

Information Item

California Student Aid Commission

Executive Director's Report

Enclosed for review is a written report from the Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission, which includes:

- a. California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Project Director's Report
- b. Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Report

Responsible Person(s): Diana Fuentes-Michel
Executive Director



**Executive Director's Report
September, 2012**

Dear Commissioners,

As summer ends and a new school year begins, the Commission focuses its work on extending opportunity to thousands of California students who depend on student aid to go to college. This summer, the Commission's focus was (1) on the implementation of the Cal Grant changes and funding reductions included in the final State budget, (2) concluding the formal consultation process required for the implementation of Senate Bill 70 reporting requirements, and (3) implementing Phase II of the California Dream Act legislation that allows for the first-time, AB 540 students to qualify for 2013-14 Cal Grant aid. All three of these priorities directly affect students in their qualification for student financial aid. However, the California Dream Act implementation requires that the Commission initiate an application process for AB 540 students for the 2013-14 application cycle that begins in January, 2013. In order for students, families and their secondary teachers and administrators, to be adequately informed and trained on the new application process, there are many issues to address. Commission staff has been busy over the summer, working on partnerships with education and community organizations to train educators and sponsor workshop events to inform students and the public of the California Dream Act. It has been an exciting and challenging time for us. We look forward to updating you at this month's Commission meeting on our activities.

Over the summer, Commission staff also focused its energies on integrating its external communications to students, their families and the general public. During my executive director's report, Ed Emerson and Patti Colston (our communications team), will provide a brief presentation of our efforts to integrate our communications externally. Specifically, we are moving to integrate our various websites (www.csac.ca.gov, www.calgrants.org and www.californiacashforcollege.org) with our social marketing strategy. We look forward to sharing this update with you at the Commission meeting.

We are very fortunate to have four new commissioners joining us:

- Mr. Cris Arzate of Los Angeles is the executive director of the Variety Boys and Girls Club in Boyle Heights and was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee as a representative of the general public;
- Ms. Ana Beltran of Los Angeles is an academic counselor at the Humanitas Academy of Art and Technology at the Esteban E. Torres High School. Ms. Beltran was appointed by the Governor as the California secondary schools representative;

- Ms. Jacqueline Doud of Glendale is retired from Mount Saint Mary's College holding positions including president emerita, president and provost. Ms. Doud is a Governor appointee representing the independent California colleges & universities; and
- Mr. Timothy White of Riverside is chancellor and professor at the University of California, Riverside. Mr. White was appointed by the Governor to represent the University of California.

I ask that you join me in welcoming them to the Commission.

I would also like to recognize our former Executive Fellow, Brandon Biegert, who worked closely with me, Legislative Director Lori Nezhura, and Federal Policy & Programs Division Chief Ed Emerson. During Brandon's eight-month internship at the Commission, he produced legislative analyses, staffed a bill through committee, consulted with external experts and stakeholders and formulated criteria for the implementation of changes to the Cal Grant C program, hosted informational webinars, formulated messaging and produced some of my hearing testimony. During the budget process, he worked on program analyses and responded to requests for information from external parties. He also evaluated the needs of the Commission web and social media presence and made recommendations for improvements, as well as a general re-design. His Executive Fellowship ended in mid-August and he is currently working on the campaign for Proposition 38, the tax to fund education and early childhood programs. I thank him for his service and wish him all the best as he embarks on this new journey towards a very bright future.

Lastly, I would like to share the following updates on activities happening throughout the Commission.

COMMISSION PROGRAMS UPDATE

❖ Administration & External Affairs Division Update

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

On October 3, 2012, Commission staff will conduct a training session with the Cal-SOAP Project Directors. The training will include: available resources, critical deadlines, Cash for College, Cal Grant updates, audits, future funding and a discussion on the Cal-SOAP database. This training is being provided at the end of the College Access Foundation Grantee meeting being held in Sacramento on October 3rd and 4th. College Access Foundation is providing the room for the Commission's training upon the close of their meeting. Commission staff will also be making a presentation on the Dream Act during the College Access Foundation Grantee meeting.

- **College Access Challenge (Challenge) Grant:**

We have received notice from the U.S. Department of Education that we will receive funding for the 2012-13 award year. The Challenge Grant funds Cal-SOAP, Cash for College and APLE. We are receiving \$15,015,778 in 2012-13, which is \$436,510 more

than the 2011-12 award amount of \$14,579,268. Commission staff will propose options for using the additional funds in Tab 12 of the Commission's September meeting.

