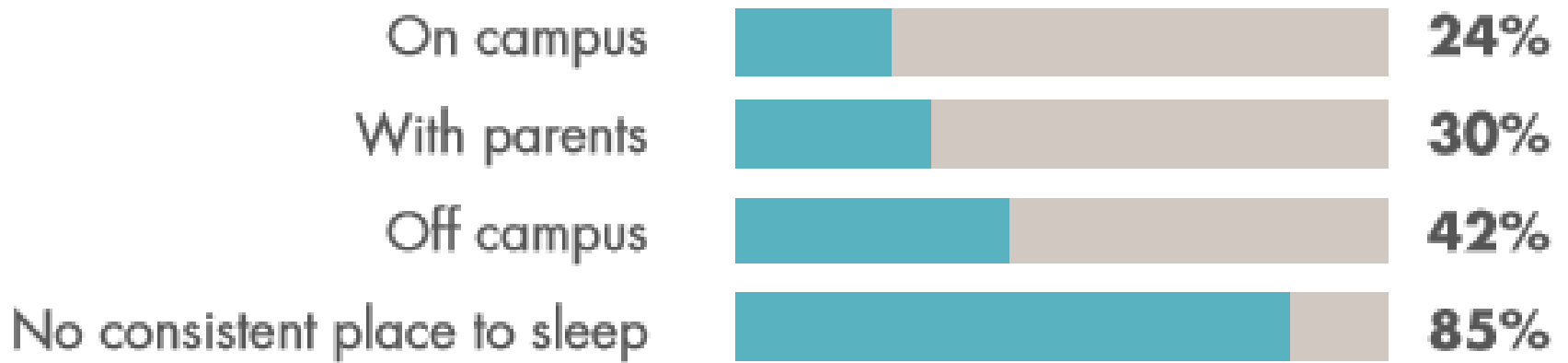
- If a student has a meal plan:
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- If a student does not have a meal plan:
 - \$316/mo. for groceries and other food eaten and prepared at their residence
 - \$216/mo. for food and meals away from their residence (such as restaurants or vending machines)

Food Insecurity on Meal Plans



*"School expenses are a lot and so are food plans. Five-day unlimited is all I could afford. Seven day is too expensive so I just don't eat on the weekends."
-Student in Greater Sacramento*

Food Insecurity by Living Arrangement



Basic Needs Service Gap

- Among all students surveyed, **87%** did not receive any food assistance.
- Among food insecure students, **82%** did not receive any food assistance.
- Only **7%** of students reported using CalFresh/SNAP.
- Only **5%** reported using an on-campus food pantry.

Questions

CSAC COVID-19 Student Survey

- For planning and projection purposes in FY 20-21, CSAC needs to gather information from new and continuing students as to their plans for Fall, 2020
- CSAC working with UC Davis School of Education partners (Dr. Michal Kurlaender) on a "COVID-19 Student Survey"
 - Survey out in May, 2020
 - Results scheduled for June, 2020

COVID-19 Student Survey

- Survey is a random sampling of ~250,000 students who filled out the FAFSA in the 19-20 and 20-21 FAFSA cycles.
- The domain would include all FAFSA filers, not just Cal Grant eligible or recipients.
- With this, we will have a wider range of students' EFC to evaluate results (effects of COVID-19 on more vs less needy students.)

COVID-19 Student Survey

- The survey would be separated into two domains, each with slightly different (but many overlapping) questions:
 - A survey of “new” students, or those who would be first-time in Fall, 2020.
 - A survey of “continuing” students, or those who had previously enrolled somewhere in higher education.

COVID-19 Student Survey

- A bank of ~ 20 questions maximum, to keep the survey brief (10-15 minutes.)
- A limited number of “open-ended” response boxes that allow a student to write in qualitative answers to certain questions
 - “How has COVID-19 changed your plans for college?”
 - “If you are not going to attend college in Fall, 2020, please tell us why?”

COVID-19 Student Survey

- The link for the New Student Survey: https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ympnIB3ySyCEkZ
- The link for the Returning Student Survey: https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Y2LWFNBsH9IPs1

Questions

Item 9

(Information Item)

Leveraging CalFresh to support student basic needs

SUMMARY:

Alexis Fernández is Branch Chief of the CalFresh and Nutrition Branch at the California Department of Social Services. In this role, she is responsible for the largest SNAP program in the country, SNAP Outreach, Nutrition Education, Employment & Training, and Disaster-SNAP programs. Fernandez is tasked with advancing the Department’s vision to improve program access and overall health and well-being, streamline benefit delivery, expand work opportunities, and increase CalFresh participation. She has been with the Department for nearly four years, most recently serving as the Chief of the CalFresh Policy Bureau. Previously, she was the Policy Director at the First 5 Association of California and the Director of Legislation at California Food Policy Advocates. She received her Master of Social Work with an emphasis on management and planning from UC Berkeley and a BA in Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego.

Ms. Fernández will present information on the Cal Fresh food and nutrition programs and how these resources can be utilized by qualifying college students. The discussion will include how the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) currently leverages the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to help identify eligible students and how we can further facilitate and expedite their access to CalFresh resources.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What actions (legislative or administrative) can the State of California take to eliminate barriers for college students to access CalFresh benefits to reduce food insecurity?
2. How can the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) leverage data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to help facilitate access to CalFresh resources?

BACKGROUND:

The CalFresh Program, formerly known as Food Stamps, is a part of a federal government food and nutrition program known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), can add to your food budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table. The program issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used to buy most foods, as well as plants and seeds to grow food, at many markets and food stores. This program provides eligible recipients up to \$194 per month in food assistance.¹ However, there are limitations on college students’ ability to access CalFresh:

¹ Apply for California Food Stamps Online. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.getcalfresh.org/>

California Student Aid Commission

1. **Work requirement:** Federal rules require students to be employed a minimum of 20 hours per week to receive SNAP. This significantly exceeds the 10-15 hour maximum recommended by most researchers in order to allow full-time studies to focus on their studies. Furthermore, with the State now entering a major economic recession, finding work may be much more difficult for college student.

Effective April 1, 2020, CalFresh recipients between the ages of 18-49 without a child in the home are temporarily NOT required to meet federal work requirements. This federal rule is known as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD).²

2. **County requirement:** Most counties require CalFresh applicants to attend an in-person interview, typically at the county Social Services office, as part of their application process.³ Taking the time to do this may be cumbersome for full-time students, especially low-income individuals who may have limited access to transportation. Students in geographically large counties may find themselves hundreds of miles from the county Social Services office.
3. **Application requirement:** California students can only qualify for CalFresh if they meet the following criteria⁴:
 - a. Age 18-49 and is physically and mentally “fit” for employment. If the person has a disability, they are not considered a student.
 - b. Enrolled at least half-time in regular curriculum at an institution of higher education in which the regular curriculum meets the standard requirements for graduation or certification in a particular field of study.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO CONSIDER

The State’s ability to reduce or eliminate some of these barriers may be limited, given that the program is **federally funded but locally administered**. State laws cannot override federal rules or regulations, and most state statutory changes creating new mandates for local governments are subject to the requirement that these mandates be reimbursed by state funds. However, the State could at least explore and analyze further solutions such as:

1. **Expanding TANF access:** Enacted in 1996, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, colloquially known as the federal “welfare” program, provides large block grants to states to fund anti-poverty programs.⁵ California uses approximately \$1 billion of the federal TANF block grant to fund Cal Grants for low-income students. SNAP rules allow for college students to be exempted from the 20-hour work requirement if they are receiving other federal benefits such as TANF. However, current rules do not allow community college students to benefit from this exemption, as these rules do not allow for TANF to fund non-tuition financial aid such as the Cal Grant B Access Award.

² CalFresh Work Rules. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.sfhsa.org/calfresh/keeping-calfresh-benefits/CalFresh-work-rules>

³ LSNAC Guide to CalFresh Benefits CalFresh = Food Stamps = SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://calfresh.guide/the-interview-process/>

⁴ CalFresh - Students . (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://mycalfresh.org/students/>

⁵ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/613>

California Student Aid Commission

2. **Streamlining the interview process:** Some counties, such as Yolo and Butte, have worked with local community colleges and universities to streamline the CalFresh interview process to reduce the burden on college students. For example, Yolo County maintains a CalFresh officer at UC Davis full time. Others allow applicants to conduct their interview over the phone rather than in person. **How can the State streamline the application and interview process for students applying for CalFresh, by either incentivizing or requiring counties to make changes?**

3. **Sharing of data to reduce the number of applications:** Much of the financial and personal information a student must provide when applying for CalFresh is identical to information they may have already provided when submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Currently, there are federal privacy laws that limit agencies' and campuses' from sharing FAFSA data.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Alexis Fernández, Chief
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
California Department of Social Services

Catalina Mistler
Interim Chief Deputy Director
Executive Office

ATTACHMENT(S):

Item 10

(Information Item)

Update on communications strategy, logo and rebranding

SUMMARY:

The Commission is in the process of updating its communication strategy, logo, and brand.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required

BACKGROUND:

The impact of COVID-19 has affected every aspect of society, including prospective and current financial aid students. Students, families, high school counselors and institutions have had numerous questions about Cal Grant availability, federal emergency student aid, how to meet various FAFSA/CADAA verification requirements while school and offices are closed.

