



# OPERATIONS MEMO

## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA



**August 21, 2019**

**GOM 2019-29**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators  
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler   
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

**SUBJECT: 2020-21 Student Expense Budget / Income and Asset Ceilings**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the release of the 2020-21 [Student Expense Budgets](#) and [Income and Asset Ceilings](#).

- The statewide Student Expense Budgets were calculated using the prescribed methodology from the 2018-19 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS). The 2020-21 budgets include standardized allowances for food, housing, books, supplies, transportation, and personal/miscellaneous expenses based on a nine-month academic year.
- Actual campus budget information provided by the institutions on WebGrants, or on a College Cost Estimate form, will be used for Cal Grant awarding.
- The 2020-21 Cal Grant Income and Asset Ceilings were adjusted using the cost of living factor based on the percentage change in California per capita personal income from the prior year.
- California Education Code section 69432.7(k) states that the maximum household Income and Asset Ceilings applicable for a renewing recipient be the higher of:
  1. The adjusted ceilings for the year; **or**
  2. The ceilings at the time of the renewing recipient's initial Cal Grant award.
- The 2020-21 Income and Asset Ceilings will be the same for new and renewal Cal Grant students.
- Student Expense Budgets and Income and Asset Ceilings are available at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) on the "Colleges" tab menu, under the "Resource Documents" section.

### **Need to contact us?**

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

***Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!***