- **2011-12 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award**

I'm pleased to report that Dr. Dario Villa has been presented with the 2011-12 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor award. Nominated by Principal Thomas Rodrigo, Dr. Villa is a veteran counselor with nearly 30 years of experience and service to Montgomery High School in the Sweetwater Union High School District. In his acceptance of this prestigious recognition, he honored the faculty as a whole, explaining that it was through them that he was able to do his job and that all teachers at Montgomery High School work tirelessly toward advancing student education and success. As a student himself, at the same high school, Villa had limited English proficiency and readily admits that without support and financial aid a college education would have been nearly impossible. It is this personal understanding that drives Dr. Villa to motivate and support students through the path to higher education.

On behalf of the Commission, Jason Moore, district representative for the office of Senator Juan Vargas and senior district representative Jacob O'Neill representing Assembly Member Ben Hueso presented the Marmaduke award and State and Assembly recognition to the recipient. The successful and joyful event was attended by Dr. Villa's family (daughter, parents and wife) and faculty.

The Arthur Marmaduke award was established by the Commission in 1985 to annually recognize one high school counselor who has demonstrated superior skills, dedication, and results helping students seek and receive financial aid. Arthur Marmaduke served as the Executive Director of the Commission for 25 years, and this honor was created to acknowledge his commitment to assisting students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission's grant, scholarship and loan assumption programs.

- ❖ **Federal Policy & Programs Division Update**

- On July 31, 2012, the Commission distributed a press release "1st-in-Nation Graduation and Loan Default Rate Benchmarks Eliminate 154 Schools."
- Over the course of the two weeks since the release we have had nearly 50 distinct media inquiries. A report of external media releases resulting from the July 31st press release is included at the end of this report.
- Through our Google alerts and Meltwater tracking, we have had over 100 articles published. Many were verbatim copies of the Associated Press story, "Most Calif. for-profit colleges lose state grants."
- Coverage ranged from National outlets like Wall Street Journal, to Bloomberg, the Phoenix Business Journal, Louisville Courier, Inside Higher Ed, Chronicle of Higher Education, and the Huffington Post. There were also several editorials including the

Sacramento, Fresno and Bakersfield Bee newspapers. TV coverage was limited to CBS in San Francisco and Sacramento.

- Radio coverage was state wide and included PBS and the CBS radio network.

❖ **Program Administration and Services Division Update**

- **The Dream Act Application**

The Dream Act Application was opened April 2, 2012 for potential financial aid to be awarded for the 2012-13 year at California's public colleges and universities.

Since April 2nd nearly 11,000 students have completed 2012-13 applications. These applications have been made available to state institutions for use in awarding state funded grants and in the awarding of private scholarships.

For the 2013-14 year, work is underway by Commission staff on the 2013-14 year Dream Act Application. This application will include enhancements to make the application easier to use for students and parents.

Starting with the 2013-14 year, Cal Grant program awards will be offered to eligible students for 2013-14 at all eligible Cal Grant institutions, both public and private. Students completing the 2013-14 Dream Act Application will receive Cal Grant Entitlement, Transfer Entitlement and Cal Grant C consideration in the same manner as applicants filing the FAFSA application.

- **Update on the Awarding of the 2012-13 Cal Grant Program**

2012-13 New Student Eligibility – Newly awarded students can receive awards only at institutions with a cohort default rate (CDR) equal to or greater than 15.5 percent and/or a graduation rate equal to or less than 30 percent.

2012-13 applicants awarded at ineligible institutions can activate their award and receive payment at eligible Cal Grant institutions.

2012-13 Renewal Student Eligibility – Students renewing a Cal Grant award for 2012-13 at ineligible schools received Cal Grant tuition/fee awards at a rate of 20 percent below the 2012-13 state budget amounts.

Students attending eligible private institutions had their tuition/fee awards reduced by 5%.

All Cal Grant B Access award amounts at all segments were reduced by 5%.

- **Cal Grant C**

The Commission identified over 82,000 students eligible to compete for a 2012-13 Cal Grant C award. Approximately 17,000 Cal Grant C supplemental applications were received and the statutory 7,761 awards were made on a competitive basis from that pool.

For the first time since the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 451, the Commission gave Cal Grant C priority to students pursuing occupational or technical training in areas that meet at least two of the following criteria:

- (A) High employment need;
- (B) High employment salary or wage projections; and/or
- (C) High employment growth.

Cal Grant advance funds were sent to institutions from the State Controller's Office no later than Tuesday, August 21st. As required by the State Department of Finance, the advance amount for each school was 50% of the reconciled fall term Cal Grant payments for the school from the prior year.

- **Top 2% Cal Grant B**

Although the majority of students awarded new Cal Grant B awards are paid only the \$1,473 Access award, the California Education Code authorizes tuition/fee payments in addition to the access portion of the award to the top two percent of first year Entitlement Cal Grant B participants, based on a competitive scoring process. For the 2012-13 year, 1,416 were offered both tuition/fees and access awards for their first year Cal Grant B program participation.