The commission established a staff communications task force to address the concerns of its constituents during this time of uncertainty. The staff communications task force evaluated how to best utilize the Commission's website, social media platforms and other communications mechanisms to provide new up-to-date financial aid information during the crisis. A COVID-19 webpage was launched to meet the needs of students, institutions, and the general public. The website includes several new FAQ's designed to answer specific questions for prospective students, returning students, undocumented students and foster youth, along with institutions. The landing page also includes links to many helpful resources. Simultaneously, a new Communications Manager was hired. The Communications Manager will be providing an update on the vision for the commission's ongoing communication strategy and communications priorities during this global pandemic. There will also be an update on the commission's social media activity and plans for expanding its presence throughout the state.

Commission staff have continued working with Uptown Studios to develop a new Commission logo that is modern, fresh and reflective of the Commission's mission. Tina Reynolds, owner of Uptown Studios, will present several new logo renderings for Commission review and feedback.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Michael Lemus
Communications Manager
Executive Office

Judith Gutierrez
Policy and Project Management Analyst
Executive Office

California Student Aid Commission

Teresita Martinez
Executive Fellow
Executive Office

Tina Reynolds
Owner and CEO
Uptown Studios

Mia Lopez
Product Manager
Uptown Studios

ATTACHMENT(S):

COVID 19 Landing Page Cover

COVID 19 Response

COVID 19 Accordions



COVID-19 Communication

For more information regarding CSAC's response to COVID-19 ...CLICK HERE!

Got it!

CSAC's Response to COVID-19

News & Events

<https://www.csac.ca.gov/covid19>



CSAC's Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has uprooted all of our lives, especially the lives of our students whose college experience has turned into a virtual one overnight. We at the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) applaud segments and campuses for pivoting quickly to ensure students remain on their educational path. We also recognize equity gaps have widened due to COVID-19. Many students relied on on-campus resources such as technology, internet access, jobs, shelter and cafeterias. We cannot afford to let our most vulnerable students fall through the cracks.

CSAC is committed to ensuring students have accurate information and resources regarding their financial aid packages during the COVID-19 crisis. Our team is diligently monitoring the situation and is compiling a list of resources and frequently asked questions. As California continues to navigate this global pandemic, CSAC will help our state's students—especially those whose struggle with food and rent is heightened by this crisis—have access to real-time guidance and resources. Student success in college will play a major role in the state's economic recovery. This is the time to double-down and support students during this time of economic uncertainty and make higher education financially accessible for all Californians.

Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission



COVID-19 Information

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Resources, and Updates



For more information regarding CSAC's response to COVID-19 ...CLICK HERE!

Got it!

For Students

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



Undocumented/Dreamer Student Resources



Foster Youth Resources



General Resources



What is My Institution Saying?



For Institutions

Institutional Support Update



Training and Outreach Update



General Updates/Resources

Recent Webinars



State and Federal Updates



Health Related Resources



Item 11

(Action Item)

Consideration of the Cal-SOAP LA contract amendment

SUMMARY:

Staff requests to amend the contract between the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) and the Los Angeles California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Consortium (Cal-SOAP LA). Cal-SOAP LA requested to change its fiscal agent from Families in Schools to East Los Angeles College Foundation, and to receive its grant funding quarterly instead of bi-annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the staff recommendations to: 1) amend the contract between Cal-SOAP LA and the Commission to reflect the change in fiscal agent from Families in Schools to East Los Angeles College Foundation (ELAC Foundation); and 2) amend the contract between Cal-SOAP LA and the Commission to change the grant funding from bi-yearly payments to quarterly payments.

BACKGROUND:

Cal-SOAP was created to increase the availability of information, improve students' access to higher education by raising their achievement levels, and to reduce the duplication of services by coordinating outreach efforts. Established in 1978, the program is intended to serve students from schools and geographic areas with low college-going rates, students who would be the first in their family to attend college, students from low income families and students who are homeless.

All consortia are to identify a fiscal agent. A consortia's fiscal agent can be a school district, a county office of education, a public or private non-profit university, community college, or Community Based Organization. The fiscal agent and consortium partners must set aside match funding within their own budget including funding commitments from program partners sufficient to support the ongoing costs of the program. The consortia are to confirm that the applicant agency/fiscal agent will: a) Receive and administer the grant funds and submit the reports required by the Commission to account for the use of grant funds, and b) Be responsible for the performance of any services provided through funds awarded under this grant by the partners, consultants, or other organizations.

Change in Fiscal Agent

Cal-SOAP LA was funded to operate as a consortium beginning July 1, 2018, with the contract through June 30, 2020. In February 2020 the contract was extended to June 30, 2021. Families in Schools (FIS) has served as the fiscal agent for LA Cal-SOAP. In February 2020, FIS announced to Commission staff that they would no longer serve as the fiscal agent to the Cal-SOAP LA consortium after June 30, 2020. FIS committed to continue to support family engagement efforts for Cal-SOAP LA families and students and continue to provide the services originally outlined

California Student Aid Commission

when it agreed to be the fiscal agent. FIS provided a letter in support of this commitment to the Commission. (See the attached letter from Families in Schools).

FIS worked with ELAC Foundation and they agreed to be the fiscal agent for Cal-SOAP LA for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ELAC Foundation and Cal-SOAP LA is attached.

Change in Grant Fund Payment Schedule

Cal-SOAP LA also requested a change to quarterly payments instead of the current bi-annual schedule, for the fiscal year 2020-21. Quarterly payments would allow the fiscal agent to manage their expenditures more efficiently and timely. The 14 established Cal SOAP consortia are currently reimbursed quarterly for their expenditures. This request was reviewed by the Commission's Legal Counsel who advised that an additional amendment be made to the contract between the Commission and Cal-SOAP LA. The amendment shall reflect that the quarterly payments to Cal-SOAP LA will not exceed the amount of funds in the original provision (i.e., more than fifty percent at six months).

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Steve Caldwell, Interim Deputy Director
Program Administration and Services Division

Ramona Carlos, Specialized Programs Manager
Program Administration and Services Division

ATTACHMENT(S):

Families in Schools Letter

ELAC Memorandum of Understanding

Karla V. Salazar,
Interim President & CEO

Tina Ochoa,
Vice President, Programs

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California State University

February 24, 2020

Mr. Steve Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Director
California Student Aid Commission
11040 White Rock Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

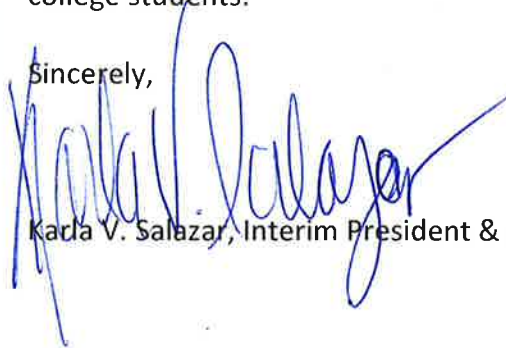
Families in Schools is honored to continue to collaborate with the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, UCLA, El Monte Union High School District, The Campaign for College Opportunity, The Princeton Review, ELAC, Pasadena City College, L.A. Trust, Unite-LA, and the Pasadena Tournament of Roses as a member of the Cal-SOAP consortium. By continuing to serve as an active member of the consortium, we commit to support the efforts of increasing equity and access in higher education in the Greater Los Angeles area. FIS is committed to the Cal-SOAP goals and continuing to support Cal-SOAP LA's family engagement efforts, that will further encourage and build a college and career going culture across Los Angeles.

As an active member of the consortium, FIS commits to provide the following resources:

- Active participation in the Cal SOAP consortium (In kind)
- Parent Engagement curriculum and training (Paid service: Transition to College direct service to families - \$5,500)
- 15 hours of technical assistance (Paid service x 5 hours - \$500 + In-kind x 10 hours - \$2,000 value)

Families in Schools is giving our fullest support to the Cal-SOAP LA consortium. We look forward to working together to increase the academic, career and college preparation skills of eligible disadvantaged elementary, secondary and community college students.

Sincerely,



Karla V. Salazar, Interim President & CEO

Agreement between Consortium and Fiscal Agent

The East Los Angeles College Foundation (ELAC Foundation) recognizes the mission of the Cal-SOAP L.A. Consortium- to increase educational and financial aid opportunities to underserved students within Los Angeles County- and agrees to support the Consortium in the achievement of its goal.

The Cal-SOAP L.A. Consortium will:

- Review **ELAC Foundation** policies for implementation.
- Respond within a reasonable time to budget requests.
- Request timely payment of invoices according to CSAC policies.
- Ensure that all program staff comply with **ELAC Foundation** policies and procedures.
- Submit timely check requests.
- Ensure the timely submission of reimbursement to CSAC for repayment to **ELAC Foundation**.
- Notify CSAC of any failure to maintain required level of matching funds.
- Be responsible for securing the required level of matching funds.
- Ensure compliance of program goals and objectives.
- Report all fiscal information to **ELAC Foundation**.

ELAC Foundation agrees to act as the fiscal agent and employer of record to support Cal-SOAP L.A. to achieve program goals and objectives. **ELAC Foundation** will:

- Monitor Cal-SOAP L.A. budget and reconcile ledgers.
- Ensure proper fiscal closing established by CSAC.
- Work closely with Cal-SOAP L.A. staff for submission of reimbursements and reports as requested.
- Submit timely reports to the Cal-SOAP L.A staff upon request.
- Report all fiscal information to the Consortium Chair and Project Director.

Both parties agree to:

- a) To work and maintain on-going communication and mutual support in order to accomplish proposed mission.
- b) Meet and confer should any budget change be required at least two (2) months prior to the proposed change.
- c) Report to each other regarding any matters that affect Cal-SOAP fiscal and primary objectives.

