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**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION  
COMPETITIVE CAL GRANT PROGRAM  
2005 - 2008**

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**Legislative Report Requirement**  
California Education Code Section 69437.7, and  
Section 8 of Senate Bill 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000)

# CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 30, 2008



Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger  
and  
Honorable Members of the Legislature:

On behalf of the California Student Aid Commission (Commission), I am pleased to submit the Commission's report on the Competitive Cal Grant Program. The report presents the results of the past three years (2005 to 2008) of the Competitive Cal Grant Program that was established in the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act (SB 1644, Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000).

This report is being submitted pursuant to California Education Code Section 69437.7 and Section 8 of SB 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000).

In September 2000, the Legislature and the Administration took a tremendous step toward college access and affordability for California's students by addressing the financial barriers that hinder the attainment of education beyond high school. SB 1644 expanded the Cal Grant Program into a two-tiered approach that: (1) guarantees an Entitlement Cal Grant to qualified graduating high school seniors, to recent graduates, and to a specified population of eligible transfer students, and (2) provides 22,500 Competitive Cal Grants to students who do not qualify for an Entitlement Cal Grant.

The enclosed report provides data on the Competitive Cal Grant awards made in the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years. It also includes data on students who applied on time and met all eligibility requirements but did not receive an award (eligible non-recipients) due to the statutory limit of 22,500 new awards annually. The number of eligible non-recipients has grown from 112,200 in 2005-06 to 122,800 in 2007-08, or more than a nine percent increase.

The Commission is proud to be a collaborative part of the financial aid community in California, constantly working toward ensuring that education beyond high school is financially accessible for all Californians. We look forward to continuing our work with you to achieve this goal. Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (916) 464-8271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Diana Fuentes-Michel", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Diana Fuentes-Michel  
Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	1
<b>Section I - Introduction</b>	
Reporting Requirements .....	3
<b>Section II – The Application Process</b>	
Free Application for Federal Student Aid.....	4
Cal Grant Grade Point Average Verification Form .....	4
Edits .....	5
Selection Criteria .....	6
Cutoff Scores.....	7
Eligible Applicants .....	7
<b>Section III – Competitive Cal Grant Award Recipients</b>	
<b>March Competition</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Recipients by Program .....	9
Recipients by Segment .....	9
Recipients by Age .....	10
Recipients by Income .....	10
Recipients by Grade Point Average .....	11
Participation Patterns .....	11
<b>September Competition</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Recipients by Program .....	15
Recipients by Age .....	15
Recipients by Income .....	16
Recipients by Grade Point Average .....	17
Participation Patterns .....	17
<b>Typical Recipients</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Section IV – Eligible Non-Recipients</b>	
Eligible Non-Recipients by Segment .....	23
Eligible Non-Recipients by Age .....	24
Eligible Non-Recipients by Income.....	24
Eligible Non-Recipients by Grade Point Average .....	25
Typical Eligible Non-Recipients.....	25
<b>Section V – Conclusion</b> .....	<b>26</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 11, 2000, the Legislature and the Governor took an important step toward improving the opportunities available to California students by removing the financial barriers that could hinder the attainment of a postsecondary education. With the enactment of the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act (Senate Bill 1644, Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000), California modified the existing Cal Grant Program into a two-tiered approach that:

- Guarantees an Entitlement Cal Grant to graduating high school seniors and specified transfer students who meet the program eligibility requirements; and
- Provides 22,500 Competitive Cal Grant awards to students who do not qualify for an Entitlement grant.

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) conducts two award competitions each year. The March Competition provides 11,250 awards to students, regardless of the California college or university they choose to attend. The September Competition, which also provides 11,250 awards, is reserved for students attending a California Community College.

Since the pool of eligible applicants exceeds the statutory limit of 22,500 grants by over 112,000, the Commission must prioritize or rank each applicant on like criteria. California Education Code Section 69437(c)(1) requires the Commission to establish selection criteria for Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards that give special consideration to disadvantaged students, taking into account those financial, educational, cultural, language, home, community, environmental, and other conditions that hamper a student's access to, and ability to persist in, postsecondary education programs.

The chart below summarizes the average characteristics of the Competitive Cal Grant Program recipients for the academic years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	<b>March</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Eligible Non-Recipient</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$14,600 - \$15,500	\$14,800 - \$15,700	\$17,700 - \$21,500
<b>GPA</b>	3.28 - 3.29	3.25 - 3.28	2.89 - 2.91
<b>Family Size</b>	2.9	3	2.5
<b>Age</b>	30 - 31	29 - 30	27

The Commission's selection criteria for the Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards continues to meet the legislative intent of awarding grants to older students who demonstrate merit along with income constraints, are entering or returning to college and do not have access to the Entitlement grants.

However, the statutory limit on the number of new Competitive Cal Grant awards has remained unchanged since the program's inception and it is currently unable to meet the rising demands for its awards. The number of applicants who met all eligibility criteria but did not receive an award because of the statutory limit reached 122,800 in 2007-08. If California wants to assure financial access to postsecondary education for non-traditional, returning, and older students, consideration should be given to increasing the number of awards provided by the Competitive Cal Grant Program. The

resources currently provided for this program are sufficient to meet the needs of the one in six eligible applicants the program is permitted to support, but remain inadequate to meet the challenges posed by a changing economy and the need for current workers to secure additional postsecondary education training.

## **SECTION I - INTRODUCTION**

The Commission is the state's principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission's primary programmatic responsibilities include administration of the Cal Grant program, the Chafee Grant Program and several targeted state scholarship and loan assumption programs. The Commission administers financial aid awareness and outreach programs, such as Cal-SOAP and Cash for College, in collaboration with business, private industry, and community-based organizations.

The Commission is also the designated State guaranty agency responsible for the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program which it administers through its auxiliary organization, EDFUND. The Commission maintains overall responsibility for the FFEL Program, financial aid program administration, policy leadership, program evaluation and information development and coordination.

The Commission consists of 15 appointed members. Eleven members are appointed by the Governor and represent segments of the State's higher education community, postsecondary education students, and the general public. In addition, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee each appoint two Commission members as representatives of the general public.

In its policy decision-making, the Commission receives advice and recommendations from its staff; its advisory committees, including the Grant Advisory Committee, the Cal- SOAP Advisory Committee, and the Loan Advisory Council; the EDFUND Board, and ad hoc committees comprised of individuals that represent colleges and universities, secondary schools, student groups, the business community, lending institutions, and various levels of government. The Commission's strong tradition of public participation stems from its commitment to continuous improvement and responsiveness in the development and delivery of its financial aid programs and services.

### **Reporting Requirements**

On September 11, 2000, Senate Bill 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000), also known as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poohigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act, was signed into law. This historic bill changed the previous Cal Grant A and B programs into the Entitlement Cal Grant A and B and Competitive Cal Grant A and B programs and retained the existing Cal Grant C and T programs. As with the original Cal Grant Program, a student must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) verification form by the statutory deadlines to be considered for a Competitive Cal Grant award.

The enabling legislation for the new Competitive Cal Grant Program established two separate award deadlines: March 2nd and September 2nd. The September deadline allows students who decide to apply for financial aid after March 2nd to compete for a California Community College Competitive Cal Grant award. Each Competition has 11,250 authorized awards and both offer Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B. The major difference between the two deadlines is that to be eligible for the September Competition, a student must be currently enrolled in a California Community College for the fall term.

The Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act requires that the Commission do the following:

**1. California Education Code Section 69437.7**

After two award cycles, the commission shall review the competitive grant program and its priorities to gain a better understanding of early participation patterns and to determine the initial level of program effectiveness. The commission shall report these findings to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31, 2003, and each year thereafter.

**2. Section 8 of Senate Bill 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000)**

The Student Aid Commission shall annually report to the Legislature and the Governor on the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program from its inception on both of the following:

- (a) The number of Cal Grant applicants and new and continuing recipients each year. This data shall include at a minimum the following information about recipients: educational level, grade point average, segment of attendance, number of community college transfer students.
- (b) A longitudinal component that measures student persistence and graduation rates over time.

## **SECTION II – THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Competitive Cal Grant application process requires that students complete and submit two forms: a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form by the March 2nd and/or September 2nd deadlines. Applicants who meet certain criteria may submit a test score (GED, SAT, or ACT) in lieu of a GPA.

### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

The FAFSA is the core application required to assist in determining financial eligibility for all federal, as well as many state and institutional, grant and loan programs. Students complete an online version of the FAFSA or submit a paper application to the federal government's central processor. Federal methodology prescribed by Congress is used to determine an applicant's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is based on income, assets, family size and other factors derived from the FAFSA application. The EFC is the amount of money that the student and parent(s) of a dependent student can reasonably be expected to contribute toward the student's education.

The Commission receives these federal application data in an electronic format directly from the federal processor once the applicant's identity has been authenticated through a match with the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service). The federal processor sends data for all students who are California residents and/or nonresidents who list a California postsecondary institution on their application.

### **Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form**

California Education Code Section 69432.9 requires students to submit a verified Cal Grant GPA for consideration in the Commission's Cal Grant Program. Students

work directly with their schools to ensure that a verified GPA is submitted by the application deadline. High school and postsecondary institution administrators may report individual or large volume GPA verifications through the Commission's secure web-enabled site or via individual reporting on optical-marked Scantron forms.

## **Edits**

After receiving FAFSA records from the federal central processor, the Commission compares each FAFSA record to the Commission's database to determine if an applicant's record is already on file and is receiving an award. If not, then the record is matched to the Commission's database of Cal Grant GPA verifications received for the forthcoming competition.

Applicants with both a FAFSA and a verified GPA on file have new electronic records established in the database which then undergo an intensive automated evaluation. This sequential evaluation is often referred to as the edit process. The edits are grouped in broad categories known by the following terms: Common Edits, Program Edits, and Financial Edits. Applicants must pass all of the edits to remain in the eligible applicant pool.

### Common Edits

Common Edits evaluate the applications for overall Cal Grant eligibility. Applicants must:

- be California residents
- be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens
- meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- not have a baccalaureate or first professional degree
- attend a qualifying California postsecondary institution
- not be in default on any student loan
- not owe any federal or state grant refund

### Program Edits

An applicant's record then is reviewed on the basis of Program Edits to identify the most likely program for which an applicant may be eligible to receive further evaluation, such as a Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B. These edits include:

- Eligible school
- Grade Point Average (at least 2.0 GPA for Cal Grant B and 3.0 high school GPA or 2.4 college GPA for Cal Grant A).
- Remaining eligibility for the program (has not used four years of Cal Grant benefits)

At this point in the process, Competitive Cal Grant applicants who do not satisfy the Common Edits or Program Edits are flagged as ineligible.



## Financial Edits

Applicants are next evaluated to determine if they meet the income and asset standards, and then reviewed to determine whether they have sufficient financial need. These filters are described below:

1. **Income Ceilings** – Income ceilings are established and adjusted annually using the change in the California per capita income as specified in California Education Code Section 69432.7(k). Parental income is used for dependent applicants and student income is used for independent students.
2. **Asset Ceilings** - Asset ceilings are established and adjusted annually using the change in the California per capita income as specified in California Education Code Section 69432.7(k). Parental assets are used for dependent applicants and students assets are used for independent students.
3. **Financial Need** – California Education Code Section 69432.9(b)(2) defines financial need as the difference between the student’s cost of attendance as determined by the Commission and the “expected family contribution.” Because the Cal Grant program uses federal methodology as the basis of determining financial need, federal exclusions to reported income such as veteran’s benefits and federal work study are observed.
4. **Unmet Need** – California Education Code Section 69432.9(b)(3)(A), specifies the minimum financial need required for receipt of an initial Cal Grant A or Cal Grant C award. It shall not be less than the maximum annual award value for the applicable institution, plus an additional \$1,500 of financial need. California Education Code Section 69432.9(b)(3)(B) sets the minimum financial need required for a Cal Grant B award at \$700.

Applicants who meet all of the Common Edits, Program Edits, and Financial Edits move next into the scoring phase for the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Those applicants who do not pass the Financial Edits are filtered out and notified of their ineligible status.

## **Selection Criteria**

Since the pool of eligible applicants far exceeds the statutory limit of 22,500 grants, the Commission must prioritize or rank each applicant on like criteria. California Education Code Section 69437(c)(1) requires the Commission to establish selection criteria for Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards that give special consideration to disadvantaged students, taking into account those financial, educational, cultural, language, home, community, environmental, and other conditions that hamper a student’s access to, and ability to persist in, postsecondary education programs.

The Commission uses a 200-point scoring system for the Competitive Cal Grant Program to evaluate the socio-economic status of each eligible applicant. The selection criteria and scoring model was developed and is reviewed by Commission staff in coordination with the Commissions Grant Advisory Committee. The maximum points for the scoring are displayed in the following table.

<b>Scoring Categories</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>
Grade Point Average (GPA)	70
Parents' Educational Level (Mother and Father)	18
Student or Parent Household Status	18
Family Income and Household Size	76
Access Equalizer	18
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

### **Cutoff Scores**

To establish a cutoff score for students who will receive a Competitive Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B award, the Commission sets the score at a number that is closest to the 11,250 awards authorized for each competition.

Students who scored above or within the cutoff score are awarded and notified of their Cal Grant eligibility. Those students who fell below the cutoff score are considered eligible non-recipients. The cutoff score for each competition for the past three academic years are displayed in the following table.

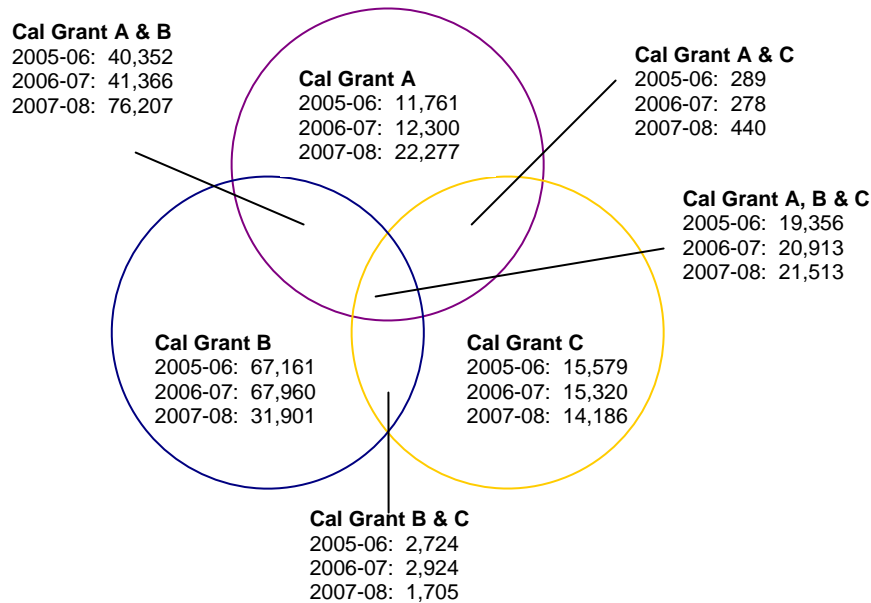
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>September</b>
2005-06	155	158
2006-07	154	157
2007-08	153	158

### **Eligible Applicants**

Display 1 illustrates the number of eligible applicants for the March and September Competitions, by Cal Grant program (Cal Grant A, B and C) and by academic year. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for more than one Cal Grant program are referred to as overlap applicants. For instance, in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, approximately 20,000 students annually met the 3.0 merit requirement needed for a Cal Grant A, were from a very low-income family and so they qualified for a Cal Grant B, and also met the course of study requirements for a Cal Grant C. Recipients are placed in the program that will give them the best financial benefit.

There was a clarification to the merit requirement for a Competitive Cal Grant A that changed the minimum GPA from at least a 3.0 high school or college GPA to at least a 3.0 high school GPA or 2.4 college GPA. This change, beginning with the 2007-08 academic year, resulted in more applicants qualifying for either a Cal Grant A or Cal Grant A & B and fewer applicants qualifying only for a Cal Grant B.

## Display 1: Competitive Cal Grant Eligibility Pool



### SECTION III – COMPETITIVE CAL GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

California Education Code Section 69437(b) authorizes the Commission to grant 22,500 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards beginning with the 2001-02 academic year, and each academic year thereafter. One-half of the awards are distributed during the March Competition and the remaining awards are distributed during the September Competition. All eligible applicants are ranked by the score generated by the selection criteria and sorted in descending order. Beginning with those in the 200-point cohort, applicants are selected within each cohort until all of the awards are allocated.