- ❖ **Information Technology Services (ITS) Division Update**

- **Senate Bill (SB) 70**

The Information Technology Team is preparing to implement the reporting requirements of SB 70. A key element is simplicity. The Commission is required by statute to collect the following metrics:

- Enrollment
- Persistence
- Graduation
- Job Placement

The enrollment and persistence data will be aggregated by campus, race/ethnicity, gender and part- or full-time status, and Cal Grant recipient for each academic year. Graduation data will be aggregated by campus, part- or full-time status, program (CIP Code) and Cal Grant recipient for each academic year.

We believe these data can be collected from the research arm of larger institutions in order to keep as much load off of the financial aid offices. We hope to work with the public segment offices, in particular, to collect these data on behalf of all of their institutions. Additionally, to ease the workload of smaller institutions, the data collection is designed to be nearly identical to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data collection.

Everyone realizes the job placement data will be difficult to collect. We believe the use of a survey instrument will meet the letter of the law. Although use of a survey is not perfect, it is a start and will put California in the lead when it comes to collecting these

data. One possible way to make it better in the future is by expanding the use of the WebGrants for Students (WGS) system into a life-long tool.

The following chart provides an update on the actions taken by the Commission at its April 26-27, 2012 and May 17, 2012 meetings:

	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
1	<p>California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Contracts</p> <p>At its April meeting, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to execute the 2012-13 Cal-SOAP contracts totaling \$6,889,400 at the allocation levels recommended by Commission staff and authorized the Executive Director flexibility to reallocate funds as equitable as possible if a project cannot utilize all of its allocated funds.</p>	<p>Contracts were sent to the Cal-SOAP Project Directors in August upon notification from USED that we received the College Access Challenge Grant award for 2012-13.</p>
2	<p>Standing Committee Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Distance Learning Committee elected Commissioner Dontae Rayford as its Chair. • The Student Impact Committee elected Commissioner Johnny Garcia Vasquez as its Chair. • The Dream Act Committee elected Commissioner John R. McDowell, Jr. as its Chair and Commissioner Michele Siqueiros as an additional member. 	<p>The Dream Act Committee met on May 7th and presented a report to the full Commission at the May 17th meeting. The Student Impact Committee met on June 1st and again on August 22nd. The Distance Learning Committee met on June 4th. These committees will report out at the September Commission meeting.</p>
3	<p>Federal Student Financial Aid Issues</p> <p>At its April meeting, the Commission voted to support Congress ensuring that the interest rate on subsidized student loans is not doubled and maintained at the 3.4 percent current rate.</p>	<p>The Commission issued a press release on May 4th entitled, "CSAC Urges Continued Lid on Loan Interest to Help 706,000 California Students."</p>
4	<p>Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA) for 2012-2016</p> <p>At its April meeting, the Commission adopted the new Cal Grant IPA for 2012-2016.</p>	<p>All IPA's have been finalized.</p>
5	<p>Rulemaking Process Pertaining to the Cal Grant Participating Institution Data Reporting Requirements Established by Senate Bill (SB) 70</p> <p>At its April meeting, the Commission authorized staff to commence the regulatory process, including drafting proposed regulations and accompanying documents, request that the effective date of the regulations be the date of filing and authorize staff to take the necessary steps to complete the regulatory process. In addition, the Commission voted to hold a public hearing as a Commission to hear feedback on SB 70 regulations.</p>	<p>Beginning in May 2012, Commission staff began the consultation process on the SB 70 regulations, holding the following events:</p> <p><u>Webinars:</u> Thr 05/03/12 @ 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Thr 05/17/12 @ 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. Thr 06/07/12 @ 1:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Thr 08/02/12 @ 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Conference Calls:</u> Wed 05/09/12 – CSU Tue 05/15/12 – Private Proprietary Wed 05/23/12 – UC Fri 06/01/12 – CCC</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> Mon 05/21/12– University of Phoenix</p>