Cal-SOAP L.A. Consortium:

Karlo Silbiger
Signature

Karlo Silbiger
Name

CHAIR, Cal-SOAP L.A. Consortium
Title

4/2/20

Date

ELAC Foundation:

Bryan C. Ventura Electronically Signed
Signature

Bryan C. Ventura
Name

Dean
Title

3/30/2020

Date

Item 12

(Information Item)

Update on 2020-21 FAFSA CADAA application award cycle

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) application period for Cal Grant award consideration from October 1, 2019 to March 2, 2020. Following the opening of the FAFSA and the CADAA on October 1, 2019, the Commission began processing students for Cal Grant High School Entitlement award consideration on December 20, 2019 and has offered more than 155,034 new 2020-21 high school entitlement awards as of April 20, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning with the 2017-18 academic year, the FAFSA application period began on October 1 of each year and runs through June 30 of the following year (in prior years, the FAFSA opened on January 1). This timeframe allows students more time to evaluate their potential financial aid resources while applying to college.

Students report income information from an earlier tax year, minimizing the need for students to estimate and correct tax information. This also facilitates the utilization of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool to automatically import the tax information into the FAFSA.

The CADAA was launched during the 2013-14 Cal Grant application period following the passage of the California Dream Act in 2011, to allow undocumented students the ability to apply for state financial aid. The CADAA is administered by the California Student Aid Commission and follows the same filing timeline as the FAFSA for Cal Grants and other state financial aid programs. Over the last few years, legislation has expanded student eligibility, from early graduation at a California high school to California Community College attendance and the attainment of an associate degree among others as specified in California Education Code section 68130.5.

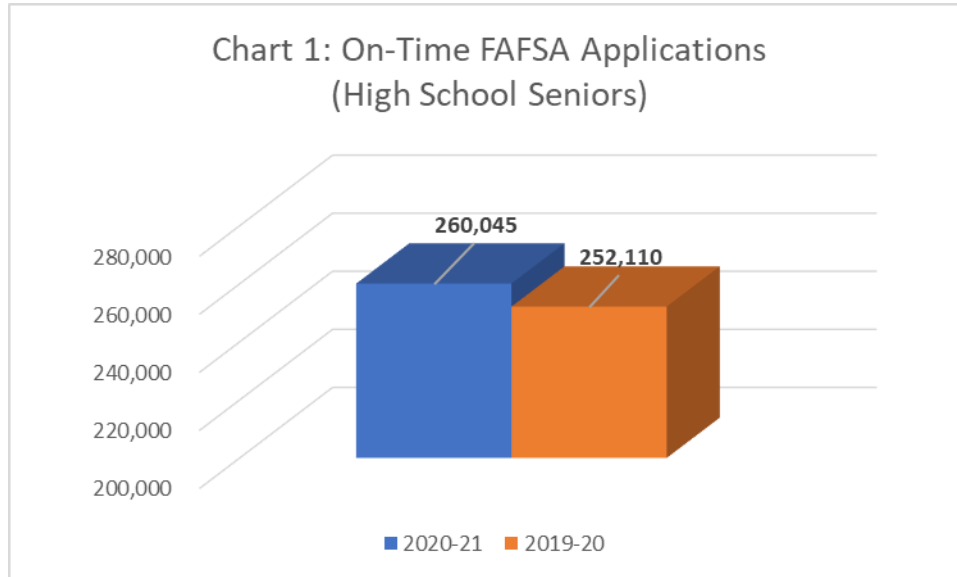
Commission staff continues to collaborate with campus financial aid administrators, segmental offices, high school counselors and other advocates to assist and support Dream Act students in applying for state financial aid through the CADAA.

ANALYSIS:**2020-21 Financial Aid Applications**

FASFA applications increased year-over-year for first-time high school students graduating in 2020. Chart 1 shows the number of completed FAFSA applications as of the first week of March for the 2020-21 and 2019-20 application years. The FAFSA submission rate for graduating high school

California Student Aid Commission

seniors increased by three percent or about 8,000 applications when compared to the prior application season. Completed applications are those that have generated a valid Expected Family Contribution and can be processed for Cal Grant award consideration.



This is a significant trend. California increased its 2020 FAFSA completion for high school seniors, while during the same period the national trend was down by 2 percent. Moreover, California high school enrollment declined by one percent during this time period, another indicator that could suggest a decrease in FAFSA completions for high school students.

This increase may be attributed to the Commission's ongoing commitment to increase outreach to schools in communities with high percentages of low-income students and low college participation rates. The Commission has also leveraged key partnerships to increase awareness of the financial aid opportunities available to students in California, such as hosting Cash for College workshops for students and their families and statewide financial aid workshops for counselors, school administrators and student advocates. In addition, the Commission's Race to Submit Dashboard encourages all California public high schools and districts to view, track and increase their FAFSA/CADAA applications and Cal Grant award counts each year. The Commission and other partners celebrate and recognize the success of schools that make significant strides in increasing FAFSA/CADAA completion by the March 2 deadline.

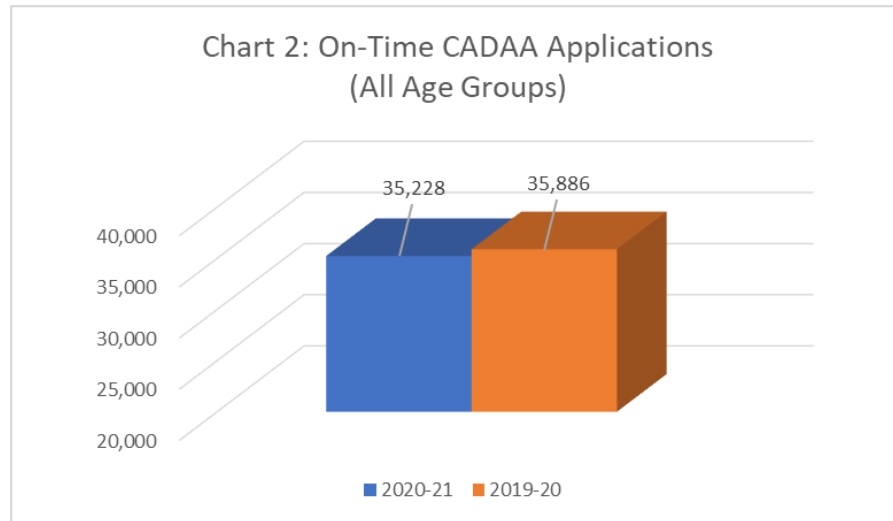
In contrast, CADAA applications decreased by two percentage points when compared to 2019-20. This could be in part explained by the one percent decrease in senior enrollment for the 2020-21 academic year as well as the uncertainty amidst the current political climate that make Dream Act students and their families hesitant to complete the financial aid application.

Some of the unique financial aid challenges that have been identified for Dream Act students include: understanding their eligibility and making preparations to cover any financial gap remaining from their total Cost of Attendance, since they do not qualify for federal financial aid. Students must also distinguish between the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy and the CADAA, and manage the uncertainty of providing parent or personal information for fear that the information could be used to compromise their immigration status.

California Student Aid Commission

Commission staff are working with dreamer resource personnel and immigrant rights groups to help provide a safe environment for undocumented students to complete their CADAA applications during the next cycle.

Chart 2 compares the number of CADAAs received by the March 2, 2020 Cal Grant and Middle-Class Scholarship deadline against the applications received from the previous year at this same point in time.

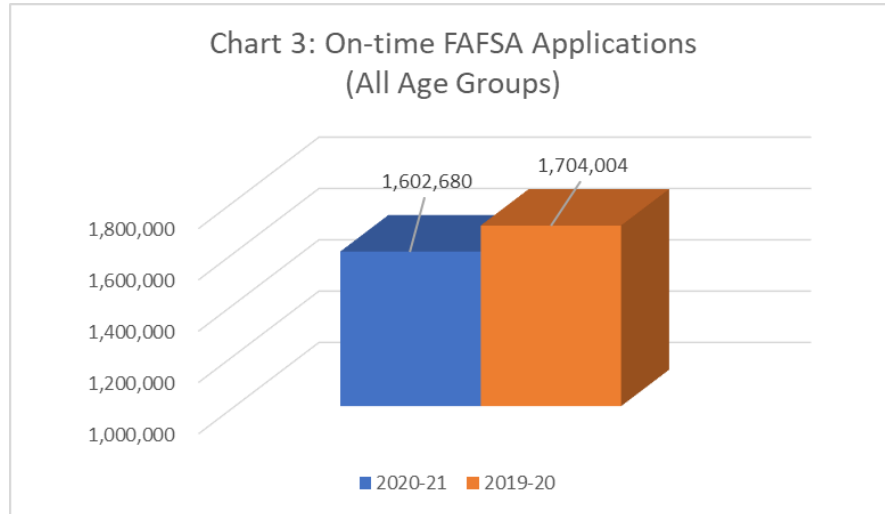


The overall number of FAFSAs completed from all age groups is down by six percent when compared to the 2019-20 application year. These figures encompass FAFSA filers from all age groups, not just high school seniors.

This is a more challenging group of students to target. They are typically older/non-traditional students who may not be affiliated with an education institution and, therefore, hard to reach. Many of these students have until the September 2nd FAFSA/CADAA application deadline, if they are planning on attending a California Community College or are renewal students are not tied to the March 2 submission deadline. Commission staff will continue to analyze trends in FAFSA/CADAA application submissions and develop more strategic outreach to this older/nontraditional population in an attempt to increase participation.

California Student Aid Commission

As shown in Chart 3, the Commission received 1,602,680 FAFSAs by the March 2, 2020 Cal Grant and Middle-Class Scholarship deadline. This is a six percent decrease when compared to the same period in 2019-20.