California Education Code Section 69437(b)(3) stipulates that the Commission shall make any awards not distributed during the initial allocation to as many eligible applicants as possible, without exceeding an annual cumulative total of 22,500 awards. It also specifies that the undistributed awards shall be offered to eligible applicants with the lowest expected family contribution and highest academic merit.

#### MARCH COMPETITION

The Commission offered 13,716 awards in the 2007-08 March Competition. This was a 8.2 percent increase from the 12,674 awards offered during the 2006-07 March Competition and a 19.5 percent increase from the 11,475 awards offered in 2005-06 to qualified recipients. Since less than 75 percent of the March Competitive awards offered are funded or taken by the recipients in their first year of the Cal Grant Program, the Commission offers more awards than the authorized number with the expectation that the number of awards funded would not exceed 11,250.

## Recipients by Program

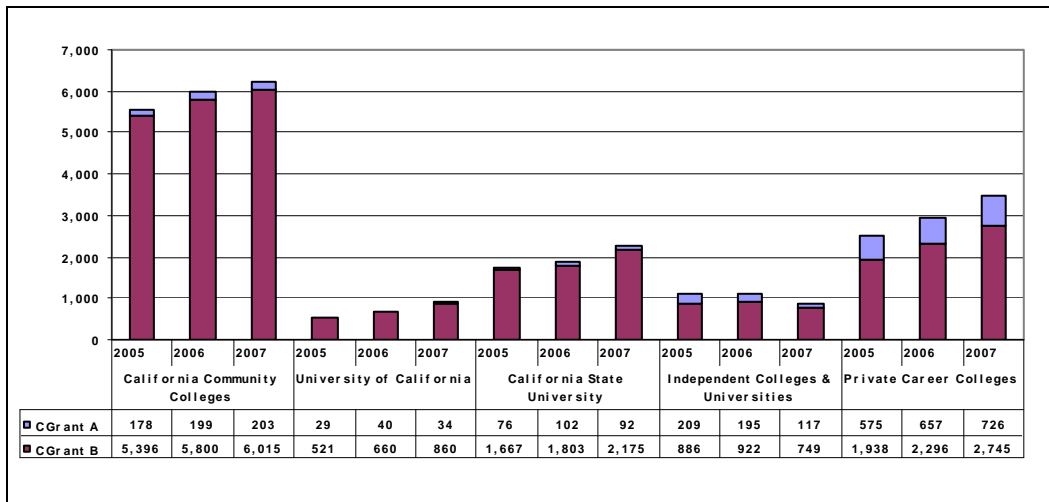
Since the beginning of the program, over 90 percent of the March Competitive Cal Grant award recipients received a Cal Grant B award. This was also true for academic years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. Over time, the Cal Grant B award offers a greater financial benefit to the student than the Cal Grant A award.

## Recipients by Segment

When the Cal Grant programs were first created, the goals were to provide access to higher education and to provide a choice for college to students who might otherwise not have such an opportunity. The Cal Grant programs look different after SB 1644, but the commitment to both access and choice remains unchanged. The portability of the Cal Grant supports the State's long-standing commitment to access and choice for California's most disadvantaged students. It provides a way to choose an institution best suited to the student, not just what the student initially might think they can afford. As a result, Cal Grant awards are offered to students attending all segments of Cal Grant eligible postsecondary institutions: the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the California State University, as well as a large variety of non-profit and for-profit institutions.

Display 2 illustrates the segmental distribution of new recipients from the March Competition for the latest three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program<sup>1</sup>. As in previous years, California Community Colleges continue to account for the largest number of recipients. In 2007-08, over 6,200 or 45.3 percent of the March Competitive recipients indicated that they would attend a California Community college. In 2006-07, almost 6,000 or 47.3 percent of the March Competitive recipients indicated that they would attend a California Community College and in 2005-06, 48.6 percent of the March Competitive recipients indicated that they would attend a California Community College. Additionally, Private Career Colleges continued to be the second choice for the March Competitive recipients. In 2007-08, over 3,400 or 25.3 percent of the recipients indicated that they would attend Private Career Colleges.

**Display 2: Segmental Distribution of March Competitive Recipients**

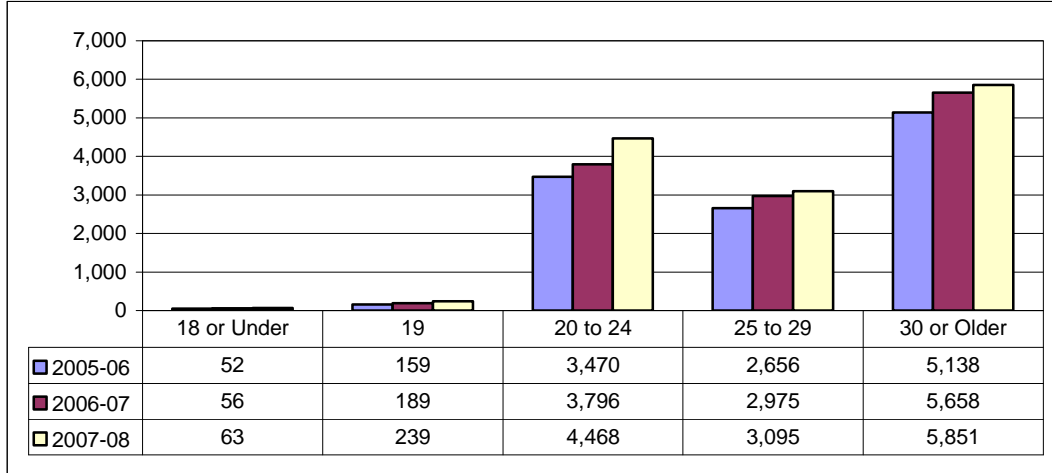


<sup>1</sup> This is calculated using the first eligible Cal Grant participating institution listed on the financial aid application (FAFSA).

### Recipients by Age

Display 3 illustrates the age distribution of new recipients for the March Competition. As in previous years, over 65 percent of the recipients were age 25 years or older.

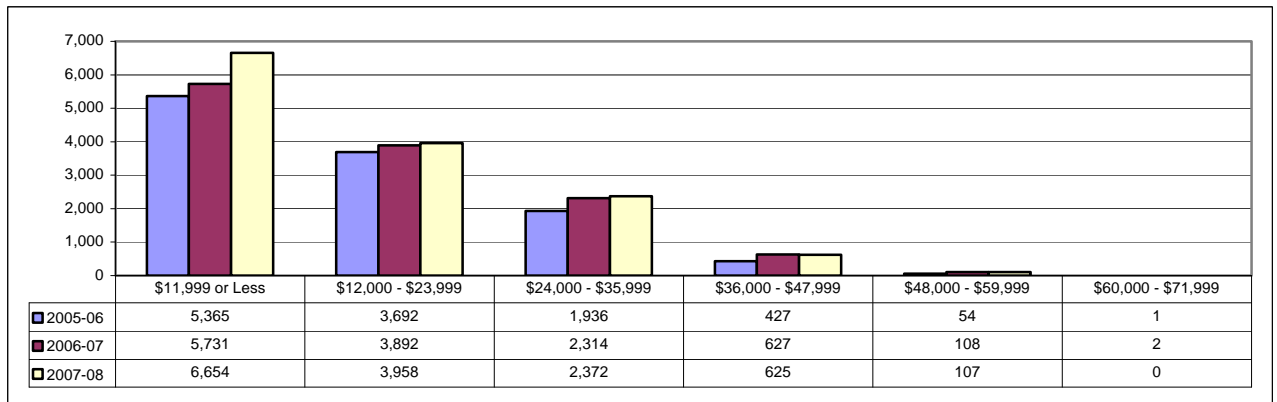
**Display 3: Age Distribution of March Competitive Recipients**



### Recipients by Income

Display 4 illustrates that in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, new recipients from families with incomes of less than \$12,000 continue to account for the largest number of awards. Recipients with incomes less than \$12,000 annual income accounted for 6,654 or 48.5 percent of the 2007-08 March Competitive awards. Recipients with incomes of less than \$12,000 accounted for 5,731 or 45.2 percent of the 2006-07 March Competitive awards. The second largest category continued to be comprised of new recipients with incomes of \$12,000 to \$23,999. These recipients accounted for 28.9 percent of the 2007-08 March Competitive awards. As in past years, new recipients with incomes of more than \$24,000 accounted for the fewest number of awards. In 2007-08, these recipients accounted for only 22.6 percent of the March Competitive awards. The data reflects the objective of the program, which is to serve students from disadvantaged and low and middle-income families.

