

Statutory Requirements for the California Student Aid Commission

The mission of the California Student Aid Commission is to make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. The Commission ensures the effective and efficient administration of federal and state authorized financial aid, including grants and student loans. In addition, the Commission has responsibility to provide leadership on financial aid issues and to make public policy recommendations concerning financial aid programs.

Education Code	CSAC Responsibilities	Description
Section 66010.6(b) of Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	The purpose of the California Student Aid Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is the primary state agency for the administration of state-authorized student financial aid programs available to students attending all segments of postsecondary education. These programs include grant, work study, and loan programs supported by the state and the federal government. • The Commission shall provide, in consultation with the postsecondary education segments and relevant state agencies, policy leadership on student financial aid issues, evaluate the effectiveness of its programs, conduct research and long-range planning as a foundation for program improvement, report on total state financial aid needs, and disseminate information to students and their families.
Sections 69510-69514 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	Creation of the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) - composition; terms; appointments; compensation; chairperson; director; duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission shall be composed of 15 members including representatives from postsecondary institutions, students in postsecondary institutions, a representative from a California secondary school, and public members. • 11 members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, 2 members are appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and 2 members are appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. • Members serve four-year terms except the two student members, appointed by the Governor, who serve two-year terms. • Each member shall receive a \$100 stipend and travel expenses for each day in which he or she attends a Commission or subcommittee meeting. • Whenever an act of Congress permits administration of a federal program by a state agency, the Governor and Commission, by a majority vote, may choose to administer that federal program if participation does not jeopardize or interfere with administration of the Cal Grant program. • Members of the Commission shall annually select a chairperson from among its members.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission appoints a director to act as the chief executive officer and may employ others it deems necessary to carry out its functions. • The Commission may delegate any powers, duties, functions, jurisdictions it is lawfully able to do to the director, who in turn may delegate to others. • The Commission shall report, on or before April 1 of each year, statistical data about its programs and recipients.
Sections 66011-66025.8 of Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	Basic provisions of the Donahoe Higher Education Act for postsecondary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the policy of the State of California that the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program supplements the federal Pell Grant program. • When the Commission has information that a student is in default on a loan, it shall give notice of the default to all institutions through which that individual acquired the loan or loans.
Sections 69430-69440 of Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	Administration of the Cal Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission shall annually adjust the maximum income and asset levels to be used in the selection of eligible applicants. • The Commission shall require a GPA or equivalency be submitted for all Cal Grant A and B applicants. • Awards are to be based on the financial need of the applicant, as determined using federal methodology, and shall not exceed the student's need. • The Commission may prescribe supplemental applications. • The Commission may enter into contracts with public or private entities to improve the processing and distribution of aid through the use of networks and unified data bases. • The Commission is authorized to make advance payments, per term, to participating postsecondary institutions for eligible students. • Cal Grant awards may only be utilized by California residents who have not yet obtained a baccalaureate degree and meet citizenship, graduation (if applicable), and other eligibility requirements as stated in law. • Cal Grant A Entitlement awards are to be based on criteria set forth in Article 2 of Chapter 1.7. The Commission shall hold a Cal Grant A in reserve for a California Community College student for up to three years. • Cal Grant B Entitlement awards are to be based on criteria set forth in Article 3 of Chapter 1.7 For Cal Grant B recipients, the Commission shall award access grants in the student's first academic year; in subsequent years the award shall include an additional amount to pay tuition and/or fees. The Commission shall, through regulations, select no more than two percent of the new Cal Grant B recipients to receive the access grant and