Grade Point Average (GPA) Data

The Commission has received approximately 99 percent of expected GPAs for public schools and over 70 percent from private schools for class of 2020. There are approximately 4,400 remaining high school seniors who still need to submit GPAs to complete their application. They have until May 18 to submit their GPAs. These GPA submission numbers are consistent with the prior application year with a slight increase in GPA submissions from private schools.

Although private high schools are not mandated by law to submit senior GPAs, the Commission continues to encourage them to submit and communicate the benefits of receiving consideration for the Cal Grant and other state financial aid programs. Efforts to increase timely GPA submissions throughout the 2020-21 application period included, but were not limited to:

- Customer support to high schools, school districts and counties through phone and email.
- Training through live and recorded webinars, as well as in-person training.
- Statewide Financial Aid Workshops in partnership with the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) and the California Community College Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA).
- Communications through the Commission's List-Serv. Several Grant Operations Memos and Grant Special Alerts were released throughout the 2020-21 application season. These communications included reminders of high school deadlines per California Education Code section 69432.9 related to GPA electronic submissions, opt-out provisions for students, high school graduation verifications, as well as available trainings.

California Student Aid Commission

Cal Grant High School Entitlement Awards

The Commission ran its initial High School Entitlement award cycle on December 20, 2019. As of April 20, 2020, new high school entitlement awards have been offered to **155,034 students**. Chart 4 provides an overview of the number of 2020-21 and 2019-20 high school entitlement award offers to FAFSA and CADAA applicants by the **March 2 deadline**. Year-over-year there was a nominal 0.7 percent decline Cal Grant Entitlement offers.

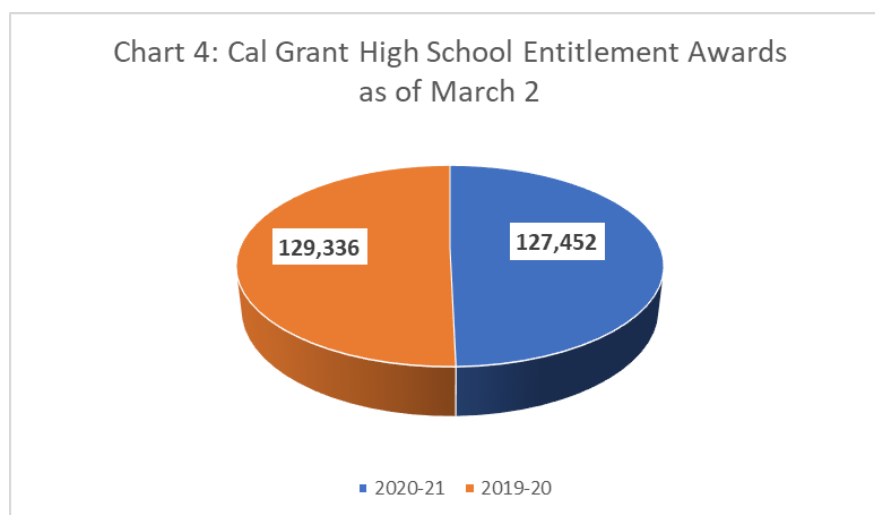
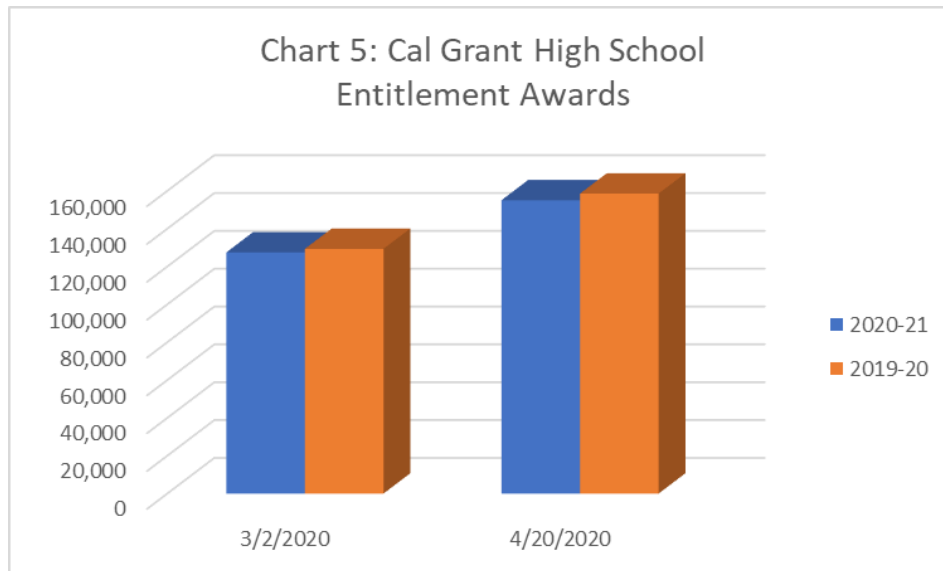


Chart 5 provides a comparison of the number of additional award offers made between **March 2 and April 20** for both academic years. During this period, there was a 22 percent increase for award offers for 2020-21 awards compared to a 23 percent increase for 2019-20 awards. Even though there was a flurry of new awards offered, this is still slight decline in Cal Grant Entitlement offers year-over-year.

Cal Grant awards offered after the March 2 deadline typically come from students who completed their applications on-time, but were missing a parent signature or needed corrections in order to generate a valid expected family contribution. Students also have the opportunity to appeal to receive Cal Grant award consideration, if circumstances beyond their control prevented them from completing their Cal Grant application (FAFSA/CADAA and GPA) by the March 2 deadline.

California Student Aid Commission



Cash for College Workshops

Cash for College (CFC) workshops provide hands-on assistance to low-income and first-generation students and parents to complete the FAFSA, CADAA, and Chafee Grant applications through partnerships with local and regional organizations. Cash for College Regional Coordinating Organizations and Commission staff conducted 1,095 workshops between October 1, 2019 and March 2, 2020. Students attending CFC workshops are asked to complete an electronic survey to summarize their workshop experience. More than 24,000 CFC surveys were completed during the 2020-21 application season and over 33,000 students were served through CFC workshops. The workshops are evaluated with a 5-star rating system, with one star for the lowest rating, and five stars for the highest score. The 2020-21 CFC workshops received an overall 4.74 rating with many positive comments from its participants.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Steve Caldwell, Interim Deputy Director
Program Administration and Services Division

Alessandra Morrison, Assistant Deputy Director
Program Support Services Branch

Item 13

(Information Item)

Update on implementation of new programs

SUMMARY:

This agenda item provides an update on the implementation of new programs established through the 2019 California Budget Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

On July 1, 2019, Governor Newsom approved Senate Bill 75 Education finance: education omnibus budget trailer bill, and Senate Bill 77 Higher education trailer bill. Among other financial aid opportunities for college going students, the 2019 California Budget Act established the following programs under the administration of the California Student Aid Commission (Commission):

- Golden State Teacher Grant Program
- Child Savings Account Program
- Dreamer Service Incentive Grant Program
- Awards for Students with Dependent Children

The following report provides an update on the implementation of these programs.

REPORT:

Golden State Teacher Grant Program

The Golden State Teacher Grant Program (GSTG) SB 75 (Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019) encourages students to consider earning a teaching credential to teach in a high-need field, at a priority school, in California for four years, within five years after completing a teacher preparation program. Participants must be enrolled in a teacher preparation program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) within a California institution of higher education on or after January 1, 2020. Applicants must agree to all terms and conditions of the GSTG program, including repayment if requirements are not met. The award funds a payment of \$20,000 to more than 4,400 eligible students across California. GSTG awards became available during the 2019-20 Spring term.

Prior to implementation of the GSTG program, Commission staff met with members of the Financial Aid Advisory Board (FAAB), CTC and the State Board of Education to clarify program procedures. Several concerns were expressed related to the timing of the award, eligible teacher preparation programs, financial aid packaging, and the repayment conditions. The State Board of Education

California Student Aid Commission

worked with the Commission staff to propose amendments to the GSTG statutory language through the Technical Cleanup Trailer Bill (attached).

Current Status of the Program: More than 700 students have applied for GSTG awards and are currently pending confirmation of eligibility. However, Commission staff have placed the GSTG program on hold pending the May Revision of the Governor's Budget and the outcome of the proposed changes in the Trailer Bill language. The GSTG page on the Commission's website has been updated to reflect the current status.

Child Savings Account Program

The Child Savings Account Grant Program (CSA Grant Program) was enacted in the 2019-20 State Budget (Education Code Chapter 4 added by Senate Bill 77, Ch. 53, 2019 Sec. 18) to support local governments and nonprofit organizations that sponsor or collaborate on one or more comprehensive citywide or regional child savings account programs.

The statute allocates twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000), available for encumbrance or expenditure through June 30, 2022, in one-time General Fund dollars to CSA Grant Program awards. The amount of each grant award shall be at a minimum, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

- Up to 74 percent or eighteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$18,500,000) of the funding shall be used to initiate a new local child savings account program.
- A minimum of 24 percent or six million dollars (\$6,000,000) of the funding shall be used to expand an existing local child savings account program.
- Two percent or five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) shall be used by the Commission to provide outreach and administration of the program.

The enacting statute also requires the Commission to provide technical assistance, meet and confer with a Child Savings Account Council (Council), and develop a toolkit to assist local entities in establishing Child Savings Account programs. Commission staff has prepared a draft Request for Applications (RFA) document to be reviewed by the Council prior to the Commission's review and subsequent release of the RFA.

Current Status of the Program: Commission staff scheduled the inaugural Council meeting for April 17, 2020. However, the meeting has been postponed and the program has been placed on hold pending the May Revision of the Governor's Budget.

