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Student Aid Commission Commends Gov. Newsom's Commitment to Cal Grant Program in May Budget Revision

Governor calls Cal Grant "exactly the kind of program we need at this time"

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Updated May 15, 2020 – The California Student Aid Commission commended Governor Newsom's commitment to funding Cal Grants for students attending public institutions and making education beyond high school financially accessible for students across California amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

"I am pleased that Governor Newsom is placing a high priority on college affordability by investing in students through financial aid," said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission. "The Commission supports all students with need and looks forward to working with the governor's office, the legislature and all stakeholders as together we eliminate financial aid obstacles, especially those that have been exacerbated by COVID-19."

The Commission continues to advocate for all low-income students who attend colleges and universities in the state and supports maintaining current funding levels for Cal Grant students attending private, non-profit institutions.

Student Commissioner Caroline Siegel Singh said, "Now more than ever, students are struggling to afford their basic needs such as housing and food. I applaud the Governor for prioritizing the Cal Grant program and the low-income California students that it serves. Preservation of the Middle Class Scholarship and Students with Dependent Children Cal Grant supplement will also help our students continue to afford college during these challenging times."

"The governor's commitment to the Cal Grant program reinforces the message to students that they are a key part of the state's economic recovery and future. California's colleges are educating the future workforce and are essential in helping the state navigate the new economy," said Chair Commissioner Catalina Cifuentes.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Jamillah Moore added, "In order to combat this economic crisis and address workforce needs, our state will need a higher education system that is financially accessible for all Californians and Cal Grants need to be provided to all students with need."

The student aid commission stands true to its mission to make higher education financially accessible for all Californians, especially during this time of a crisis. We will continue to work with our constituents to ensure the success of California's students.

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The California Student Aid Commission administers the state's \$2.8 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.

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Aid Commission serves to educate, inform, and support students, their educational institutions, and the professionals who assist them please visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on [Twitter](#) @castudentaid.