		<p>tuition and/or fees in their first academic year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Community College Transfer Cal Grant A and B Entitlement awards are to be based on criteria set forth in Article 4 of Chapter 1.7. The Commission shall make preliminary award offers to eligible applicants and require a written affidavit of high school graduation or the equivalent and California residency at the time of that graduation or equivalent. The Commission shall also randomly select ten percent of the new and renewal Transfer Entitlement awards for institutional verification of the previously-mentioned requirement. • Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards are to be based on criteria set forth in Article 5 of Chapter 1.7. The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature and the Governor on the Competitive Cal Grant program. • Cal Grant C awards are to be based on criteria set forth in Article 6 of Chapter 1.7. The Commission may use other criteria it deems appropriate in selecting students with occupational talents to receive grants for occupational or technical training. • Cal Grant T awards are to be based on criteria set forth in Article 7 of Chapter 1.7. (This program is no longer being funded.)
<p>Sections 69500-69509.5 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Allowances for modification of federal methodology; actions for refusing to furnish financial information; actions brought again educational institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever it is determined to be in the best interest of the state, the Commission may adopt regulations modifying the methodology set forth in federal law or regulation for determining the expected family contribution (EFC) or the federal definition establishing the dependent and independent status of students seeking state-funded financial assistance. Prior to adopting such regulations, the Commission shall conduct and make public a full analysis of the cost and effect of the change(s). • Applicants refusing to supply financial information shall not be considered for a grant. • When federal regulations defining financial independence change, the Commission shall report to the Legislature as soon as possible on what changes are necessary to conform to federal standards. • The director may withhold funds to an educational institution upon the commencement of any cause of action, including emergency action, as defined. The director shall give notice to the institution and any affected students.
<p>69514.5 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach Program; award selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission shall administer this program in conjunction with the California Community College Chancellor's office to address the financial aid needs of transfer students, foster youth, and students with disabilities, especially those from geographic areas with a high percentage of low-income families.

69517-69519 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	Award selection; refunds; budget proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In consultation with an advisory committee, and possible public review, the Commission may make changes to award selection procedures and selection criteria taking into account various factors that have impact on the distribution of awards. • The Commission, with the assistance of the Attorney General's office may seek refunds to awards made in part from incorrect information on the part of the student or student's parents. • By September 15 of each fiscal year, the Commission shall submit budget change proposals (BCP) to the Department of Finance for inclusion in the Governor's Budget.
Sections 69521-69521.11 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	Sale of EdFund authorized and defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director of the Department of Finance, in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall act as the agent for the sale or an alternative financial arrangement to sale of EdFund; whichever is deemed to be the most financially beneficial to the state. • Prohibits the Student Aid Commission from authorizing new services or expenditures by EdFund without prior approval of the Director of Department of Finance.
Sections 69522 – 69529.5 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	<p>Creation of EdFund; employee status and retirement benefits; expenditures; audits; support services; operating agreement; reports to the Legislature</p> <p>(to be repealed on operative date of the Sale of EdFund)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission shall maintain EdFund's responsibility for financial aid program administration, policy leadership, and program evaluation. • EdFund shall operate pursuant to an annual operating agreement with the Commission. • Commission shall appoint EdFund board of directors to meet at least quarterly and have the advice of a licensed attorney and certified public accountant. The board of directors must conduct its business in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. • Commission officer shall approve any EdFund expenditure outside of normal business operations; all other expenditures and authorizations would be approved by the EdFund's board of directors. • EdFund shall be subject to an annual audit of all funds, with results submitted to the Commission and the Department of Finance. • Commission shall report annually to the Legislature regarding EdFund's operations.
Sections 69550-69551 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code	Administration of the Cash for College Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning January 1, 2008, the Student Aid Commission shall administer the Cash for College Program in partnership with private business and industry and local community and educational organizations. • By December 1 of each year the Commission shall provide a report to the fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature on the Cash for College Program detailing program data, expenditures, and the findings of an independent evaluation, performed by a contracted external evaluator, on the extent to which program goals have been met.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary contributions to pay for the costs of implementing the program shall be deposited into the Cash for College Fund in the State Treasury. These funds are not considered general funds. • The Commission shall allocate funds to regional coordinating organizations to plan, coordinate, or conduct Cash for College workshops within specified regions within the state. The regional coordinating organizations shall contribute equal or greater resources to match the Cash for College funds allocated to it by the Commission. • The Commission shall annually establish the total amount of funding to assist regional coordinating organizations in consultation with a Cash for College statewide advisory board. Allocation of funds shall be established based upon the best use of funding for that year, as determined by the Commission.
<p>Sections 69560-69566 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Administration of the Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal SOAP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In awarding initial project grants, the Commission shall give priority to proposals developed by more than three eligible agencies. Projects shall be located throughout the state in order to provide access to program services in rural, urban, and suburban areas. • The Commission shall establish a 12-member project grant advisory committee as defined to advise project directors and the Commission on the development and operation of the projects. • Allocation of any funds appropriated for Cal SOAP shall be limited to those consortia meeting statutory requirements. It shall be the goal of the program that any new projects approved through expansion of the program shall provide equal matching resources for the first three years of operation and shall be encouraged to increase the matching resources to a 1.5 to 1 ratio with the state grant thereafter.
<p>Sections 69612-69615.6 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Administration of the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding necessary for the administration of APLE shall be included within the annual budget of the Commission in an amount necessary to meet the student loan obligations incurred by the Commission. • The Commission shall determine which institutions are eligible as defined. • APLE eligibility is to be based on criteria set forth in Article 5 of Chapter 2. The loan(s) to be assumed shall be FFELP loans or any loan program approved by the Commission. • The Commission shall commence loan assumption payments, as specified, upon verification that the applicant has fulfilled all prescribed requirements. • The Commission may make agreements available to out-of-state teachers who fulfill all eligibility requirements. • The Commission shall distribute program information and student applications to participate in the loan assumption program to each eligible institution and to each school