Dreamer Service Incentive Grant Program

SEC. 13. Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 69438) was added to Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code to establish the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program, which was later renamed the Dreamer Service Incentive Grant Program through Assembly Bill 540.

The program is currently limited to 2,500 students at any one time and awards eligible students on a first-come-first-served basis. In order to receive a grant under the program, a student must be a Cal Grant B recipient and must perform at least 100 hours per quarter or 150 hours per semester of community or volunteer service. The community or volunteer service must be performed at an

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approved organization and cannot be advocacy of a political, social, or religious nature. The service should be related to the student's field of study or be in furtherance of community service or a community need. Once a student has met the minimum service requirement, the student is eligible for an award of up to one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per semester or one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per quarter. Eligible students could receive a grant under the program for a maximum of eight semesters or 12 quarters.

Current Status of the Program: Commission staff have established a workgroup in collaboration with the FAAB and is currently working on the implementation of this program. The workgroup is comprised of representatives from the different higher education segments and advocacy organizations. The workgroup has agreed upon a process and workflow. The Commission anticipates opening the application process for eligible students beginning July 1, 2020. Commission staff are also working on developing the website and marketing materials for the program. There are currently over 16,700 potentially eligible students.

Commission staff continues to build the business requirements for this program from which the Information Technology solutions will continue to be built. Staff is also finalizing the application process and establishing the entities that will provide the service opportunities. **At the next Commission meeting, staff will provide an update on the community service sites slated to participate in the program.** Students will submit a DSIG application and once accepted into the program, service hours will be tracked in weekly service logs validated by an approved program supervisor.

Awards for Students with Dependent Children

SEC. 14. Article 9 (commencing with Section 69465) was added to Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code to establish the Awards for Students with Dependent Children commencing with the 2019-20 academic year. These awards offer increased opportunities for low-income student-parents by providing additional access funds to Cal Grant A, B and C recipients attending a University of California, California State University, or a California Community College campus.

Awards for Students with Dependent Children (SWD) define a dependent child or children as under 18 years of age whose parent or legal guardian is the student, and if the child or children receive more than 50 percent of their support from the student. The Commission was tasked with identifying all students with dependent children who meet the following criteria:

1. Recipients of a new or renewal Cal Grant A, B or C award
2. Attending a University of California, California State University, or California Community College campus

Cal Grant A or B recipients who meet the qualifying criteria could receive a total annual access award of up to six thousand dollars (\$6,000). Qualifying Cal Grant C recipients could receive a total annual books and supplies award of up to four thousand dollars (\$4,000). These awards may be adjusted in the annual Budget Act and can be used to cover living expenses, institutional fees, charges, and other costs, including tuition and training-related costs, such as special clothing, local transportation, and required tools, equipment, supplies, technology, and books.

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The amount appropriated in the Budget Act for the 2019-20 academic year is one hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$125,000,000). The Commission must determine on an annual basis if the amount appropriated for each fiscal year is sufficient to cover the cumulative cost of the funding projected to be awarded. If the amount appropriated is not sufficient to meet the funding projection for a fiscal year, the Commission shall reduce awards proportionately by an equal percentage for all new recipients under this program for that fiscal year.

With less than six weeks before the start of the 2019-20 fall term, the Commission proposed a phased in approach to implement this program within the legacy Grant Delivery System platform. The Commission set up an SWD workgroup with segment representatives to review the business requirements, establish a targeted timeline and develop a technical solution. The phases focused on 1) student identification; 2) certification and updated award amounts; and 3) reports and grant record changes.

Phase I: Identification of Students with Dependent Children (August 2019)

Commission staff and the SWD workgroup agreed to add a program identifier to the Web Grant's online display roster utilizing information provided on question 51 of the student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) regarding dependent children. Question 51 asks students whether they have dependent children. Responding "Yes" to this question means the student has dependent children who receive more than half of their financial support from them.

The SWD program identifier was added in August of 2019 to assist financial aid administrators to identify potentially eligible students for the increased access awards and prepare for additional disbursements and changes in the students' financial aid package. Approximately 50,000 students were identified as potentially eligible for the increased access awards during this initial phase. Institutions were able to pay the base award payments for these students while waiting for Phase II of implementation.

Phase II: Certification of Eligibility and Updated Award Amounts (December 2019)

Students were identified as potentially eligible for the SWD awards based on their response to Question 51 on the FAFSA. The next step was to determine eligibility for the program by asking students to self-certify that their children were under 18 years of age.

The Commission established a Yes/No self-certification process for SWD students through the WebGrants for Students portal. Institutions also had the ability to certify on behalf of their students when they have confirmation that the dependents are under 18 years of age. Once the certification was completed by the student or the institution, the payment hold was removed immediately (real-time) and the school could proceed with reporting a payment in WebGrants.

As part of developing this new program, Commission staff for the first time created a non-tuition Access Award for Cal Grant A students. Prior to this program, only Cal Grant B students were eligible to receive Access Awards. The program is now well underway. Commission staff have learned a great deal from this first-year experience that they plan to use to strengthen implementation and paid rates for the upcoming financial aid cycle.

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Communication to students with dependents is a critical strategy to optimize the benefits of this program for the maximum number of students. Commission staff sent numerous weekly email reminders to students flagged as potentially eligible for a SWD award asking them to complete the certification process for their school to disburse their Cal Grant award. This issue has been discussed extensively during the Financial Aid Advisory Board meetings to increase certification and thus paid rates. Staff will examine various new communications strategies to increase participation and paid rate in the future.

As of April 21, 2020, over 27,000 students were certified eligible for the increased access award. On average, 80 percent of the certifications of eligibility came from the students either through their WebGrants for students account or paper form and 20 percent came directly from the institutions.

Phase III: Reports and Grant Record Changes (currently in development)

The final phase of the SWD implementation for the 2019-20 academic year will include updating the applicable WebGrants reports to accurately reflect the number of SWD Cal Grant A access award recipients. This makes it easier for institutions to customize their SWD student rosters and update the number of students who have certified their eligibility. This also allows Commission staff to make changes on SWD eligibility per the Grant Record Change process for institutions. Until this phase is completed, all changes currently require the Commission's application development team to make changes manually.

Program Metrics

As of December 30, 2019, there were 50,391 Cal Grant awardees with potential eligibility for the SWD supplemental access awards (answered Yes to question 51 on their FAFSA/CADAA). The following table provides a breakdown of these students:

Category	Number of Students
Confirmed SWD Eligible	27,114
Confirmed SWD Ineligible	1,699
Withdrawn Awards	856
No Response to SWD Eligibility	20,722
Totals	50,391

Category Description

- Confirmed SWD Eligible: Met all eligibility criteria for Cal Grant and SWD supplemental access awards.
- Confirmed SWD Ineligible: Cal Grant awardees who did not meet SWD criteria (do not have dependent children or dependent children are not under 18 years of age).
- Withdrawn Awards: Students who did not meet Cal Grant eligibility after verification or withdrew during the competitive award recycle process.

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- No Response to SWD Eligibility: Cal Grant awardees who did not complete the SWD certification process. These students may not be enrolled in college or not in attendance at a Cal Grant Eligible Institution. This is a population we intend to examine further to understand their non-response to a generous Cal Grant award supplement.

The following charts include data on SWD eligible students as of April 21, 2020:

Chart 1 shows the distribution of SWD students per segment type based on current verified claims. Most eligible students with dependent children are attending a California Community College.

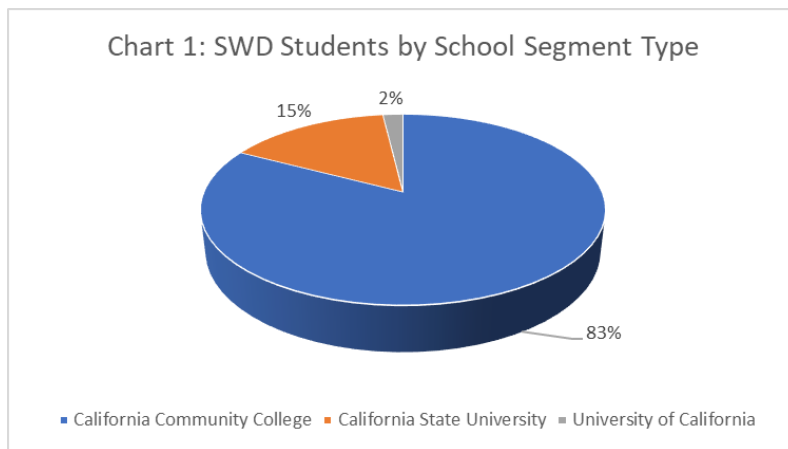
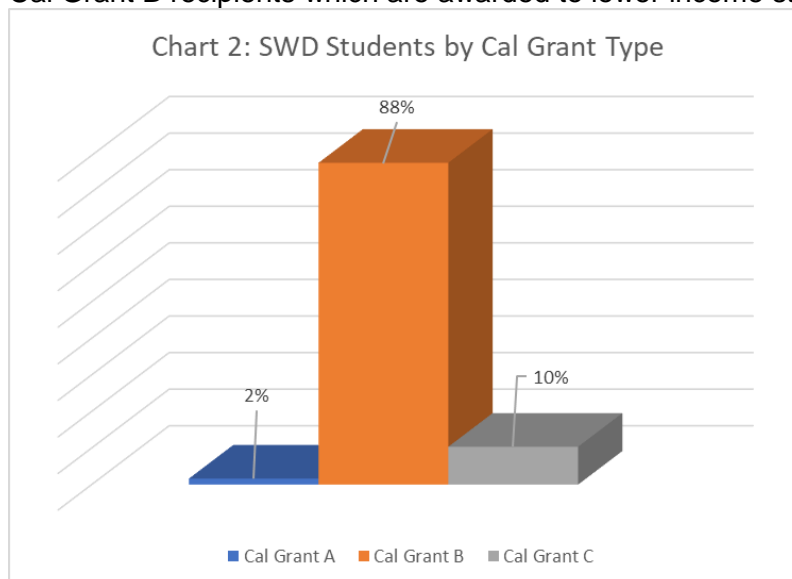


Chart 2 shows the distribution of SWD students per Cal Grant program type (A, B, C); 88 percent of these students are Cal Grant B recipients which are awarded to lower income students.