	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
		<p>On June 26, 2012, Commission staff filed the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with the Office of Administrative Law. The 45-day public comment period commenced on July 6, 2012 and ended on August 20, 2012. As requested by the Commission, the Student Impact Committee held a public hearing on August 22, 2012. An update on the status of the SB 70 regulations will be provided during the September 2012 Commission meeting.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Adoption of Amendments to Regulations Pertaining to the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program In April, the Commission authorized staff to commence the rulemaking process, adopt the proposed regulations and accompanying documents, request that the effective date of the regulations be the date of filing, and authorize staff to take the necessary steps to complete the regulatory process.</p>	<p>On May 1, 2012, Commission staff filed the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with the Office of Administrative Law. The 45-day public comment period ended on June 25, 2012 with neither comments nor a request for a public hearing regarding the proposed regulations. Staff is currently completing work on the final rulemaking materials to file the certificate of compliance with the OAL. The OAL will have 30 business days to review the file to determine if the regulations will become permanent.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>State Issues and Legislation Also in April, the Commission adopted the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Support in Concept</u> Assembly Bill (AB) 2296 (Block) Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009; • <u>Support</u> Senate Bill (SB) 1103 (Wright) Cal Grant Program: Annual Report; • <u>Support</u> SB 1289 (Corbett) Postsecondary Education: Private Student Loans; • <u>Watch</u> AB 1637 (Wieckowski) Cal Grant Program: Student Default Risk: Index Score; • <u>Support</u> AB 1899 (Mitchell) Postsecondary Education Benefits: Crime Victims; • <u>Oppose</u> AB 970 (Fong) Student Fees: Student Financial Aid Report; • <u>Support</u> AB 1723 (Fuentes) Postsecondary Educational Institutions: Meetings; • <u>Watch</u> AB 2190 (Perez J) State Higher Education Authority; • <u>Watch</u> SB 721 (Lowenthal) State Postsecondary Education: State Goals. In addition, the Commission voted to direct staff to work with the author so that the Commission can be included in the process; and • <u>Support</u> AB 1501 (Perez) Student Financial Aid: Middle Class Scholarship Program. 	<p>Support letters were sent in support of SB 1103, SB 1289, AB 1501, AB 1723 and AB 1899.</p>

	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
8	<p>2012-13 State Budget Issues On May 17th, the Commission voted to oppose the proposals in the 2012-13 Budget and the May Revision to eliminate access to, and choice in, higher education for California students from low-income and working families, specifically, 1) opposing the proposal to align Cal Grant methodology with federal Pell Grant methodology; 2) opposing the proposal to raise grade point average requirements for students to qualify for Cal Grants; 3) opposing the proposal to reduce award amounts for Cal Grant students at private institutions; and 4) opposing the proposal to limit Commission policy and operational decision-making if the fiscal effects are \$500,000 or more.</p>	<p>The Commission issued a press release on May 18th, entitled, "California Student Aid Commission Votes to Oppose Key Provisions of Governor's Higher Education Budget Proposal."</p>
9	<p>Proposed Amendments to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Also in May, the Commission authorized staff to prepare a letter to the Legislature requesting that it convene a group of its staff to look at ways to integrate the public through modern technology.</p>	<p>Pending</p>
10	<p>Commission Meeting Minutes The Commission approved the minutes of the January 26, 2012 and February 23-24, 2012 meetings, as presented.</p>	

I have included in this report:

- Cal-SOAP Project Directors' Report; and
- ECMC Status Update.

A special thanks to Commissioner Alexander Gonzalez for providing our meeting and lunch accommodations at California State University, Sacramento. I look forward to seeing you all there. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me or feel free to seek clarification at the Commission meeting.

Sincerely,

Diana Fuentes-Michel
 1975-1979 Cal Grant B Recipient
 1979 Graduate of Loyola Marymount University

Federal Policy & Programs Division Update Communications Report

The following is a listing of articles and opinion editorials either published in the newspaper, web or blog format resulting from the California Student Aid Commission's July 31, 2012 press release --

“1st-In-Nation Graduation and Loan Default Rate Benchmarks Eliminate 154 Schools”

8/6 News

1 new result for Cal Grant

OPINION: [For-profit college risk clear in report](#)

[Modesto Bee](#)

For 2012-13, California's **Cal Grant** program awards will not be provided for attendance at schools with low graduation or completion rates and whose students have a poor track record of paying off federal loans. California's stiffer rules are vindicated by a ...

8/6 Web

1 new result for Cal Grant

[Empire College Students Ineligible for Cal Grant Aid Program - Loans](#)

Source: Robert Digitale, The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, Calif. (MCT) -- For the second straight year, students at Empire College will not be eligible for **Cal Grant**.

8/5 Web

1 new result for Cal Grant

[Thousands Of California Student Losing Cal-Grant ... - Yahoo! News](#)

Watch the video Thousands Of California Student Losing Cal-Grant money on Yahoo! News. 170 schools impacted statewide.

8/4 Web

3 new results for Cal Grant

[California: 154 Colleges Named Cal Grant Ineligible - National ...](#)

A national, nonprofit membership organization with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators.

[Thousands Of California Student Losing Cal-Grant money | Salinas ...](#)

Thousands Of California Student Losing **Cal-Grant** money. UPDATED 6:43 PM ... NO MORE **CAL GRANTS** FOR PROPRIETARY COLLEGES · Thousands Of ...

[California Pulls Cal Grant from 154 Colleges - Education News ...](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – The California Student Aid Commission has declared 154 California colleges ineligible to receive **Cal Grants** for new students.

