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California Student Aid Commission Statement on Governor's proposed 2023-24 State Budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif., January 10, 2023 – The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) commends Governor Newsom for his continued commitment in promoting college affordability, as reflected in his proposed 2023-24 State Budget.

The Governor's proposed Budget maintains the state's historic investments made in financial aid, including \$2.3 billion for Cal Grant and \$859 million for Middle Class Scholarship. The \$227 million one-time increase in Middle Class Scholarship follows through on new investments referenced in the 2022-23 State Budget agreement. The proposed Budget also acknowledges the 2022-23 Budget Act provisions to adopt landmark reforms of the Cal Grant program and expressed the Administration's continued attention to implementation.

Additionally, the proposed Budget includes \$1.6 million in funding for the Commission's cybersecurity efforts, support for growing human resources needs, and distribution of toolkits to support financial aid application completion efforts for high school seniors in alignment with the "All In for FAFSA/CA Dream Act" campaign.

"We know all of our students are working hard to get to and complete college. Governor Newsom has continued his commitment to higher education and making college affordable during times of financial uncertainty for the students of California. I applaud the Governor for his leadership," said Catalina Cifuentes, Chair of the Student Aid Commission.

"We applaud Governor Newsom for his ongoing investment into the success of our college students," said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the Student Aid Commission. "We also appreciate the proposed investment into the Commission's cybersecurity infrastructure to guard against the increasing threat of hackers. As we continue to help more and more students, we know how imperative it is to protect their data."

The Commission looks forward to continuing to work with the Governor and Legislature through the Budget process to ensure the Commission has the staffing and infrastructure capacity necessary to successfully implement new programs established over the past several years and fulfill our mission of serving students.

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The California Student Aid Commission administers a portfolio of over \$3 billion in 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 by clicking on our Link Tree, <https://linktr.ee/castudentaid>