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Student Aid Commission Statement on Gov. Newsom's May Revision Budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 13, 2022 – The Student Aid Commission applauds Governor Newsom's Budget proposals to chart a course for higher education through historic compacts with the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC). Governor Newsom's focus on setting clear goals for degree and credential attainment, as well as closing the persistent equity gaps faced by low-income, Black, and Latino students, will help guide student-centered investments and initiatives in higher education.

"Governor Newsom's proposed higher education compacts help set a North Star for how California will serve students by making the pathway to a college education more accessible, affordable, and equitable" said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the Commission. "Additionally, adopting the [Cal Grant Equity Framework](#) would simplify state financial aid to serve more students in a more understandable and predictable way, furthering the focus on higher education affordability and equity in the Governor's May Revision."

Governor Newsom's May Revision features several new proposals that will support California's efforts to provide affordable pathways to higher education, including:

- Multi-year compacts with the UC and CSU, and multi-year roadmap with the CCC Chancellor's Office, focused on reducing student costs, as well as increasing inclusive student success to further reduce total costs of attendance through timely degree completion
- Additional resources to support the Student Aid Commission as it administers new programs established in 2021 and looks to expand its support to K-12 partners as they prepare for the new, universal approach to financial aid application completion starting in Fall 2022
- Improvements to the Golden State Teacher Grant program that offers up to \$20,000 for students in teacher preparation programs, as well as to California Dreamer Service Incentive Grants for California Dream Act Application students that participate in community service

Commission Chair Catalina Cifuentes said, "The Governor's May Revision Budget reflects an understanding of the critical role that affordability plays in college access. As California has led the nation in creating a model for higher education access and affordability, we must also set an example for how to help our students recover from the impact of the pandemic. We look forward to continuing to work with the Governor and Legislature to ensure that the final Budget includes critical, needed reforms of the Cal Grant program that will further our shared work toward creating debt-free pathways to college degrees."

The Student Aid Commission looks forward to continued collaboration with the Governor and legislative leaders to secure investments in the 2022-23 State Budget that advance our mission to promote educational equity by making postsecondary education affordable for all Californians.

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The California Student Aid Commission administers the state's \$3.5 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on social media via our [LinkTree](#).