8/3 News

2 new results for **Cal Grants**

[State Trims Dead Wood from Student Aid List](#)

[SCVNEWS.com](#)

“The best way to protect students, parents and taxpayers is to make sure **Cal Grants** help students get into solid programs that deliver proven educational and career value. Eliminating schools with high loan default rates and low graduation rates is a sensible ...

[California cuts University of Phoenix off from student aid funds](#)

[Phoenix Business Journal](#)

University of Phoenix is among 154 schools that no longer are eligible for student financial aid from the [California Student Aid Commission](#).

8/3 Web

1 new result for **Cal Grants**

[Cal Grants | East County Magazine](#)

(Sacramento Bee); Most California for-profit colleges lose **Cal Grants** (Sacramento Bee); Cal-State reaches tentative agreement with faculty (Sacramento Bee) ...

8/2 News

8 new results for **Cal Grant**

OPINION: Cal Grants program had to make changes

By [The Bakersfield Californian](#)

Congress must take action on a waste of taxpayer money the size of more than 60 Solyndras.

EDITORIAL: Senate report details risks of for-profit colleges

Published: Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012 - 12:00 am

[The Sacramento Bee](#)

California still has lax licensing and review of for-profit colleges to ensure that students get real training, and not just a large debt.

[Colleges battle Cal Grant ineligibility](#)

[San Francisco Chronicle](#)

But **Ed Emerson**, a spokesman for the student aid commission, said that is a preliminary rate for 2011-12 that has not been certified by the U.S. Department of Education. The commission is required to use the most recent certified graduation rate and ...

[Private colleges lose state financial aid](#)

[Upstart \(blog\)](#)

... receive state financial aid this fall, editor Jack Robinson writes. The California Student Aid Commission issued a list of colleges that do not meet newly tightened requirements. In order to receive so-called **Cal Grants**, they must transfer to an eligible school.

[Academy Of Art Cal Grant Eligibility Revoked: Commission Cuts Aid To 154 ...](#)

[Huffington Post](#)

In an effort to cut expenses during the state budget crisis, the California Student Aid Commission announced it is raising the bar for school **Cal Grant** eligibility on Tuesday, consequently dropping 154 institutions from its roster. One of the schools could have a ...

[State Cuts Cal Grant Funding for Many For-Profit Schools](#)

[SF Weekly \(blog\)](#)

Yesterday, the California Student Aid Commission announced a sharp decrease in the number of schools eligible for **Cal Grants**: for the 2012-13 school year, 154 schools will be ineligible -- more than double the previous year's mark. Because the state's belt ...

[Grant cuts hit students at many for-profit colleges](#)

[Bakersfield Now](#)

(KBAK/KBFX) — Students at many for-profit colleges will be looking for other ways to pay for their courses now that the state has cut these schools from the **Cal Grant** program. The state is out with new standards for which schools are eligible, but many ...

[California Student Aid Commission Releases 1st-In-Nation Graduation And ...](#)

[Sierra Sun Times](#)

August 1, 2012 - Rancho Cordova, CA: The California Student Aid Commission Monday released the certified list of Institutions of Higher Learning that will be eligible to participate in the student aid **Cal Grant** Program for the 2012-2013 academic year.

8/1 Web

6 new results for **Cal Grant**[Most Calif. for-profit colleges lose state grants - D.A. Davidson ...](#)

California is the first state to set such high benchmarks, which are tougher than federal requirements, said **Diana Fuentes-Michel**, executive director of the ...

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)

Michele Siqueiros. **Diana Fuentes-Michel**, Executive Director ... ineligible institution, Student Aid Commission Executive Director **Diana Fuentes-Michel** said ...

[Empire College students ineligible for **Cal Grant** aid program ...](#)

For the second straight year, students at Empire College will not be eligible for **Cal Grants** as the state tightens rules to qualify for the student aid program.

[Cal Grant cuts hit Heald | The Salinas Californian | thecalifornian.com](#)

While nearly a third of students at the for-profit Heald College in Salinas were affected by changes to the **Cal Grant** financial aid program, it likely won't be for ...

[Schools Losing **Cal Grant** Eligibility « CBS Sacramento](#)

New standards have eliminated 154 schools from being eligible for **Cal Grants** and are expected to impact more than 14500 students.

[Most for-profit colleges lose **Cal Grants**](#)

SACRAMENTO — California's move to tighten eligibility requirements for its **Cal Grant** program will eliminate or reduce awards to 14500 students, most of them ...

8/1 News

7 new results for **Cal Grant**[CA Student Aid Commission releases list of for-profit colleges that are no longer ...](#)[89.3 KPCC](#)

California community colleges, the California State University and University of California systems and most nonprofit, private colleges met the state's new **Cal Grant** standards – which are based on graduation rates and student loan defaults.

