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PRESS RELEASE

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Statewide Initiative to Increase High School Financial Aid Applications Launched *California Student Aid Commission tracks schools with highest rate of student financial aid submissions*

Sacramento, CA (2019) – California high schools and districts can view and track how many of their students have completed financial aid applications during the 2019-20 Race to Submit Campaign, a friendly competition that aims to increase the number of high school students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The FAFSA and CADAA are student financial aid forms that provide access to grants, work-study, and scholarships for higher education. The statewide Race to Submit application period begins October 1st and runs through the Cal Grant deadline, March 2nd.

Weekly progress updates can be found here <https://webutil.csac.ca.gov/dashboard/>, on the Race to Submit Dashboard. Each high school, district and county can see updates of FAFSA and CADAA completion and submission rates; the number of Cal Grant applications submitted and completed; and the number of students eligible for Cal Grants. This year, the Dashboard includes a 2019-20 Leaderboard, ranking schools based on their percentage of completed FAFSA/CADAA applications plus matching Grade Point Averages, both of which are required for Cal Grant Award consideration. The Race to Submit will celebrate the progress and success of all schools and districts that make significant strides in completion rates.

As the state's higher education financial aid policy leader and administrator of the \$2.2 billion Cal Grant program, the Commission supports several outreach programs in addition to the Race to Submit, that provide information about financial aid and promotes higher education access to students, such as Cash for College events, the Steps to College event, and the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP).

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The California Student Aid Commission is the state's policy leader in the administration of financial aid for higher education, making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. California Student Aid Commission serves the needs of not only today's college students but tomorrow's students, guiding them through the application process. Information and tools are available online for the parents of tomorrow's college and career technical students, a fully staffed call center answers questions and the California Student Aid Commission provides workshops and funds grants to organizations that provide access opportunities for students who are first in their family to attend institutions of higher education. For more information on how the California Student 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](https://twitter.com/castudentaid) and [Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CSAC.StudentAidCommission/>](https://www.facebook.com/CSAC.StudentAidCommission/).