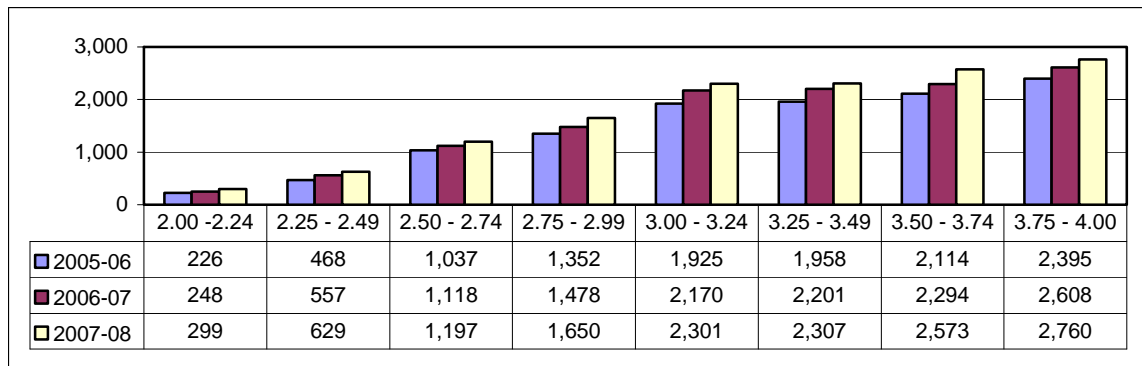
**Display 4: Income Distribution of March Competitive Recipients**



## Recipients by Grade Point Average (GPA)

Display 5 illustrates the shift in the academic achievement of new recipients during the past three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program. In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher accounted for over 20 percent of March Competitive recipients. Additionally in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, as in previous years, the majority of students had a GPA of 3.00 or higher. For instance, in 2007-08, 9,941 recipients, or 72 percent, had a GPA of 3.00 or higher. From 2006-07 to 2007-08, the number of recipients with a GPA below 2.50 had slightly increased from 6 to 7 percent.

**Display 5: GPA Distribution of March Competitive Recipients**



## Participation Patterns

SB 1644 required that the Commission review the Competitive Cal Grant Program to gain a better understanding of early participation patterns. For this report, the Commission looked at the number of March Competitive Cal Grant recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported to and reconciled by the Commission (paid) against the number of recipients who were offered an award. The payment transaction may have occurred during the year the applicant was offered a Cal Grant award, for one or more subsequent year(s), or for all three years.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 look at the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 March Competitive Cal Grant recipients by the educational level in which they were initially offered an award. The educational level is the self-reported grade level the recipient indicates on the FAFSA. For the three years, Cal Grant A and B, and at all educational levels, there seems to be very little difference in the number of recipients paid in the March Competition.

2005-06 March Competition

Table 1 provides information about the 2005-06 March Competitive recipients who were paid in their first and/or second and/or third year(s) in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Overall, 56 percent of the Cal Grant A recipients and 76 percent of the Cal Grant B recipients were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. In their second year, 33 percent of Cal Grant A recipients and 44 percent of Cal Grant B recipients were paid. During their third year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 16 percent of the Cal Grant A recipients and 24 percent of the Cal Grant B recipients were paid.

**Table 1  
2005-06 March Competitive Award Offers Actually  
Paid in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08-to-date  
by Initial Educational Level**

	2005-06 Offers		Paid in 2005-06			Paid in 2006-07			Paid in 2007-08-to-date		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
<b>Cal Grant A</b>											
Freshman	535	4.7%	253	3.0%	47%	141	2.9%	26%	72	2.7%	13%
Sophomore	272	2.4%	113	1.3%	42%	90	1.8%	33%	73	2.7%	27%
Junior	162	1.4%	139	1.6%	86%	107	2.2%	66%	20	0.7%	12%
Senior	98	0.9%	97	1.1%	99%	13	0.3%	13%	4	0.1%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Cal Grant B</b>											
Freshman	2,378	20.7%	1,627	19.1%	68%	1,017	20.8%	43%	668	24.6%	28%
Sophomore	5,279	46.0%	3,926	46.2%	74%	2,478	50.5%	47%	1,669	61.5%	32%
Junior	1,501	13.1%	1,270	14.9%	85%	914	18.6%	61%	183	6.7%	12%
Senior	1,250	10.9%	1,085	12.7%	87%	144	2.9%	12%	25	0.9%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,408</b>	<b>90.7%</b>	<b>7,908</b>	<b>92.9%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>4,553</b>	<b>92.8%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B</b>											
Freshman	2,913	25.4%	1,880	22.1%	65%	1,158	23.6%	40%	740	27.3%	25%
Sophomore	5,551	48.4%	4,039	47.5%	73%	2,568	52.4%	46%	1,742	64.2%	31%
Junior	1,663	14.5%	1,409	16.6%	85%	1,021	20.8%	61%	203	7.5%	12%
Senior	1,348	11.7%	1,182	13.8%	88%	157	3.2%	12%	29	1.1%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,510</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>4,904</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>24%</b>

See notes at end of Table 3.

2006-07 March Competition

Table 2 provides information about the 2006-07 March Competitive recipients who were paid in their first and/or second year(s) in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. During their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 55 percent of the Cal Grant A recipients and 74 percent of the Cal Grant B recipients were paid. Also, 30 percent of the Cal Grant A recipients and 42 percent of the Cal Grant B recipients were paid during their second year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program.

**Table 2**  
**2006-07 March Competitive Award Offers Actually**  
**Paid in 2006-07 and 2007-08-to-date**  
**by Initial Educational Level**

	2006-07 Offers		Paid in 2006-07			Paid in 2007-08-to-date		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
<b>Cal Grant A</b>								
Freshman	539	4.3%	210	2.3%	39%	128	2.5%	24%
Sophomore	302	2.4%	142	1.5%	47%	112	2.2%	37%
Junior	178	1.4%	142	1.5%	80%	105	2.0%	59%
Senior	174	1.4%	161	1.8%	93%	18	0.3%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Cal Grant B</b>								
Freshman	2,596	20.5%	1,634	17.8%	63%	1,074	20.7%	41%
Sophomore	5,487	43.3%	3,921	42.7%	71%	2,482	47.9%	45%
Junior	1,810	14.3%	1,440	15.7%	80%	1,092	21.1%	60%
Senior	1,588	12.5%	1,529	16.7%	96%	172	3.3%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,481</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>8,524</b>	<b>92.9%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>93.0%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B</b>								
Freshman	3,135	24.7%	1,844	20.1%	59%	1,202	23.2%	38%
Sophomore	5,789	45.7%	4,063	44.3%	70%	2,594	50.0%	45%
Junior	1,988	15.7%	1,582	17.2%	80%	1,197	23.1%	60%
Senior	1,762	13.9%	1,690	18.4%	96%	190	3.7%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,674</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,179</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>41%</b>

See notes at end of Table 3.



2007-08 March Competition

Table 3 provides information about the 2007-08 March Competitive recipients who were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. During their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 52 percent of the Cal Grant A recipients and 75 percent of the Cal Grant B recipients were paid.