8/1 Blogs

1 new result for **Cal Grants**[Most Calif. for-profit colleges lose state grants | CAPPS Online](#)

By CAPPS

The commission released a list of colleges that are no longer eligible to receive *Cal Grants* under tougher standards passed by the Legislature and signed by Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown in June. The rules were adopted to save an estimated ...

8/1 Web

5 new results for **Cal Grant**

[Changes in Cal Grant Standards | KFBK News - Coverage You Can ...](#)

California's move to tighten eligibility requirements for its **Cal Grant** program will eliminate or reduce awards to 14500 students, most of them enrolled in for-profit ...

RESPONSE TO CAL GRANTS - [Inside ACCess | American Career College Responds to Cal Grant](#)

Dear Students,. We were recently notified by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) that they are eliminating new **Cal Grants** for ACC students for the ...

[Many for-profit colleges in California ineligible for Cal Grants](#)

Students at 137 for-profit schools in California will see their financial aid packages from the state reduced or eliminated this ...

[154 colleges named Cal Grant ineligible - One News Page](#)

154 colleges named **Cal Grant** ineligible ◇ 154 colleges named **Cal Grant** ineligible About 7800 students who were promised **Cal Grants** for the 2012-13 school ...

[California Kicks For-Profit Colleges Out of State Student Grant ...](#)

"The Commission has argued for years that the best way to protect students, parents and taxpayers is to make sure **Cal Grants** help students get into solid ...

7/31 News

3 new results for **Cal Grant**

[Most Calif. for-profit colleges lose state grants](#)

[San Jose Mercury News](#)

California's move to tighten eligibility requirements for its **Cal Grant** program will eliminate or reduce awards to 14500 students, most of them enrolled in for-profit colleges such as the University of Phoenix. The California Student Aid Commission on Tuesday ...

[154 colleges named Cal Grant ineligible](#)

[San Francisco Chronicle](#)

About 7800 students who were promised **Cal Grants** for the 2012-13 school year will have to change schools if they want to receive the state grants because the college they were planning to enter is no longer eligible. The California Student Aid Commission ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

[Most Calif. for-profit colleges lose state grants](#)

[Businessweek](#)

California is the first state to set such high benchmarks, which are tougher than federal requirements, said **Diana Fuentes-Michel**, executive director of the commission. "In a tight budget situation, the Legislature was prudent in terms of looking at ...

7/31 Web

6 new results for **Cal Grant**

[Twitter / SeanGallagherLA: 154 colleges named Cal Grant ...](#)

Instantly connect to what's most important to you. Follow your friends, experts, favorite celebrities, and breaking news.

[154 Colleges Named Cal Grant Ineligible - Congoo](#)

The Main Building Of The University Of Phoenix, Part Of Apollo Group Inc., Is Seen In Phoenix, Arizona, U.S., On Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. Apollo Group, The ...

[Cal Grants Pulled From 154 Colleges - Online Colleges](#)

Approximately 14500 students in California are to be affected by changes made to the state's **Cal Grant** program, a state-funded program for students who meet ...

[California: 154 Colleges Named Cal Grant Ineligible | Financial Aid ...](#)

About 7800 students who were promised **Cal Grants** for the 2012-13 school year will have to change schools if they want to receive the state grants because the ...

[Most California For-Profit Colleges Lost State Grants « CBS ...](#)

California's move to tighten eligibility requirements for its **Cal Grant** program will eliminate or reduce awards to 14500 students, most of them enrolled in for-profit ...

[Most Calif. for-profit colleges lose state grants](#)

Sacramento Bee [sacbee.com](#)

By [JUDY LIN](#)

Associated Press

Published: Tuesday, Jul. 31, 2012 - 11:00 am

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- California's move to tighten eligibility requirements for its Cal Grant program will eliminate or reduce awards to 14,500 students, most of them enrolled in for-profit colleges such as the University of Phoenix, the California Student Aid Commission announced Tuesday

**California Student Aid Commission
California Student Opportunity & Access Program (Cal-SOAP)
Project Directors' Report
September, 2012**

An oral report will be provided at the meeting.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC

Operating Agreement

October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Operating Agreement Items Pending

