

FAST BLAST



OUR MISSION: "Make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians."

DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL, Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission

Revised: October 28, 2010

Message from Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel

2010-11 Budget Act Signed October 8th—Cal Grant and Specialized Financial Aid Program Funds to Be Delivered Shortly

As a result of the late budget, the Commission was prohibited from disbursing Cal Grant payments. Now that the 2010-11 budget bill is enacted, Commission staff are working diligently with the State Controller's Office to process Cal Grant payments as quickly as possible. Although Cal Grant payments to students attending proprietary and private schools and Community Colleges will be disseminated shortly, [Assembly Bill 1624](#) delays the reimbursing of Cal Grant payments to UC and CSU campuses. For more information go to [Special Alert GSA 2010-32](#).

The revised budget also provided the following amendments to the Commission's programs:

- Allocates \$100 million from surplus loan operating funds to help fund Cal Grants,
- Provides \$1.2 million to fund essential Cal Grant support services formerly provided by the Commission's auxiliary, EdFund, during transition to direct lending; and
- Maintains funding of the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) by shifting partial funding to the federal College Access Challenge Grant

2010 Financial Aid Workshops Open for High School Counselors

The Commission, in partnership with the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, will offer the statewide Fall 2010 High School Counselor Workshop series beginning Friday, October 22 through November 18. Half-day workshops scheduled from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM will provide high school counselors and school site staff an in-person opportunity to learn about new changes to the 2011-12 FAFSA, detailed information on federal programs, Cal Grants, the Chafee Grant for foster youth, in-state tuition assistance (AB 540), and the Cash for College workshop series. Register as soon as possible for open workshops at www.csac.ca.gov/hstemplatereg.asp

Note: Claremont and Fullerton workshops are now full.

Guaranty Agreement Appeal Pending Discussion

On September 22, 2010, the Commission appealed the U.S. Department of Education's decision to remove California's loan guaranty, eliminating millions of dollars from the Cal Grant programs. The appeal is currently pending discussion with the U.S. Department of Education.

Commissioner Barry Keene issued the following statement:

In order to protect the current and future students of California, the Commission, by a majority vote, has taken decisive action to appeal the U.S. Department of Education's decision to terminate the California Student Aid Commission's guaranty agreement.

This action by the U.S. Department of Education puts at risk financial aid to 330,000 California students and disrupts services that support the Cal Grant program and the other specialized federal and state financial aid programs administered by the Commission.

Our goal is to ensure that maximum funding remains available to the state of California to support the Cal Grant program and that California and its students' future are not jeopardized. Recently, the Legislative Leadership expressed its serious concerns about the action taken by the U.S. Department of Education; we the Commission, as the guaranty agency, ask that the U.S. Department of Education's action be rescinded in order to protect the interests of the students of California.

Veteran's Educational Benefit Calculation Changes

Senate Bill (SB) 182, Chaptered July 15, 2010, changed how Veteran's Educational Benefits (VEB) will be calculated beginning January 1, 2011. The following provides guidance for institutions on how to calculate VEB beginning January 1, 2011:

- VEB must be used to calculate Cal Grant payment eligibility for terms beginning prior to January 1, 2011. Cal Grant payments will continue to be reported for students who still have financial need with the inclusion of VEB.
- If the inclusion of VEB for terms beginning prior to January 1, 2011 excludes students from receiving a Cal Grant payment, a new

“VB” adjustment reason code must be used. Use of this code will defer the student’s Cal Grant award eligibility to the next term and assure the student is not withdrawn due to the lack of financial need.

- VEB payments will not be used in calculating Cal Grant payment eligibility for terms beginning after January 1, 2011.

Since VEB information is not included in the 2010-11 ISIR, the Commission can not provide a list of Cal Grant participants who indicated VEB participation.

2011-12 Cal Grant GPA Submission Deadline

The Commission is accepting Cal Grant GPA uploads for the 2011-12 academic year. Schools can use WebGrants to key high school or college GPAs into the Commission’s system. Processing GPAs through WebGrants provides institutions immediate upload confirmation. With electronic submission, students can receive instant GPA acceptance information via [WebGrants4Students](#). All 2011-12 Cal Grant GPA’s must be submitted no later than March 2.

The WebGrants Help Center offers instructions on electronically submitting GPAs. On WebGrants, click on *Help* in the upper right corner of the screen then click on *User Guides – GPA Screens*. The 2011-12 Cal Grant [GPA Verification Form](#) can be located at [www.csac.ca.gov](#).

Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE)

The Commission is accepting 2010-11 APLE applications until all authorized allocations have been disbursed. A total of 7,100 applications were allocated to 79 participating institutions.