**Table 3**  
**2007-08 March Competitive Award Offers Actually**  
**Paid in 2007-08-to-date**  
**by Initial Education Level**

	2007-08 Offers		Paid in 2007-08-to-date		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid
<b>Cal Grant A</b>					
Freshman	598	4.4%	214	2.1%	36%
Sophomore	272	2.0%	135	1.4%	50%
Junior	166	1.2%	142	1.4%	86%
Senior	136	1.0%	124	1.2%	91%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Cal Grant B</b>					
Freshman	2,566	18.7%	1,721	17.2%	67%
Sophomore	5,830	42.5%	4,191	42.0%	72%
Junior	2,084	15.2%	1,680	16.8%	81%
Senior	2,064	15.0%	1,780	17.8%	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,544</b>	<b>91.5%</b>	<b>9,372</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B</b>					
Freshman	3,164	23.1%	1,935	19.4%	61%
Sophomore	6,102	44.5%	4,326	43.3%	71%
Junior	2,250	16.4%	1,822	18.2%	81%
Senior	2,200	16.0%	1,904	19.1%	87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,716</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,987</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>73%</b>

Notes for Tables 1, 2, and 3:

1 Source of the educational level is the self-reported grade level the student indicates on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

2 "2005-06 Offers" reflect the number of competitive recipients notified as of December 31, 2005.

3 "2006-07 Offers" reflect the number of competitive recipients notified as of December 31, 2006.

4 "2007-08 Offers" reflect the number of competitive recipients notified as of December 31, 2007.

5 "Paid in 2005-06" reflects those recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of December 31, 2006.

6 "Paid in 2006-07" reflects those recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of December 31, 2007.

7 "Paid in 2007-08-to-date" reflects those recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of September 30, 2008.

8 Paid data excludes Cal Grant A Reserve awards because they have no monetary value at a California Community College.

## SEPTEMBER COMPETITION

Prior to SB 1644, the Cal Grant B program required that a majority of all Cal Grant B awards be given to students planning to attend a California Community College. SB 1644 demonstrated a continued financial commitment to community college students, especially disadvantaged students who make late enrollment decisions, by establishing a second Competition with a filing deadline of September 2nd each year.

The Commission offered 11,906 awards in the 2007-08 September Competition. This was a 6.3 percent decrease from the 12,707 awards offered in the 2006-07 September Competition and a 2.3 percent decrease from the 12,187 awards offered in 2005-06 to qualified recipients. Since less than 75 percent of the September Competitive awards offered are funded or taken by the recipients in their first year of the Cal Grant Program, the Commission offers more awards than the authorized number with the expectation that the number of awards funded would not exceed 11,250.

### Recipients by Program

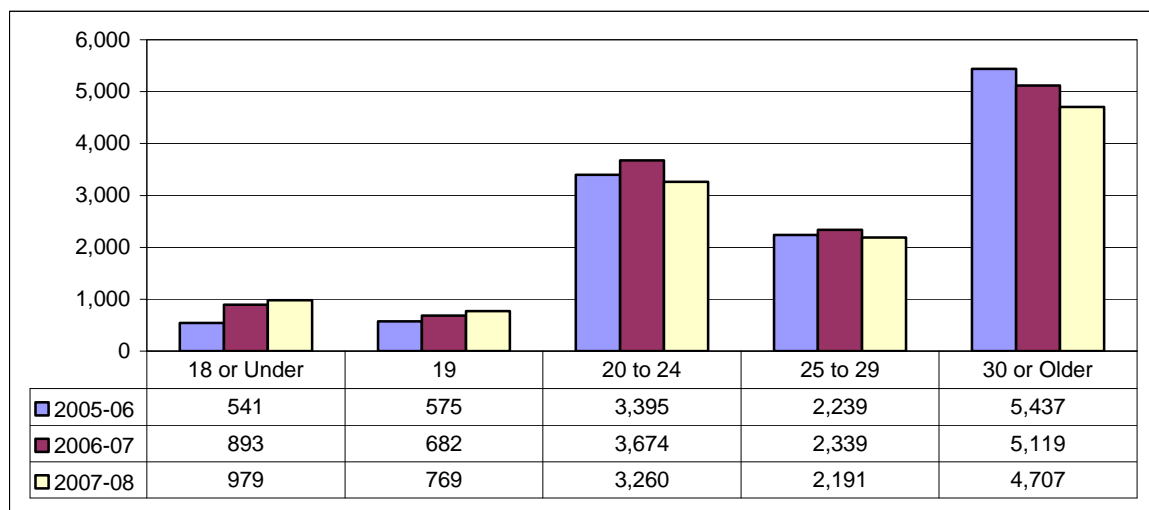
As in the past, Cal Grant A fee awards have no monetary value at a California Community College. This is due to the low fees charged at the community colleges and the availability of a Board of Governor's fee waiver to all financially eligible students. The award is held in reserve until the recipient transfers to a tuition or fee charging institution.

Since the beginning of the program, over 95 percent of September Competitive Cal Grant award recipients received a Cal Grant B award. This was also true for academic years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

### Recipients by Age

Display 6 illustrates the age distribution of new recipients for the September Competition. In 2006-07 and 2007-08, about 58 percent of the recipients were age 25 years or older.

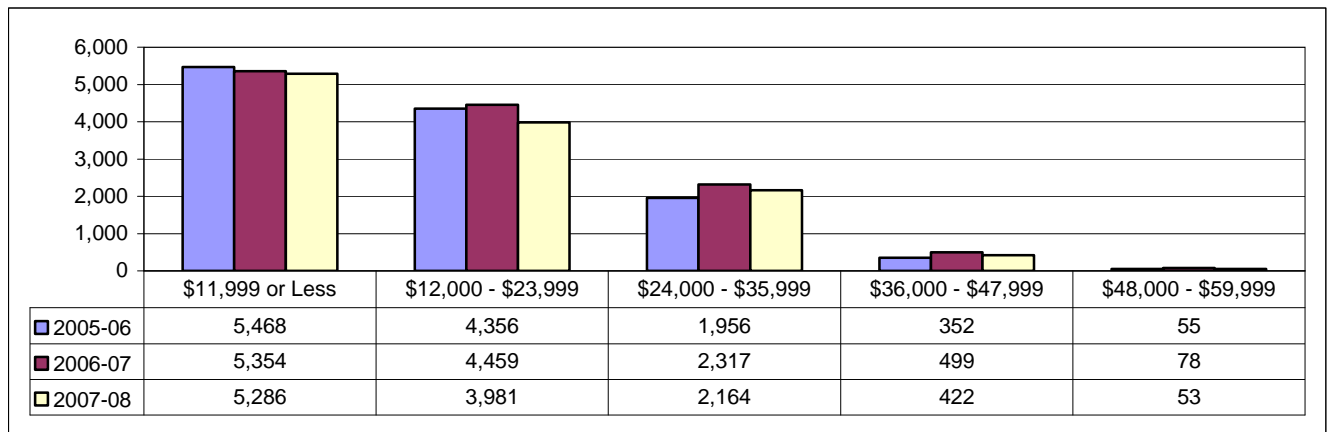
**Display 6: Age Distribution of September Competitive Recipients**



## Recipients by Income

Display 7 illustrates that for all three years, new recipients from families with incomes of less than \$12,000 continued to account for the largest number of awards as in past years. Recipients with incomes of less than \$12,000 accounted for 5,286 or 44.4 percent of the 2007-08 September Competitive awards. Recipients with incomes of less than \$12,000 accounted for 5,354 or 42.1 percent of the 2006-07 September Competitive awards. The second largest category continued to be comprised of new recipients with incomes of \$12,000 to \$23,999. For instance, in 2007-08 these families accounted for 3,981 or 33.4 percent of the September Competitive awards, and had slightly decreased from 2005-06 and 2006-07. As in past years, recipients with incomes of more than \$24,000 accounted for the fewest number of awards. In 2006-07 and 2007-08, these families accounted for about 22 percent of the September Competitive awards.