Item	Anticipated Close Date	Owner	Action needed
2011-12 Op Agreement - remaining services	August 20th	CSAC	CSAC needs to provide detailed review/plan of utilizing remaining services.
CSAC Assets	TBD -need CSAC input	CSAC	CSAC has asked for two switches to accommodate their December move; CSAC needs to provide dates for all other items.
Mainframe Return- how does CSAC want it returned?	August 20th	CSAC	ECMC sent options to CSAC; awaiting CSAC's response on return specifications.
2013 Operating Agreement- discussion about specific transition services needed in 2013.	August 23 and finalized by August 30	CSAC	Specific services CSAC wants to include in the 2013 agreement with ECMC.
#20 - Listserve (2500.850.0000.2012.00038)	August 24	ECMC	ECMC Project Manager assigned; begin transition on August 21.
#22 - Help Desk Support (2500.850.0000.2012.00040)	November 2012	CSAC	CSAC provided November date.
#10 - CSAC Visiflow (2500.850.0000.2012.00029)	TBD Need a date by August 20th	ECMC	ECMC Project Manager assigned; will work with CSAC I.T. to complete plan.
#12 - SAN Maintenance (2500.850.0000.2012.00032)	Before August 31	ECMC	ECMC can train via Web Meeting; will work with CSAC to select date(s) for training.
#19A - Mainframe Printing (2500.850.0000.2012.00037)	Before December 2012 - CSAC needs to provide date.	CSAC	Date on Final Letter Printing Date needs to be established.
#55 - CSAC Edfund Board Updates (maintain Edfund.org website)	No transition to CSAC; ECMC to continue to update/maintain website until Board is dissolved.	ECMC	Internal discussions needed; plan website decommission once final Board updates are performed.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

July Highlights

- CSAC assets returned in July:

Description	Quantity	Unit
Monitors	25	ea

- ECMC Corporate Services Team continued JEI Warehouse work with CSAC. Arranging to move certain items from JEI to Service West in August.
- ECMC Internal meetings held to discuss Visiflow and Listserv transitions to CSAC.
- 2012-2013 Cal Grant Funding (\$84,657,132) by ECMC schedule established: September 4, October 1, January 2
- Fund Your Future: ECMC reviewed the current 2012-2013 version of FYF at CSAC's request. The review was completed and ECMC provided edits to Cheryl Lenz on July 26.



CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
Operating Agreement
October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Financial Reimbursement for Services

The funds will be placed into the EdFund Auxiliary Account for distribution based on CSAC needs.

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
6	Health and safety support and building security support Two guards 16 hours overnight 365. ECMC is responsible for reimbursement of the guards not for overall security of the facility.		49%	Security Guard invoicing

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
7	<p>Use of board room/meeting rooms with audio/visual capability and technical support.</p> <p>Will provide space that can accommodate the California Open Meeting Rules. The CSAC Commission meetings 4 times/year.</p>		41%	No activity in July.
8	<p>Records retention, shred services, and property inventory services 15 months for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSAC brought this in-house. Cintas (shred service) • ECMC staff support for oversight and management of services (200 hours) <p>TAB costs included</p>		60%	Record Storage Costs paid to Iron Mountain and Cintas shred services. Hours charged by CA Records staff directly supported these services.
13	CSAC Asset Inventory		0%	

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report -July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
Operating Agreement
October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
17	<p>Provide a one-time security risk assessment of the Grant Delivery system to include scanning for security vulnerabilities and review of system logs for intrusion attempts.</p> <p>Contract services for an external provider to perform a security assessment – this does not include remediation of any issues found</p>		0%	<p>Contract with NetSpi signed in December.* The Kickoff meeting has been postponed until May based on CSAC’s request. Netspi was paid the first 50% of the contract in January. Second half was paid in June as the assessment was completed.</p>
19B	<p>Convert printing the Cal Grant Letters from the mainframe to an ASCII solution. To be completed prior to decommissioning the mainframe after the FAPS conversion.</p>		131%*	

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
25	<p>Assist the Commission with obtaining training for more than 3,000 high school counselors and postsecondary educational institutional financial aid officers on the programs administered by the Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce 10-15 one to two minute video clips and integrate into CSAC systems Produce 20-25 thirty minute to one hour training videos <p>Video production costs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preproduction Services: Script consultation, scriptwriting & production coordination Field Production Services: Videographer, Field Producer, Broadcast quality digital camera Post Production & Editing 		29%	
26	<p>Providing the high school training materials. Composition, design, production, shipping and training for 19 locations</p> <p>There are 2 cycles for this publication in this operating agreement.</p> <p>Each cycle costs are reflected (need to plan for 2 cycles) books. This does not include shipping to the 19 locations. Shipping is included in #4.</p>		20%	<p>No activity in July.</p> <p>Printing Costs (Fall 2011)</p> <p>Hours charged by CA Training staff directly supported this service (close out November workshops). Hour costs not counted toward run rate calculation.</p>

