



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

November 28, 2022

GSA 2022-76

TO: High School Counselors and Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
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SUBJECT: **The 2023-24 High School Race to Submit Campaign**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) invites every public high school and school district in California to join our annual statewide **Race to Submit** campaign for the 2023-24 award year (class of 2023).

The [Race to Submit Online Dashboard](#) (Dashboard) tracks the number of FAFSAs and CA Dream Act applications (CADAAAs) completed by the senior class at the high school, district, county, and state level from October 1, 2022 to the March 2, 2023 Cal Grant High School Entitlement deadline. The Dashboard provides progress updates of the following data, which is updated twice a week (Thursday and Sunday nights):

- ✓ FAFSA/CADAA submission and completion rates
- ✓ Number of financial aid applications matched to GPAs
- ✓ Number of Cal Grant award offers
- ✓ Compare 2-years of application data – class of 2023 vs. class of 2022

Historically, the Race to Submit campaign is launched using last year's October certified enrollment counts, until we receive the current year certified enrollment counts from the California Department of Education (usually in the Spring). Upon receiving the updated enrollment data, the dashboard is updated, and winners of the campaign will be based off these updated counts.

New for the 2023-24 Race to Submit Campaign

New Leaderboard Category. The Race to Submit Leaderboard (Leaderboard) will also recognize schools with the highest year to year growth percentage of completed financial aid applications that are matched to GPAs. Schools in this new category, must have a minimum of 50% completed financial aid applications that are matched to GPAs for the current year, to appear on the leaderboard.

- The **Top 10** and **Most Improved** categories are now displayed within the Leaderboard link on the dashboard home page. Please refer to the FAQs link for additional information.

New Look and Feel. Changes to the look and feel of the dashboard, such as the new Race to Submit logo and color scheme.

Important Reminders

- To increase the chances that GPAs are matched to financial aid applications, high schools should ensure student demographic information is collected and updated prior to the submission of GPAs during senior year. It is recommended that schools utilize the [Demographic Verification Form](#) to confirm that they have the most updated demographic information for their students.
- To guarantee that all students are given fair financial aid consideration, schools should not remove any students from any GPA uploads regardless of their current school of attendance.

Resources

- As announced on [GSA 2022-70](#), the Commission has developed the “Financial Aid Application Status Report.” This report, which is available to staff with WebGrants access, can assist schools with tracking their students through the financial aid application process, including GPA submission, financial aid completion and Cal Grant awarding.
- For additional assistance in GPA Matching and Editing, please refer to the [GPA Matching and Editing Reference Guide](#) and consider attending a [training webinar](#).

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
- E-mail: schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!