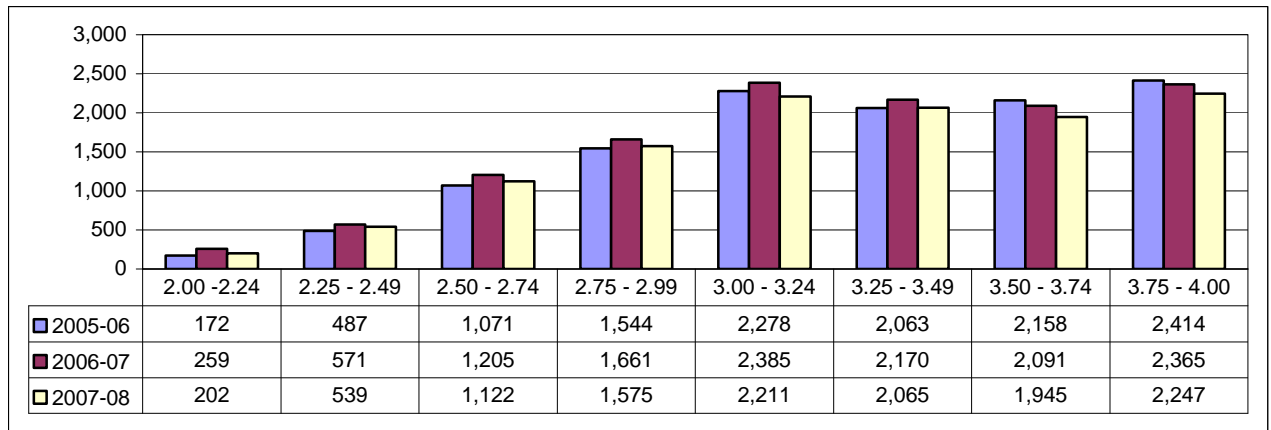
**Display 7: Income Distribution of September Competitive Recipients**



## Recipients by Grade Point Average (GPA)

Display 8 illustrates the shift in the academic achievement of new recipients during the past three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program. For all three years, students with a GPA of 3.00 or higher accounted for most of the September Competitive awards. For instance, in 2007-08, 8,468 recipients or 71.1 percent had a GPA of 3.00 or higher. As in previous years, the number of recipients with a GPA below 2.50 remained at about 6 percent.

**Display 8: GPA Distribution of September Competitive Recipients**



## Participation Patterns

Using the same method as for the March Competition, the Commission looked at the number of September Competitive Cal Grant recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported to and reconciled by the Commission (paid) against the number of recipients who were offered an award. The payment transaction may have occurred during the year the applicant was offered a Cal Grant award, for one or more subsequent year(s), or for all three years.

Tables 4, 5, and 6 display the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 September Competitive Cal Grant recipients by the educational level in which they were initially offered an award. The educational level is the self-reported grade level the recipient indicates on the FAFSA. For the three years, Cal Grant A and B, and at all educational levels, there is little change in the number of recipients paid in the September Competition.

2005-06 September Competition

Table 4 provides information about the 2005-06 September Competitive recipients who were paid in their first and/or second and/or third year(s) in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. In 2005-06, 74 percent of the Cal Grant A and B recipients were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Additionally, 49 percent of the Cal Grant A and B recipients were paid during their second year. During their third year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 33 percent of the Cal Grant A and B recipients were paid.

**Table 4**  
**2005-06 September Competitive Award Offers Actually**  
**Paid in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08-to-date**  
**by Initial Educational Level**

	2005-06 Offers		Paid in 2005-06			Paid in 2006-07			Paid in 2007-08-to-date		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
<b>Cal Grant A</b>											
Freshman	171	1.4%	7	0.1%	4%	13	0.2%	8%	16	0.4%	9%
Sophomore	302	2.5%	16	0.2%	5%	48	0.8%	16%	80	2.0%	26%
Junior	2	0.0%	2	0.0%	100%	2	0.0%	100%	1	0.0%	50%
Senior	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0%	0	0.0%	0%	0	0.0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Cal Grant B</b>											
Freshman	5,233	42.9%	4,085	45.0%	78%	2,742	45.7%	52%	1,800	44.5%	34%
Sophomore	6,463	53.0%	4,947	54.5%	77%	3,177	53.0%	49%	2,139	52.9%	33%
Junior	9	0.1%	9	0.1%	100%	9	0.2%	100%	2	0.0%	22%
Senior	7	0.1%	7	0.1%	100%	3	0.1%	43%	3	0.1%	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,712</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>9,048</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>5,931</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>3,944</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B</b>											
Freshman	5,404	44.3%	4,092	45.1%	76%	2,755	46.0%	51%	1,816	44.9%	34%
Sophomore	6,765	55.5%	4,963	54.7%	73%	3,225	53.8%	48%	2,219	54.9%	33%
Junior	11	0.1%	11	0.1%	100%	11	0.2%	100%	3	0.1%	27%
Senior	7	0.1%	7	0.1%	100%	3	0.1%	43%	3	0.1%	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,187</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,073</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>5,994</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>4,041</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>33%</b>

See notes at end of Table 6.

2006-07 September Competition

Table 5 provides information about the 2006-07 September Competitive recipients who were paid in their first and/or second year(s) in the Competitive Program. In 2006-07, 71 percent of the Cal Grant A and B recipients were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Also, 49 percent of the Cal Grant A and B recipients were paid during their second year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program.

**Table 5  
2006-07 September Competitive Award Offers  
Actually Paid in 2006-07 and 2007-08-to-date  
by Initial Educational Level**

	2006-07		Paid in 2006-07			Paid 2007-08-to-date		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
<b>Cal Grant A</b>								
Freshman	210	1.7%	8	0.1%	4%	14	0.2%	7%
Sophomore	306	2.4%	12	0.1%	4%	48	0.8%	16%
Junior	2	0.0%	2	0.0%	100%	2	0.0%	100%
Senior	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0%	0	0.0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Cal Grant B</b>								
Freshman	5,830	45.9%	4,331	48.3%	74%	3,046	49.3%	52%
Sophomore	6,336	49.9%	4,592	51.2%	72%	3,056	49.4%	48%
Junior	14	0.1%	12	0.1%	86%	13	0.2%	93%
Senior	9	0.1%	9	0.1%	100%	4	0.1%	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,189</b>	<b>95.9%</b>	<b>8,944</b>	<b>99.8%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>6,119</b>	<b>99.0%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B</b>								
Freshman	6,040	47.5%	4,339	48.4%	72%	3,060	49.5%	51%
Sophomore	6,642	52.3%	4,604	51.3%	69%	3,104	50.2%	47%
Junior	16	0.1%	14	0.2%	88%	15	0.2%	94%
Senior	9	0.1%	9	0.1%	100%	4	0.1%	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,707</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,966</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>6,183</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>49%</b>

See notes at end of Table 6.

2007-08 September Competition

Table 6 provides information about the 2007-08 September Competitive recipients who were paid in their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. In 2007-08, 72 percent of the Cal Grant A and B recipients were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program.

**Table 6**  
**2007-08 September Competitive Award Offers**  
**Paid in 2007-08-to-date**  
**by Initial Educational Level**

	2007-08 Offers		Paid in 2007-08-to-date		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid
<b>Cal Grant A</b>					
Freshman	180	1.5%	13	0.2%	7%
Sophomore	194	1.6%	3	0.0%	2%
Junior	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	100%
Senior	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Cal Grant B</b>					
Freshman	5,571	46.8%	4,136	48.6%	74%
Sophomore	5,939	49.9%	4,342	51.0%	73%
Junior	10	0.1%	10	0.1%	100%
Senior	11	0.1%	11	0.1%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,531</b>	<b>96.9%</b>	<b>8,499</b>	<b>99.8%</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B</b>					
Freshman	5,751	48.3%	4,149	48.7%	72%
Sophomore	6,133	51.5%	4,345	51.0%	71%
Junior	11	0.1%	11	0.1%	100%
Senior	11	0.1%	11	0.1%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,906</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,516</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>72%</b>

Notes for Tables 4, 5, and 6:

1 Source of the educational level is the self-reported grade level the student indicates on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

2 "2005-06 Offers" reflect the number of competitive recipients notified as of December 31, 2005.

3 "2006-07 Offers" reflect the number of competitive recipients notified as of December 31, 2006.

4 "2007-08 Offers" reflect the number of competitive recipients notified as of December 31, 2007.

5 "Paid in 2005-06" reflects those recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of December 31, 2006.

6 "Paid in 2006-07" reflects those recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of December 31, 2007.

7 "Paid in 2007-08-to-date" reflects those recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of September 30, 2008.

8 Paid data excludes Cal Grant A Reserve awards because they have no monetary value at a California Community College.

## TYPICAL RECIPIENTS

Table 7 illustrates the characteristics of the typical new recipient for the past three academic years of the Competitive Cal Grant A and B Program. The data demonstrates that the Commission has met the legislative intent of the revised program. Awards were offered to students who demonstrated merit along with income constraints and were older, late-entry students who do not have access to the Entitlement Cal Grant Program. The age and income characteristics are revealing and reinforce the need to continue supporting this student population. GPAs earned by these students demonstrate excellent potential for success in achieving their educational goals.