California Student Aid Commission

Chart 3 shows the distribution of SWD students per program award cycle. Ninety two percent of SWD students have a Cal Grant Competitive Award which serves primarily older students returning to school. The awards are distributed between the March 2 (all school segments) and the September 2 (community college) competitive award cycles.

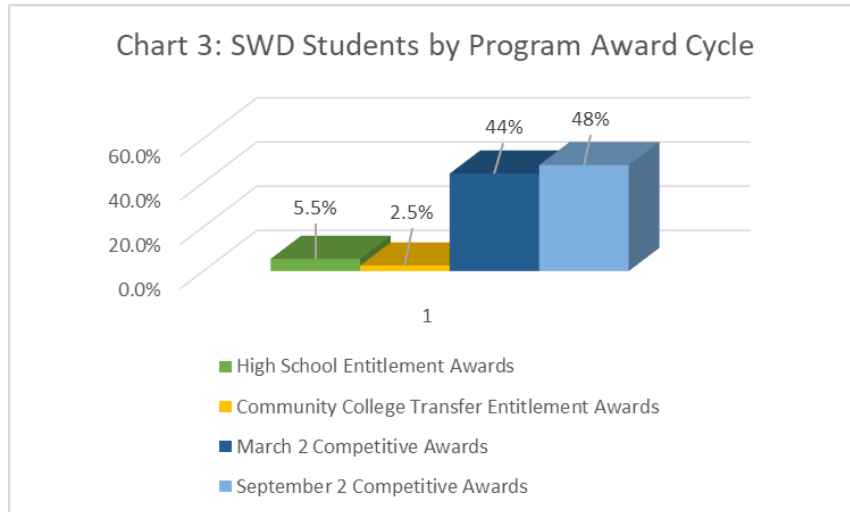
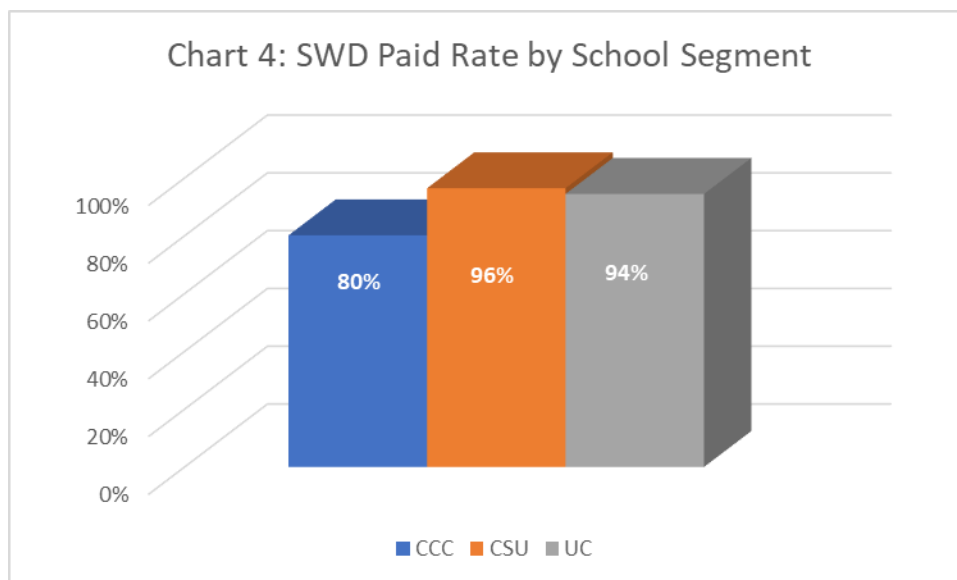


Chart 4 shows the paid rate for SWD eligible students by school segment. Confirmed SWD students have an overall paid rate of 90 percent. Commission staff will continue to work with the schools to ensure all eligible students receive their Cal Grant funds.



California Student Aid Commission

Budget Appropriation for SWD Access Awards:

2019-20 SWD Budget Appropriation	118,318,000.00
Current SWD Paid Amount	77,798,582.00
Current SWD Awarded Amount (pending payment)	16,554,566.00
Remaining SWD Funds	23,964,852.00

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Steve Caldwell, Interim Deputy Director
Program Administration and Services Division

Alessandra Morrison, Assistant Deputy Director
Program Support Services Branch

Gurinder Bains, Chief Information Officer
Information Technology Services Division

ATTACHMENT(S):

Golden State Teacher Grant Technical Clean Up Trailer Bill

Golden State Teacher Grant Amendments

Sec 1. Education Code Section 69617 is amended to read:

69617. (a) (1) Subject to moneys appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of this section, the Student Aid Commission shall administer the Golden State Teacher Grant Program. Under the program, the Student Aid Commission shall provide one-time grant funds of up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to each student enrolled on or after January 1, 2020, in a professional preparation program within a California institution of higher education leading to a preliminary teaching credential, approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, if the student commits to working in a high-need field at a priority school for four years after the student receives the teaching credential.

(2) Funds appropriated for this purpose in the Budget Act of 2019 shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure by the commission until June 30, 2022.

(3) These funds shall be used to supplement and not supplant other sources of grant financial aid.

(b) The ~~total number of~~ one-time grant funds issued pursuant to this section shall not exceed ~~4,487~~ the amount appropriated in the Budget Act of 2019.

(c) (1) A grant recipient shall agree to teach in a high-need field at a priority school for four years and shall have five years, upon completion of the recipient's preparation program, to meet that obligation. Except as provided in paragraph (4), a grant recipient shall agree to repay the state ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~ twenty-five percent (25%) of the total award annually, up to full repayment of ~~twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)~~ the award, for each year the recipient fails to do one or more of the following:

(A) Be enrolled in or have successfully completed a teacher preparation program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

(B) While enrolled in the teacher preparation program, maintain good academic standing.

(C) Upon completion of the teacher preparation program, satisfy the state basic skills proficiency test requirement pursuant to Sections 44252 and 44252.5.

(D) Complete the required teaching service following completion of the recipient's teacher preparation program.

(2) Nonperformance of the commitment to teach in a high-need field at a priority school for four years shall be certified by the State Department of Education.

(3) Nonperformance of the commitment to earn a preliminary teaching credential in a high-need field shall be certified by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to the Student Aid Commission.

(4) Any exceptions to the requirement for repayment shall be defined by the Student Aid Commission, and may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, counting a school year towards the required four-year teaching requirement if a grant recipient is unable to complete the school year when any of the following occur:

(A) The grant recipient has completed at least one-half of the school year.

(B) The employer deems the grant recipient to have fulfilled the grant recipient's contractual requirements for the school year for the purposes of salary increases, probationary or permanent status, and retirement.

(C) The grant recipient was not able to teach due to the financial circumstances of the school district, including a decision to not reelect the employee for the next succeeding school year.

(D) The grant recipient has a condition covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 2601 et seq.) or similar state law.

(E) The grant recipient was called or ordered to active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(d) The Student Aid Commission may use up to 1.5 percent of funding appropriated for purposes of this section for outreach and administration.

(e) For purposes of this section, "high-need field" means any of the following:

(1) Bilingual education.

(2) Mathematics or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), including computer science and career technical education in STEM areas.

(3) Science.

(4) Special education.

(5) Multiple subject instruction.

(6) Other subjects as designated annually by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing based on an analysis of the availability of teachers in California pursuant to Section 44225.6.

(f) (1) A "priority school" means either of the following criteria:

(A) a school with a high percentage, as determined by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in consultation with the State Department of Education, of teachers holding emergency-type permits, based on the most recent data available to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the State Department of Education.

(B) A school with a high percentage, as determined by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in consultation with the State Department of Education, of low-income pupils.

(2) By January 1, 2020, the The Commission on Teacher Credentialing shall publish a list of priority schools by January 1 of any year for which moneys have been appropriated by the Legislature to support grants pursuant to this section.

~~(2)~~ (3) For purposes of this section, "emergency-type permits" include, but not are limited to, any of the following:

(A) Provisional internships.

(B) Short-term staff permits.

(C) Credential waivers.

(D) Substitute permits.

Item 14

(Information Item)

Update on the Grant Delivery System Modernization Project

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the Grant Delivery System Modernization Project (GDSM) and the next phase of deliverables.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required

BACKGROUND:

CSAC began the planning phase of the GDSM Project in the 2013-14 fiscal year based on the inadequacies of the current 30-year-old Grant Delivery System (GDS) technology. The existing GDS system has limited capability, aging technology, and disjointed functionality which causes new legislative required programs to be supported through either manual processes or the development and implementation of additional one-off systems. The existing GDS has several critical single points of failures and limited disaster recovery capability.

The GDSM Project Team officially kicked off the GDSM development in October 2018. Presently, the GDSM development project is in its' second year of four years (two years of development and two years of maintenance and operations). To date, the team has developed, tested, and released the modernized WebGrants for Students portal and Chafee online application, both now in production. Over 187,000 students have created a WebGrants account since December 16, 2019, and thousands have logged in to check their award status, change passwords, or other demographic information and make a school change.