		<p>district or county office of education operating a district intern program. Each eligible institution shall receive at least one application, and the remainder shall be distributed to eligible institutions proportionate to the number of teaching candidates from each institution who completed the coursework required for a teaching credential during the previous year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission shall reexamine its outreach and marketing strategies to inform both potential undergraduates and persons employed outside of academia about the availability and benefits of the loan assumption program by enlisting the advice and support of the California Center for the Teaching Profession, the University of California, the California State University, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and private employers and their associations throughout the state. • The Commission shall establish rules and regulations for the administration of this program, and in doing so shall solicit the advice of representatives from postsecondary education institutions, the State Department of Education, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, school districts, and county offices of education • The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature various data about the APLE participants. • The Commission shall enter into agreements for the assumption of a minimum of 6,500 student loans or a higher quantity determined by the Governor and the Legislature in the annual Budget Act.
<p>Sections 69618-69619 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Administration of the Graduate Assumption Program of Loans for Education (Grad APLE) (This program is no longer being funded.)</p>	<p>(This program is no longer being funded.)</p>
<p>Sections 69620-69628 of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Administration of the Child Development Teacher and Supervisor (CDTS) Grant Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission may enter into an agreement with another state or local agency to administer this program. • CDTS Grants are to be based on the criteria set forth in Article 8 of Chapter 2. The Commission, or its designated agency, shall select participants on the basis of their demonstrated financial need and academic achievement as defined. • The Commission shall provide contractual agreements which outline the requirements of the participant. • The Commission shall develop appropriate mechanisms to document and report annually to the State Department of Education regarding the student's full-time employment in a