WebGrants Portal and Security Enhancements

The WebGrants portal has been improved. System Administrators will now use a single user ID for multiple applications and assign users unique portal pages. This improvement will provide easier navigation and access to users’ specific financial aid programs, increase security and lower maintenance for institutions. Detailed WebGrants changes can be found in [Operations Memo GOM 2010-18](#), Enclosure: [WebGrants Changes – September 21, 2010](#).

2011-12 Fund Your Future Workbook Available Soon

The award-winning Fund Your Future workbook and brochure will be available later this month.

Published in English and Spanish, the 2011-12 Fund Your Future series provides important information to students and their families on available financial aid assistance to help pay for college and career technical training.

We will announce when the Fund Your Future series will become available in an upcoming Operations Memo.

2010 Legislative Session

The 2010 Legislative Session has now come to a close. The Commission supported and sponsored a variety of bills promoting student financial aid opportunity, administration, and transparency. The chaptered bills listed below will go into effect on January 1, 2011. Operational issues affected by the changing legislation will be discussed in future Grant Special Alerts or Operation Memos. Copies of the bills can be viewed at [www.info.sen.ca.gov](#).

AB 1703 (Knight) Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education

Summary: Provides for an increased loan assumption for a SNAPLE-NSF participant who completes qualified clinical registered nursing service at a state-operated veterans’ home. Adds active military duty in the United States Armed Forces to the list of occurrences that would authorize the extension of the term of a loan assumption agreement under the program.

Commission Position: Support

Status: Dead

AB 1761 (Fong) Cal Grant B Awards: Award Amount

Summary: Increases the percentage of new Cal Grant B recipients eligible for payment of tuition or fees in their first academic year of attendance.

Commission Position: Support

Status: Dead

AB 1997 (Portantino) Community Colleges: Student Financial Aid: Pilot Program

Summary: Requires the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCC) to establish a voluntary pilot program at no more than 10 CCC campuses to increase student participation in state and federal financial aid programs. The goal is to identify best strategies for increasing FAFSA submissions by targeting two populations: (1) students potentially eligible for financial aid who complete a fee waiver application but not a FAFSA and (2) students potentially eligible for financial aid who do not apply to receive any campus, state, or federal financial aid.

Commission Position: Support

Status: Vetoed by the Governor. To view the veto message go to [click here](#).

AB 2447 (Furutani) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program

Summary: Requires the maximum amounts of Cal Grant A and B awards for students attending nonpublic institutions, the Cal Grant B access award for all students, and the Cal Grant C award to be adjusted annually for inflation. Requires Cal Grant A and B tuition payments for students attending public institutions to cover systemwide fees.

Commission Position: Sponsor

Status: Dead

AB 2086 (Coto) Cal Grant: Qualifying Institutions: Publication of License Examination Passage Rates

Summary: Redefines qualifying institution for purposes of the Cal Grant program to mean an institution that is within any of the categories listed in existing law and that complies with a

requirement to provide information on where to access license examination passage rates for graduates of specified programs if that data is electronically available through the Web site of a state licensing or regulatory agency.

Commission Position: Support

Status: Chaptered, *Chp. 248, Statutes of 2010*

SB 957 (Price) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant C Awards

Summary: Requires the Student Aid Commission to develop and regularly update the areas of occupational or technical training for which students may utilize Cal Grant C awards. Requires the commission to give priority in granting such awards to students pursuing occupational or technical training in high-need, high-growth, or high-wage areas. Requires the Student Aid Commission to publish the list of priority programs on its Web site.

Commission Position: Support

Status: Vetoed by the Governor. To view the veto message, [click here.](#)

SB 1382 (Veterans Affairs Committee) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant: Methodology

Summary: Deletes the requirement in Cal Grant Program law that specifies the minimum financial need required for receipt of a new Cal Grant award be calculated consistent with the Student Aid Commission's methodology in 2000-01 (when veterans education benefits were taken into account).

Commission Position: Sponsor

Status: Chaptered, *Chp. 113, Statutes of 2010*

SB 1460 (Cedillo) Student Financial Aid: Eligibility: California Dream Act of 2010

Summary: Requires the establishment of procedures and forms that enable AB 540 students to apply for, and participate in, all institutional student aid programs, including the Board of Governors fee waiver.

Commission Position: Support

Status: Vetoed by the Governor. To view the veto message, [click here.](#)

AB 1413 (Fuentes) Student Financial Aid

Summary: Companion to the California Dream Act of 2010. Can only be signed if SB 1460 is signed. Requires the establishment of procedures and forms that enable AB 540 students to apply for, and participate in, all state student aid programs, including Cal Grant. Specifies that AB 540 students cannot receive Competitive Cal Grants or Cal Grant C unless funding remains after all eligible non-AB 540 students are awarded.

Commission Position: Support

Status: Vetoed by the Governor. To view the veto message, [click here.](#)

The Commission's offices will be closed for business on Friday, October 15 and 22 for designated furlough days. The Commission anticipates that normal hours will resume in November.

California Student Aid Commission Addresses

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