The new WebGrants for Students portal is a secure, single sign-on system with advanced features that allows the users to access their information and new tools to help guide them through their Cal Grant process. The modernized applications for the California National Guard Program and the California Dream Act are currently being tested and will be deployed when completed. The team has also developed a state-of-the-art infrastructure with no single point of failure and with built-in disaster recovery.

The second phase of GDSM, WebGrants for Institutions, began in August of 2019 and has included a series of stakeholder meetings. Earlier this year, Commission staff and business analysts visited several institutions from various higher education segments to understand their daily use of the current GDS applications and to identify and prioritize how to address their pain points. The most common GDS pain points were matched with original requirements to ensure we can address them within the State-approved GDSM project scope.

California Student Aid Commission

ANALYSIS:

The CSAC Project teams have been working collaboratively with key stakeholders and student groups, parents, institutional financial aid administrators, high school counselors, and other interested organizations to understand priority needs for the GDSM project to address. The functions of the modernized system were identified, developed, and finalized during the California Department of Technology Project Approval Lifecycle (PAL) process.

The agile method was adopted for this project, which means that the project team plans its' schedule of items to be completed within a two-week "sprint" and delivers code and other necessary artifacts at the end of each sprint. Deliverables include mockup design, business input, code development, testing, documentation, and final release on production servers. This allows the team to plan a major release of the application every three months. At this time the project is running about 8 weeks behind the original schedule due to competing priorities, such as the software development required to address Student with Dependents award changes.

HIGH-LEVEL ARTIFACTS DELIVERED:

October 1, 2019	Identity Management System
October 1, 2019	Infrastructure (Network, Servers, Database) for GDSM
December 16, 2019	Webgrants for Students
December 16, 2019	Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)
February 4, 2020	Chafee Application
February 7, 2020	Chafee Website

HIGH LEVEL PLANNED DELIVERABLES:

California National Guard Program:	In Testing
California Dream Act Application:	In Testing
WebGrants for Institutions:	In Development

The GDSM Project Team continues to look for ways to accelerate the GDSM project timeline without compromising the integrity of the initiative. The project is expected to be completed in November 2020. Upon completion of the project, Modernized Grant Delivery System will have the following features:

- Latest Technology Platform
- Accessible via all modern browsers, smart phones, and tablets
- Expanded Self Service
- Ease of use to Students and Institutions
- Improved and automated processes
- ADA Compliant
- Improved Security, Stability, and Performance
- Greater resilience and adaptability
- Highly available infrastructure with built-in disaster recovery

The final stage of GDSM in 2021 is stabilization and training state staff for ongoing maintenance and operations. At the end of this stage, the GDS legacy system will be retired.

California Student Aid Commission

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Steve Caldwell, Interim Deputy Director
Program Administration and Services Division

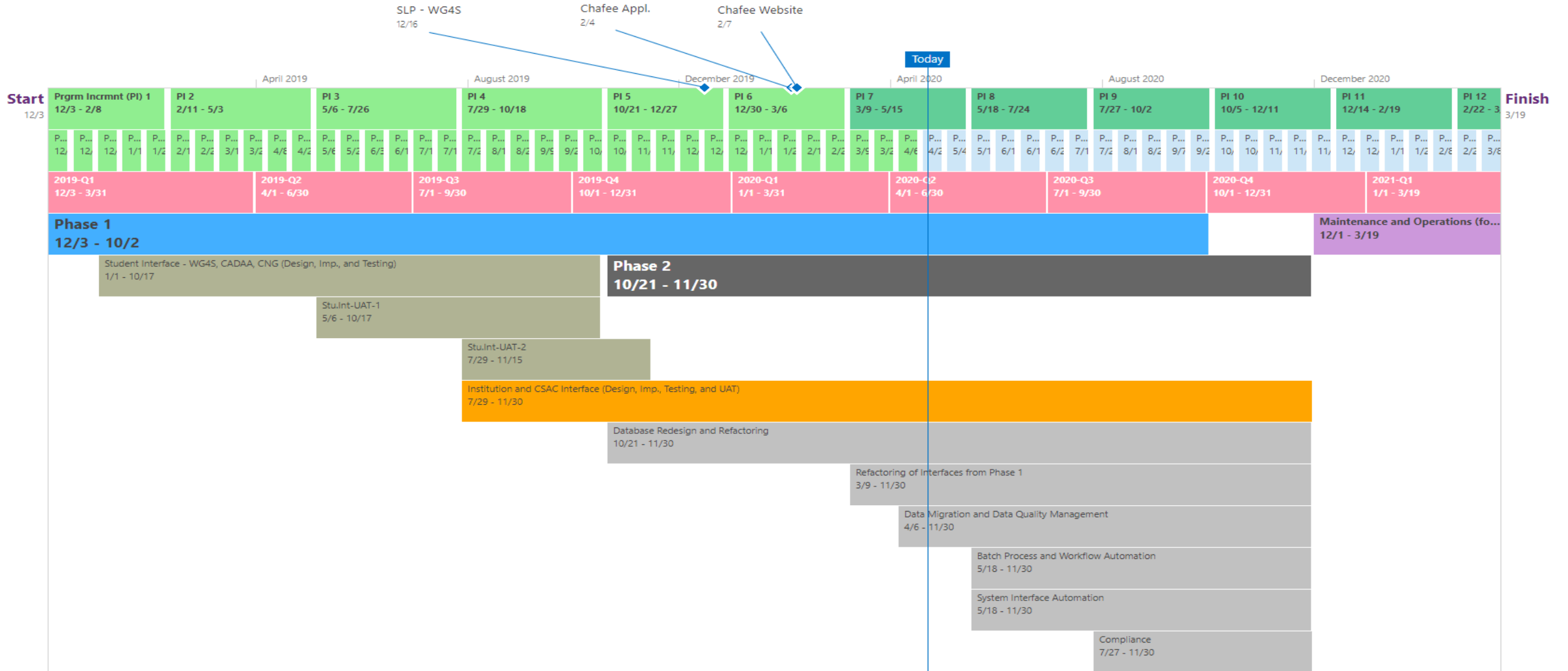
Gurinder Bains, Chief Information Officer
Information Technology Services Division

George Polisner, Information Technology Manager
Information Technology Services Division

ATTACHMENT(S):

GDSM Project Timeline

GDSM Efficiency List



Last Update Date: 4/24/2020

GDSM Efficiency List Phase 1		
	GDS	GDSM
General:		
1. Device Compatibility	Currently the legacy system is only available on modern devices such as computers and laptops.	Compatible with different devices such as computers, laptops and all mobile devices
2. Browser Compatibility	Currently the legacy system is recommended only for Internet Explorer version 9.0 and Google Chrome version 24.0.	Compatible across various browsers.
3. Clean Formatting and Look	The format of WebGrants 4 Students is dated, complicated and not user friendly for the student.	In GDSM, Web grants 4 students has been reformatted to provide a cleaner and more modern look.
4. Information Display	WebGrants 4 Students currently forces students to visit multiple pages for information about their award offer.	A Centralized Display for student information is available on one page / window, so student spends less time navigating. It is more user friendly with improved system functionality and need for less clicks to get information.
5. Display of Awards	Too much information displayed using technical descriptions that confuses students.	Displays various awards as panels with award information are distinctly separated out as: Application Status, Award Status, Annual Award Amount, and Remaining Program Eligibility for each program award. Only displays awards that students are considered for and thereby, avoids confusion
6. Forms	Most forms are in PDF format that must be manually filled in, sent in by student and manually entered into the system by the CSAC Staff.	Implemented electronic web forms resulting in a process that is fully automated, paperless and lends to a faster processing turnaround and more timely response to student.

7. ADA Compliance	Not currently ADA Compliant.	All Electronic Web-forms and PDF documents are ADA Compliant.
8. CSAC Staff view of Student SLP	Staff has a different view than the student's view creating difficulty in guiding the student through the various pages.	The CSAC Staff and student will have identical views which will assist the staff in guiding the student and help reduce call times.
9. Information for self service	Currently the system has a lot of informational text that is confusing and too generic.	The verbiage has been revised to make the information concise and clear to the student.
10. Organized tab	Currently available as a dropdown and is difficult to toggle back and forth.	Organized tab items displayed above the award panel to provide information based on the academic year.
11. Time out Notifications	Alert activated only after an extended period of inactivity.	Implemented alert on the UI after 3 minutes of inactivity which if not responded to logs the student out. This enhances the security.
Chafee:		
12. Out of State School Form	Currently, the student must call CSAC staff to add a school that is not listed as a Chafee school.	An electronic form has been developed to add any new school to the list of Chafee schools.
13. School Change history	Currently not shown.	School change history displayed on the School Change screen and School of Attendance card.
14. Chafee and Cal Grant School Change	School change is possible but is a more complicated process.	Improved functionality to enable students to easily change schools and simultaneously update their record in the system. School Simulator provided to help student select new school.

15. Chafee Only School Change	School change link buried amongst text and difficult to locate.	School change button prominently displayed on the School of Attendance card on the Chafee panel.
16. Remaining Eligibility	Currently not displayed	Remaining Eligibility Card to display information about estimated program remaining eligibility.
17. Application and Award Status	Information is on a single page under Student Application Status and not easy to understand.	Chafee Application and Award status has been separated and displayed on different cards for clarity.
18. Payment History	Display of payment information difficult for student to understand and uses technical terms.	As part of Award History, student can access payment history and easy to read and understand.
Cal Grant:		
19. Not Awarded reasons feature	Does not provide information for students not awarded which leads to higher call volumes for explanation.	Reason for not being awarded is now prominently displayed on the Award Status button to help students better understand their status.
20. To Do list	Currently not available	A "To do" list is displayed on the application and award card for students whose awards in a pending status due to having to take action to get their award processed. With the "To Do" list the student is made aware of the outstanding items needed to clear their pending status.
21. School Comparison Chart	Currently not provided	Comparison chart of schools selected on FAFSA/CADAA to aid student in making their choice of school of attendance.
22. Cal Grant General Appeal functionality	Currently available as a PDF.	Implemented as an electronic Web Form.