**Table 7  
Typical New Competitive Cal Grant A and B Recipients**

Academic Year	Program		Competition		
			March	September	Total
2005-06	<b>Cal Grant A Recipients</b>		1,067	475	1,542
		Average Income	\$27,877	\$38,438	\$31,130
		Average GPA	3.57	3.61	3.58
		Average Family Size	3.0	3.3	3.1
		Average Age	32	34	32
	<b>Cal Grant B Recipients</b>		10,408	11,712	22,120
		Average Income	\$13,275	\$13,929	\$13,622
		Average GPA	3.26	3.27	3.27
		Average Family Size	2.9	3.0	2.9
		Average Age	31	30	31
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B Recipients</b>		11,475	12,187	23,662	
	Average Income	\$14,633	\$14,884	\$14,762	
	Average GPA	3.29	3.28	3.29	
	Average Family Size	2.9	3.0	3.0	
	Average Age	31	30	31	
2006-07	<b>Cal Grant A Recipients</b>		1,193	518	1,711
		Average Income	\$31,254	\$40,170	\$33,953
		Average GPA	3.56	3.58	3.56
		Average Family Size	3.0	3.1	3.1
		Average Age	32	33	32
	<b>Cal Grant B Recipients</b>		11,481	12,189	23,670
		Average Income	\$13,873	\$14,744	\$14,322
		Average GPA	3.26	3.24	3.25
		Average Family Size	2.9	3.0	3.0
		Average Age	31	29	30
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B Recipients</b>		12,674	12,707	25,381	
	Average Income	\$15,509	\$15,781	\$15,645	
	Average GPA	3.29	3.25	3.27	
	Average Family Size	2.9	3.0	3.0	
	Average Age	31	30	30	
2007-08	<b>Cal Grant A Recipients</b>		1,172	375	1,547
		Average Income	\$29,704	\$38,874	\$31,927
		Average GPA	3.48	3.53	3.49
		Average Family Size	3.1	3.3	3.1
		Average Age	32	33	32
	<b>Cal Grant B Recipients</b>		12,544	11,531	24,075
		Average Income	\$13,236	\$14,416	\$13,801
		Average GPA	3.26	3.25	3.26
		Average Family Size	2.9	3.0	2.9
		Average Age	30	29	30
<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B Recipients</b>		13,716	11,906	25,622	
	Average Income	\$14,643	\$15,186	\$14,895	
	Average GPA	3.28	3.26	3.27	
	Average Family Size	2.9	3.0	3.0	
	Average Age	30	29	30	



Table 8 shows the highest school completed by the father and/or mother of the new Competitive Cal Grant A and B recipients for the 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 academic years. In 2006-07 and 2007-08, 58 percent of the Cal Grant A and B recipients had a father and/or mother who completed high school or less and 21 percent had a father and/or mother who completed college or beyond.

**Table 8  
Highest School Completed by Father and/or Mother of Award Recipients**

Academic Year	Program	Competition		
		March	September	Total
2005-06	<b>Cal Grant A recipients</b>	1,067	475	1,542
	High School or less	58%	63%	60%
	College or beyond	24%	14%	21%
	Unknown	18%	23%	19%
	<b>Cal Grant B recipients</b>	10,408	11,712	22,120
	High School or less	58%	60%	59%
	College or beyond	22%	19%	20%
	Unknown	20%	21%	21%
	<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B recipients</b>	11,475	12,187	23,662
High School or less	58%	60%	59%	
College or beyond	22%	19%	20%	
Unknown	20%	21%	21%	
2006-07	<b>Cal Grant A recipients</b>	1,193	518	1,711
	High School or less	59%	64%	61%
	College or beyond	24%	16%	21%
	Unknown	17%	20%	18%
	<b>Cal Grant B recipients</b>	11,481	12,189	23,670
	High School or less	57%	58%	58%
	College or beyond	23%	20%	21%
	Unknown	20%	22%	21%
	<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B recipients</b>	12,674	12,707	25,381
High School or less	57%	58%	58%	
College or beyond	23%	20%	21%	
Unknown	20%	22%	21%	
2007-08	<b>Cal Grant A recipients</b>	1,172	375	1,547
	High School or less	57%	58%	57%
	College or beyond	23%	13%	21%
	Unknown	20%	29%	22%
	<b>Cal Grant B recipients</b>	12,544	11,531	24,075
	High School or less	57%	58%	58%
	College or beyond	23%	19%	21%
	Unknown	20%	23%	21%
	<b>Cal Grant A &amp; B recipients</b>	13,716	11,906	25,622
High School or less	57%	58%	58%	
College or beyond	23%	19%	21%	
Unknown	20%	23%	21%	

## SECTION IV - ELIGIBLE NON-RECIPIENTS

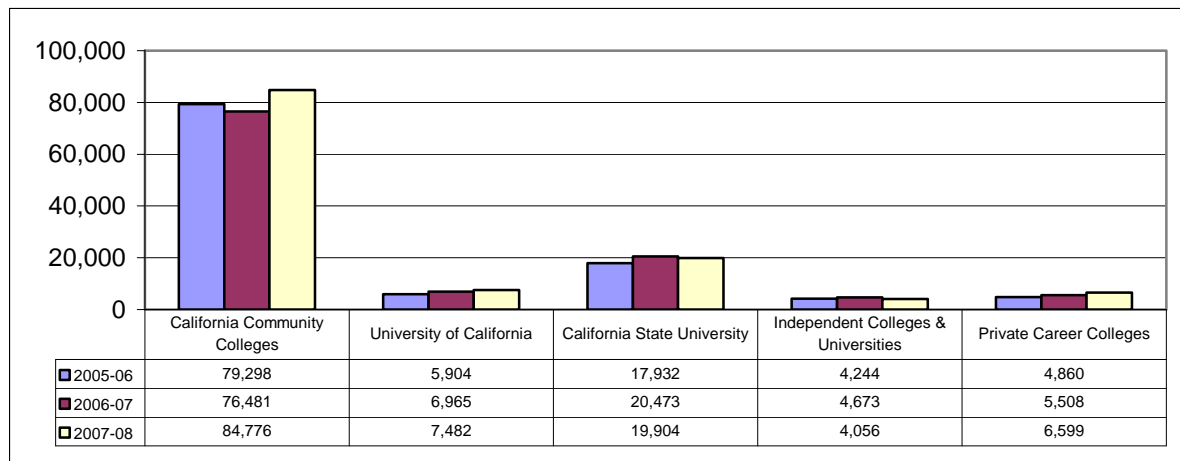
Eligible non-recipients are those applicants, from the March and September Competitions, who successfully passed the common, program, and financial edits (described in Section II) but did not receive an award because their scores were below the cutoff point. Had more awards been available, the number of eligible non-recipients within this pool would be lower.

The displays and tables below show characteristics of the eligible non-recipients in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. Demographically, there is no discernable difference. From 2005-06 to 2007-08, there was an increase of over 10,500, or 9.4 percent, applicants who met all eligibility criteria but did not receive an award because of the statutory limit.

### Eligible Non-Recipients by Segment

Display 9 illustrates segmental distribution of the eligible non-recipients for the latest three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program. From 2005-06 to 2007-08, the University of California had an increase of 26.7 percent; the California State University segment had an increase of 11 percent; Private Career Colleges were up by 35.8 percent; the Independent Colleges and Universities decreased by 4.4 percent; and the California Community Colleges increased by almost 6.9 percent.