		<p>licensed children's center in California.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission shall enter into an interagency agreement with the State Department of Education or designated state agency to allocate federal funds received annually for purposes of this program and to include funds for the administrative costs. The Commission shall report to the State Department of Education or designated state agency regarding the federal funding level required to award 100 new grants and all of the renewal grants annually. • It is the intent of the Legislature that the Student Aid Commission consults with the Child Development Division of the California Department of Education, postsecondary educational institutions, and child care and development representatives of statewide organizations regarding the development of the program, including the program requirements and selection criteria. • The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature various data about the CDTS Grant participants.
<p>Sections 70100-70110 of Chapter 3 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Administration of the State Nursing Program of Loans for Education – Nursing Faculty (SNAPLE-NF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAPLE-NF eligibility is to be based on criteria set forth in Article 1 of Chapter 3. • The Commission shall award loan assumption agreements to undergraduate students with demonstrated academic ability and financial need, as determined by the Commission pursuant to statute, and to graduate students with demonstrated academic ability. • The loan(s) to be assumed shall be FFELP loans or any loan program approved by the Commission. • The Commission shall commence loan assumption payments, as specified, upon verification that the applicant has fulfilled all prescribed requirements. • The Commission shall cease loan assumption payments if the participant is unable to complete one of the three years of teaching service on a full-time basis, or the equivalent on a part-time basis, due to a serious illness, pregnancy, or other natural causes, or natural disaster. The deferment may extend for up to one year. • The Commission shall accept SNAPLE-NF nominations from accredited colleges and universities and choose from among them undergraduate students deemed financially needy with outstanding student loans and graduate students with outstanding student loans, based upon prescribed criteria. • The Commission may develop additional criteria for the selection of award recipients consistent with the purposes of this program. • The Commission shall establish rules and regulations for the administration of this program. If statutory changes are made to this program, the Commission may develop

		<p>and adopt additional rules or regulations no later than six months after the operative date of the statute that adds the provisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission shall work to develop a streamlined application process for participation in the program set forth in this article. • The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature various data about the SNAPLE-NF participants. • The Commission shall award no more than the number of warrants that are authorized by the Governor and the Legislature in the annual Budget Act for that year.
<p>Sections 70120-70129 of Chapter 3 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code</p>	<p>Administration of the State Nursing Program of Loans for Education – Employees of State Facilities (SNAPLE-NSF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAPLE-NSF eligibility is to be based on criteria set forth in Article 2 of Chapter 3. • The loan(s) to be assumed shall be FFELP loans or any loan program approved by the Commission. • The Commission shall commence loan assumption payments, as specified, upon verification that the applicant has fulfilled all prescribed requirements. • The Commission shall cease loan assumption payments if the participant is unable to complete one of the four years of clinical registered nursing service on a full-time basis, or the equivalent on a part-time basis, due to a serious illness, pregnancy, or other natural causes, or natural disaster. The deferment may extend for up to one year. • The Commission shall establish rules and regulations for the administration of this program. If statutory changes are made to this program, the Commission may develop and adopt additional rules or regulations no later than six months after the operative date of the statute that adds the provisions. • The Commission shall grant priority to applicants who, in the determination of the Commission, are included in any of the following categories: persons who possess a baccalaureate degree at the time of initial application; persons who are enrolled in an accelerated program of professional preparation for licensing as a registered nurse in California; persons who are recipients of federally subsidized student loans or other need-based student loans. • The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature various data about the SNAPLE-NSF participants.

Our mission is about access and opportunity for all students. The mission statement of this commission does not need to change.

So what do we do? We have three main functions.

Our Products – Core products, and boutique products

Our Delivery System - How we efficiently and effectively deliver those products to our target market

Our marketing and outreach strategy - How we tell our target market about our products and services – through programs such as:

Cash for College

Gear Up

Cal Soap

And how we can do all three of these functions given the following dynamics:

Post Ed Fund

And the ongoing Budget Crisis

The old adage, what doesn't kill us, makes us stronger.

We have the opportunity to perhaps recreate an organization that

refocuses our product offerings

enhance and streamline our delivery system

reinvigorate our marketing and outreach strategy

In each of these three areas we need to have measurable outcomes, timelines, and the question needs to be asked, What does success look like?

And, while doing these three things – develop the ongoing communication strategy that influences and educates all of our stakeholders – (financial aid offices, government, community).

Finally, what is our role as commissioners in that opportunity to recreate. What is our role as commissioners to develop, execute that effective, ongoing communication strategy.

Now the devil is in the details of course:

Do we have the right talent in that new recreated organization? Can we execute efficiently and effectively, can we instill measurable outcomes tied to what our definition of success is.

Can we tie our budgets (revenues and expenses) back to each of our 3 main functions?