23. California Aid Report (CAR)	Current CAR report too lengthy and confusing.	Implemented new CAR report for better understanding by the student. CAR report made more easily accessible. Student has the ability to download and print CAR.
24. Student Action Items	Student must call CSAC for clarity on next steps to take.	Action Items moved to "To-Do" list on pending Award Status Card.
25. Community College Reserve (CCR) Appeal	Currently CCR Appeal form is hard to find.	Moved CCR appeal functionality to "To-Do" list on pending Award Status Card for easier access.
26. Appeals	A paper and manual process.	Offered through the student portal allowing the student to track and keep a record of the request.
27. Cal C Supplement Form and Transfer Entitlement Form	Student submits a paper copy.	Electronic web forms accessible through the student portal and can be submitted online.
Notifications:		
28. Time sensitive Alerts	Currently not available.	Implementing time sensitive Alerts to notify students of any action to be taken to confirm their award.
29. Communication Center	Currently not available	Consolidated communication center to help students manage their communications to and from the system and CSAC staff.
30. Notifications Icon	Currently not available	Notifications icon to notify student of unread communications.
31. Edit Demographic Information	Student unable to edit most demographic information and calls for assistance and mails in supporting documents.	Student is able to edit demographic information and upload supporting documents for a more timely response.

32. Printable ID Card	Currently no ID card available	Students are able to download and print Cal Grant ID Cards for easy reference.
33. Email Notification of Changes	Manual process	Email Notification sent by system to the student of any changes to any information on their portal.
CNG:		
34. Web grants 4 students	Currently not available	Access granted to students awarded a CNG award.
35. CNG Panel	Currently not available	Students awarded the CNG grant will have all information regarding their award distributed across 6 cards in the CNG panel.
36. CNG Application Login	Currently not available	Student will have the ability to login to complete and save their application.
37. CNG Electronic Web Forms	Currently not available	Student will have the capability to verify enrollment, submit Leave of Absence and other forms online.
38. CNG School Change Online	Currently not available	Student will have the capability to simulate school changes and choose new school of attendance.
CADAA:		
39. Look and features of CADAA website	Currently does not translate well to mobile devices and is recommended only for Internet Explorer version 9.0 and Google Chrome version 24.0.	The CADAA website has been reformatted to provide a cleaner and fresher look and to be compatible across multiple browsers and with various mobile and modern devices.
40. Language Translation	Currently not available	Entire CADAA website will have the capability to be translated into multiple languages.

41. Dream Act Application	Current application is in one page and is very lengthy and overwhelming for the student.	Application has been broken down into Student, Parent and Sign and Submit Sections to cut down on errors. The application has been broken down within each section into smaller pages to make the application process easier for the student.
42. Save feature	Limited save application capabilities.	Additional and multiple save features to prevent student from losing data.
43. Progress bar	Currently not available.	A green check mark appears next to each section to indicate the progress being made through the application.
MCS:		
44. Award Status	Currently not Available	Student can easily access Award Status.
45. Award History	Currently not Available	Student ability to see prior year Award History.
46. Payment History	Currently not Available	Student ability to see Payment History.
Infrastructure:		
47. Architecture	On premise tiered architecture.	Amazon cloud-based Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) – uses SOA approach for business-driven technology architecture for business and system agility and flexibility, Using AWS container-based architecture using EC2/ECS/ECR/LB/ELK
48. Identity Manager	Custom programming for each application that has unique implementation and limited scalability.	WSO2 Identity Manager open source IAM solution to federate and manage identities across applications and SSO.

49. Application	Tightly coupled Application	N-Tier Distributed Architecture – supports horizontal and vertical scalability.
50. API Manager	Not Applicable	WSO2 API Manager for API management capability to help with reuse, security and scaling.
51. Technology used	Currently uses asp.net, more server- side technology.	The application is implemented using open source tools/technologies that are completely technology platform agnostic (such as Angular JS, CSS, jQuery, REST API, Springboot).
52. Code	Large Monolithic Code base.	Microservice Based Architecture. The Business and Technical Services are implemented using Microservices API architecture as RESTful web services for reusability.
53. Source Control	Manual checkin/build	CI pipeline with GIT/Jenkins
54. Deployment	Manual deployment	CD pipeline with AWS ECR/GIT/Jenkins

Item 15

(Information Item)

Presentation of Resolution to Nancy Anton and Glen Becerra, former Commissioners

SUMMARY:

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) will recognize and express its appreciation for former Commissioners Nancy Anton and Glen Becerra's service on the Commission representing California students.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Catalina Cifuentes
Chair

Marlene L. Garcia
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT(S):

Commissioner Nancy Anton's Resolution

Commissioner Glen Becerra's Resolution

Resolution
of the
California Student Aid Commission
honoring
Nancy Rose Anton

***Whereas,** Nancy Rose Anton was first appointed by then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010 to serve on the California Student Aid Commission. She is a leading expert on California higher education and financial aid policy after serving decades working in the California State Legislature. Anton was a principal consultant for the California State Education Committee from 1992-2009. During her tenure working for the Senate Education Committee, she worked on numerous key higher education policy issues. She played an integral role in the development and ultimate adoption of the 2001 Landmark Cal Grant Entitlement Program. She was the go-to expert in the state for developing policy solutions on financial aid, transfer and higher education data analysis, among other issues, all for the purpose of driving equity and educational opportunities for all students; and,*

***Whereas,** Nancy Anton developed her early policy experience when she was accepted to the prestigious California Assembly Fellowship Program in 1977, followed by an appointment to work as a consultant at the California Legislative Analyst's Office where she developed her keen fiscal and policy experience; and,*

***Whereas,** Nancy Anton drew on her deep higher education and financial aid expertise when serving on the Commission. She was a tireless advocate for student equity and was deeply concerned when students were awarded a Cal Grant award but did not take the final step to accept their awards. She and others referred to this as the "summer melt." She made this issue a top priority for the Commission, along with other key issues, such as offering financial aid to Dream Act students, expanding outreach to increase the number of students who complete the FAFSA or CADAA; and,*

***Whereas,** Nancy Anton always provided strong leadership while serving on the Commission. She was a strong advocate for having the Commission engage in an annual strategic planning process, which is now a routine part of annual planning. She chaired the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee from 2015 to 2019. She has served on numerous other committees, such as the Ad Hoc SEARS Committee, the Ad Hoc Dream Act Committee, and the Student Impact Committee. Anton has consistently worked to elevate the voices and concerns of college students throughout her career; and,*

***Whereas,** Nancy Anton served on the Student Aid Commission through one of the most consequential eras in its history, positioning the Commission to take a leadership role in efforts to reform and modernize California financial aid to best meet the needs of today's students; and,*

***Whereas,** Nancy Anton served as a legislative role model for women pursuing substantive policy roles working in the Legislature. She was one of the first legislative staffers to job share and work part-time while working as a powerful consultant for the Senate Education Committee. She paved the way for numerous female legislative staffers to balance family and work while making significant contributions to policy and the legislative process. She was one of the founders of a Capitol group called "Babies and Briefcases for Women"; and,*

Therefore, be it now

***Resolved,** this Commission and its staff commend Nancy Anton for her leadership and vision as a member of the California Student Aid Commission, and be it further*

***Resolved,** that the Commission and staff wish Nancy Anton continued personal and professional success in her future work, service and activities.*

Catalina Cifuentes
Chair

Marlene Garcia
Executive Director

Resolution
of the
California Student Aid Commission
honoring
Glen Becerra

Whereas, Glen Becerra was first appointed to the California Student Aid Commission in February 1992 until June 1994 as a University of California student representative and twenty-three years later was appointed by then Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to serve as the General Public Representative in March 2016 until February 2020 to continue his passion of making college education affordable and attainable for all students; and,

Whereas, Glen Becerra has served admirably as a Commissioner; as a member of the Legislative, Budget and Audit Committee in March 2016, and as the Vice Chair from June 2016 until February 28, 2020; and, as a member of the Personnel, Evaluation and Nominations Committee from March 29, 2016 to February 28, 2020; and,

Whereas, Glen Becerra has been a passionate advocate for education and empowering young people as a Regent of the California Lutheran University Board of Regents, as a board member of the Simi Valley Education Foundation and Simi Valley Boys and Girls Club, and as a Commissioner of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars; and,

Whereas, Glen Becerra has had a long career in service to others including serving as a Legislative Aid in the Office of California State Assemblymember James L. Brulte in 1996 and as the Deputy Director of External Affairs in the Office of the Governor from 1993 to 1996; and,

Whereas, Glen Becerra was a passionate, thoughtful voice for the needs and concerns of Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship students; and,

Whereas, Glen Becerra is currently the Executive Officer of Marketing at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority since 2015; and,

Whereas, Glen Becerra's background demonstrates his active leadership role, exemplary public service and hands-on involvement in multiple causes to help students; and,

Therefore, be it now

Resolved, *this Commission and its staff commend Mr. Glen Becerra for his leadership and vision as a member of the California Student Aid Commission, and be it further*

Resolved, *that the Commission and its staff wish him continued personal and professional success in his future work service and activities.*

Catalina Cifuentes,
Chair

Marlene L. Garcia
Executive Director