

Information Item

California Student Aid Commission

Cal-SOAP Presentation on Cal-SOAP: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

The California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) was established by the State Legislature in 1978. At that time, five projects were established with the \$250,000 appropriated for the program. Thirty years later, with an appropriation of \$7.3 million, Cal-SOAP continues to be instrumental in improving the flow of information to students about postsecondary education and financial aid while simultaneously working at raising the achievement levels of low-income, elementary and secondary school students. The goal, as noted in the California Education Code, is to help prepare students for the competitive aspect of admittance to California's colleges and universities. In addition to a multi-dimensional approach to outreach, great emphasis is placed on reaching those students who attend schools in regions with documented low-eligibility and/or college participation rates or students who are first in their families to attend college.

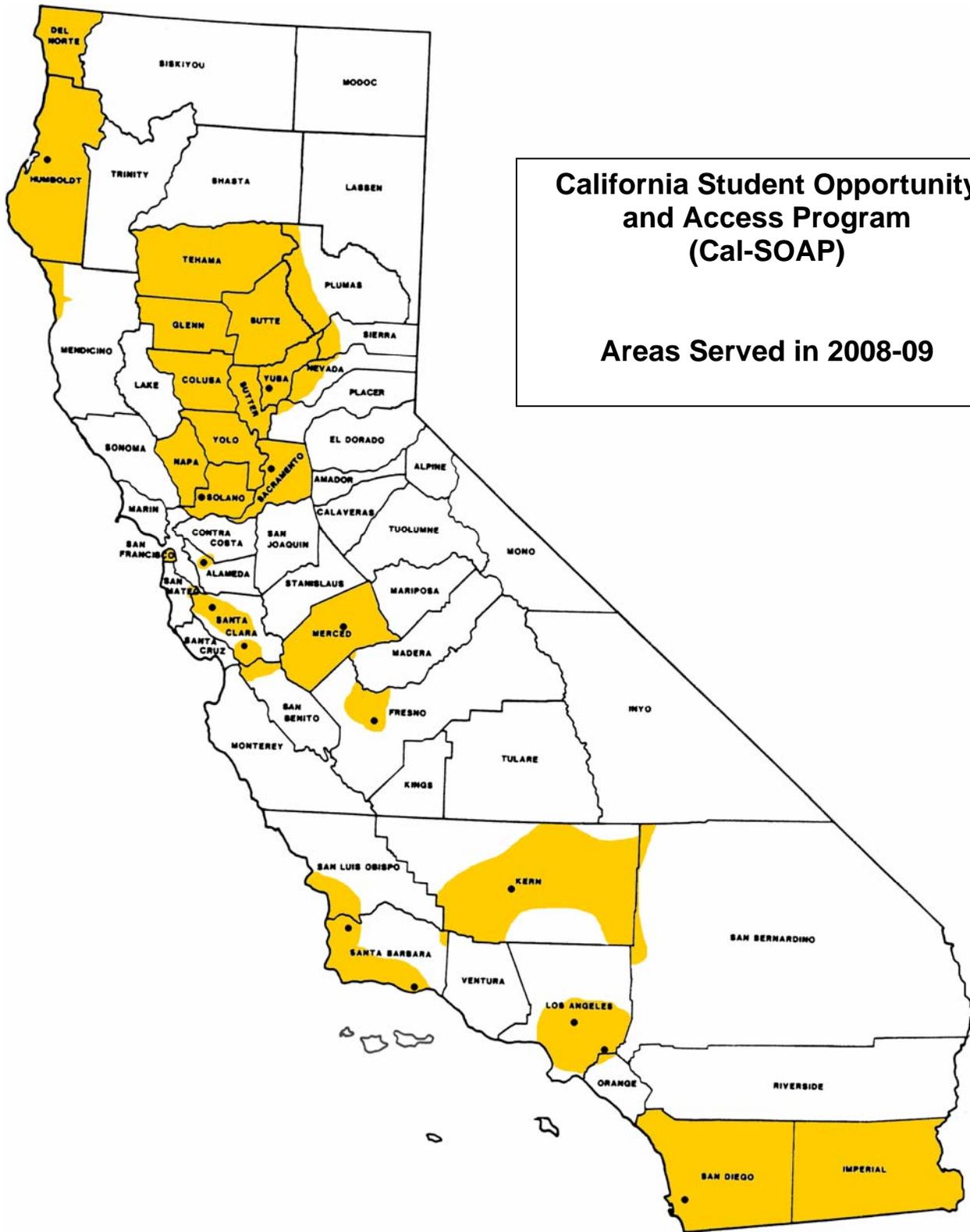
Today, the 15 Cal-SOAP consortia operate in seventeen outreach service areas throughout the state as shown in Tab 8.a. The consortia, also known as projects, have governing boards made up of secondary and postsecondary schools, community agencies, and other organizational entities. Each board addresses service area needs in the advancement of outreach efforts to those students traditionally underrepresented in two and four-year colleges and universities as well as vocational programs. Additionally, Cal-SOAP, at both the state and local levels, works in cooperation with other intersegmental outreach programs to ensure avoidance of service duplication.

The Commission Chair and Executive Director will present a resolution to commemorate the thirty years of Cal-SOAP service after a presentation by two of the Project Directors.

Presenters: Daniel Bixler, Project Director
North Coast Consortium

Monica Roberts, Project Director
Sacramento Consortium

Responsible Person: Janet McDuffie, Chief
Administration and External Affairs Division



**California Student Opportunity
and Access Program
(Cal-SOAP)**

Areas Served in 2008-09