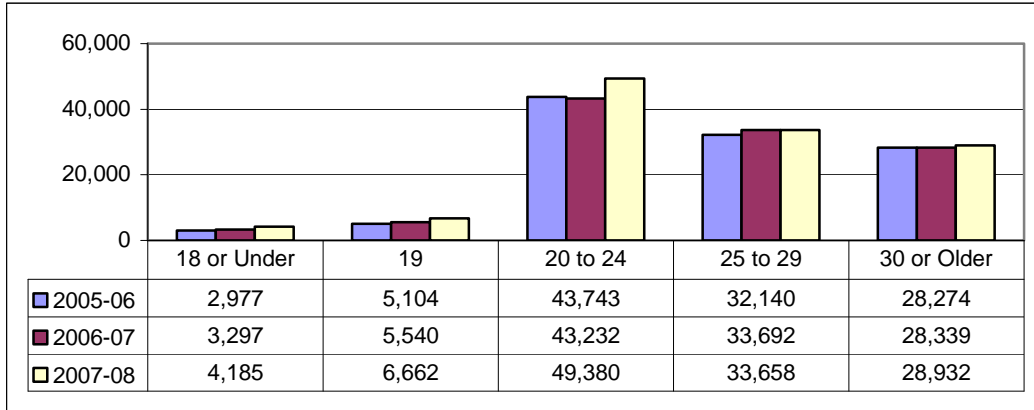
**Display 9: Segmental Distribution of Eligible Non-Recipients**



## Eligible Non-Recipients by Age

Display 10 illustrates that the age distribution of eligible non-recipients remained fairly constant during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. As in previous years, over one-half of all eligible non-recipients were 25 years of age or older and are considered non-traditional or returning students.

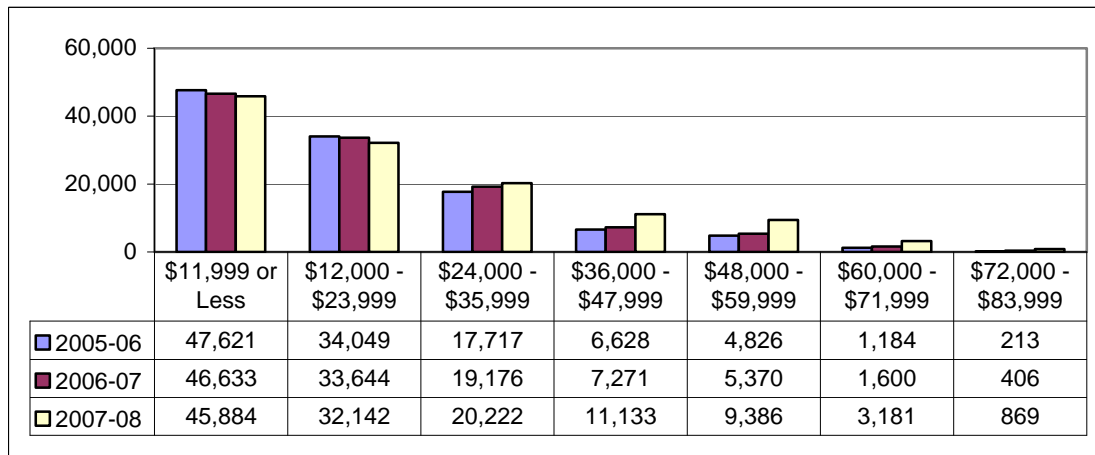
**Display 10: Age Distribution of Eligible Non-Recipients**



## Eligible Non-Recipients by Income

The proportion of Competitive Cal Grant Program eligible non-recipients by income changed very little during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. Display 11 illustrates that over the past three years just over 40 percent of all eligible non-recipients earned less than \$12,000 per year.

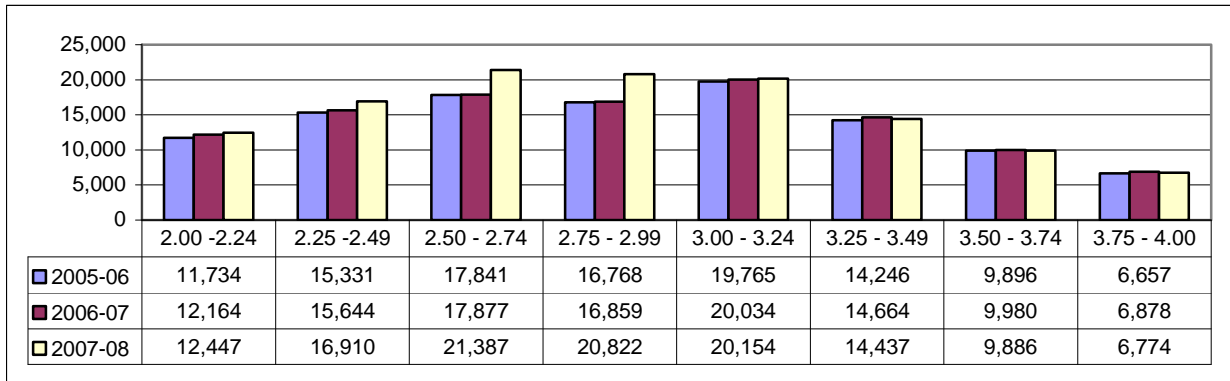
**Display 11: Income Distribution of Eligible Non-Recipients**



### Eligible Non-Recipients by Grade Point Average (GPA)

Display 12 illustrates the GPA distribution of those students who were eligible but, due to the number of awards, were not granted an award. In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, over 40 percent of all eligible non-recipients had a GPA of 3.00 or higher.

**Display 12: GPA Distribution of Eligible Non-Recipients**



### Typical Eligible Non-Recipients

Table 9 presents the typical eligible non-recipient for the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Table 10 shows the highest school completed by the father and/or mother of the eligible non-recipients for the 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 academic years.

**Table 9  
A Typical Competitive Eligible Non-Recipient**

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
<b>Eligible Non-Recipients</b>	112,238	114,100	122,817
Average Income	\$17,749	\$18,659	\$21,563
Average GPA	2.91	2.91	2.89
Average Family Size	2.5	2.5	2.6
Average Age	27	27	27

**Table 10  
Highest School Completed by Father and/or Mother of Eligible Non-Recipients**

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
<b>Eligible Non-Recipients</b>	112,238	114,100	122,817
High School or less	44%	44%	44%
College or beyond	46%	47%	46%
Unknown	10%	9%	10%

## SECTION V - CONCLUSION

The Competitive Cal Grant Program continues to play a vital and crucial role in making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. A priority of the Commission and the State is continued advocacy for increased higher education opportunities for California students. Any funds invested in the Competitive Cal Grant Program should be considered an investment in the future of the State's economy. With California's changing labor market and fluctuating economy, an increasing number of non-traditional, returning, and older adult students are seeking education and training. To meet the demands of this group, the Competitive Cal Grant Program needs to respond effectively with more awards. Students who achieve a postsecondary education in California will increase their income potential and will contribute to the future tax base as their income increases.

The Competitive Cal Grant Program is constrained because the number of awards has remained at 22,500 since 2001-02 and the pool of eligible applicants continues to exceed this limit. For example, in 2007-08, over 148,400 students were successful in meeting the financial and basic eligibility criteria for the Competitive Cal Grant Program. However, about one out of six, or 17 percent, of the eligible students received awards and more than 122,800 eligible students remained unserved.

The number of eligible non-recipients has steadily increased since 2001-02 when the Competitive Cal Grant Program began. However, the profile of those who do not receive an award remains fairly consistent. The typical eligible non-recipient in 2007-08 was 27 years old with a GPA of 2.89 and was from a family of 3 with an income of \$21,563. This student failed to receive an award because the Commission must apply scoring criteria to reduce the number of eligible students as mandated by statute. The continued rise in the number of both applicants and eligible non-recipients is attributable to the following:

- Improvements in promoting the federal electronic FAFSA on the Web filing system;
- Improvements in the Commission's Cal Grant GPA verification process;
- Improvements in the Commission's partnerships with secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, the California student financial aid associations, and members of the Legislature to promote extensive outreach efforts;
- Collaboration with business and industry to deliver focused Cal Grant financial aid outreach; and especially
- The struggling economy and the changing labor market driving increasing numbers of older workers to seek additional education to upgrade or acquire new job skills.

In summary, these findings clearly note that in the face of rising demand for enrollment, increasing fees, and economic uncertainties at colleges and universities, the California Competitive Cal Grant Program provides access and choice to a limited number of students seeking postsecondary education or job retraining. If California wants to assure financial access to postsecondary education for non-traditional, returning, and older adult students, consideration should be given to increasing the number of Competitive Cal Grant awards beyond the 22,500 currently authorized in statute [California Education Code Section 69437(b)]. Therefore, the resources currently provided for by this program will continue to remain inadequate in meeting the challenges posed by a changing economy and the need for current workers to secure additional postsecondary education and training in California.