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
28	Support for Cash For College workshops		Complete	Full disbursement of funds made on June 1. Completed Project.
29A	<p>Provide various collateral publications used to inform students, parents and counselors of state and federal financial aid programs.</p> <p>Publication estimate includes: College is Possible, Power of Education, Cal Grant Inserts.</p> <p>There are 2 cycles for these publications in this operating agreement. Based on the changes that CSAC anticipates they need to estimate a vendor cost.</p> <p>(Outsourced) <i>This cost is for copy and design only.</i></p>		0%	No activity reported
29B	<p>Print the tax benefit one page flyer. This would be a two cycle project.</p> <p>(Outsourced) Costs are for each cycle. Need to plan for two cycles.</p> <p>No shipping/postage included because piece was delivered to CSAC last year.</p>		0%	Corp Communication resource worked on first cycle flyer and the PDF was delivered to CSAC on February 8.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
30	<p>Fund Your Future: This includes copy, design, Spanish translation and printing of the Fund Your Future publication. Print estimates are based on the following quantities: 550,000 English workbooks 132,000 Spanish workbooks 385,000 English brochures 90,000 Spanish brochures</p> <p>ECMC will provide editing on the Federal information; this is included in the 1000 hours.</p> <p>CSAC will retain a vendor to create the publications, translate them and provide all fulfillment. Fulfillment costs are included in # 4.</p> <p>Outsource: Project oversight/ copy/ design/ layout/ stock photos</p>		9%	<p>ECMC ordered an additional 25,000 Spanish and 25,000 English brochures at CSAC's request from last year's cycle - publications received on Jan 5. Charges incurred against this year service.</p> <p>In May, reclassified postage and shipping charges were posted to this service at CSAC's request.</p> <p>In July, ECMC agreed to review the current 2012-2013 version and provide edits by 7/27. The review was completed and ECMC provided edits to Cheryl Lenz on July 26. Cheryl acknowledged receipt.</p>

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
Operating Agreement
October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

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39	High School Program Support originally described as "Conduct one major research project as designated by the Commission" ECMC staff support for high school workshops.		7.2%	In July, Ruby Nieto attended the CASFAA HSRC Conference call, sites are being confirmed and materials are being reviewed for later in 2012. No hours or costs were committed to this code, for informational purposes.
40	Provide as-needed services to align Commission administered programs with changes in Federal financial aid processes and procedures (such as changes arising from FAFSA form changes that impact Cal Grant processes) API Project		0%	No activity reported.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
Operating Agreement
October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
42	CaliforniaColleges.edu sponsorship for CSAC		Complete	
43	Pell Grant Table development		0%	No activity reported.
44	Provide check \$1,500 for Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award in Spring 2012.		Complete	Full disbursement amount of \$1,500 made on June 13. Project Closed.
45	EdFund's EDD unemployment insurance invoices for 2011/2012		67%	Insurance charges incurred to date.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
47	<p>Financial Aid APP for iPhone</p> <p>A generic questionnaire similar to that referenced above which would just provide questions and potential financial aid options without the ability to apply directly.</p> <p>250 hours.</p>		Complete	<p>Hours charged by ECMC Marketing & I.T. staff directly supported this effort. Project completed in May. Project Closed.</p> <p>*Only ECMC hours have been charged, no other direct costs.</p>
48	<p>CSAC migration from GroupWise/NDS to Exchange/AD</p> <p>GroupWise Support included in this item.</p>		36%	
52	<p>EdFund Board Professional Expenses</p>		42%	<p>Legal Services in support of Board activities to date.</p>
53A	<p>GDS Changes for SB70</p> <p>1,040 contractor hours @ \$85/hour = \$88,400</p>		25%	
53B	<p>APLE Programmer</p> <p>2,080hours @ \$85/hour = \$ 176,800</p>		0%	No activity reported

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
Operating Agreement
October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Costs to Date	% of Budget to date	Status
54	Webmaster / CSAC website design services CSAC's website is dated and needs updating to better serve its users. 350 hours @ \$85/hour = \$29,750		0%	No activity reported
	TOTAL			

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Services Provided by ECMC Staff

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
1	Print letters, reports, and other program material		15%	General CSAC printing time. Postage and shipping charges totaled \$8,987.78 under this code to date.
2	Receive and deliver mail, large parcels and packages for the Commission		50%	Daily mail, parcel, and package delivery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Business Services staff pick up mail at the US Post Office and deliver to CSAC offices Two internal mail runs are performed at CSAC offices (11:30am PT, 2:30pm PT) Mail drop-off at the US Post Office at COB

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
3	<p>Courier services for the Commission to the bank and the downtown area.</p> <p>CSAC to EdFund: 1 per day Downtown: twice daily</p>		75%	<p>Delivery charges incurred to date. General courier services.</p> <p>Two daily courier runs to pick up and drop off financial documents at the CA State Controller's Office and any other requested Downtown sites.</p>
4	<p>Storage of financial aid workbooks, brochures, fact sheets, guides, manuals, posters and videos</p> <p>Shipping to high schools and colleges (including collateral material, inventory and usage)</p>		<p>11%</p> <p>20%*</p> <p>56%</p>	<p>Rent expenses & Outside services -</p> <p>Delivery charges & Postage</p> <p>Hours charged by CA Corp Services staff supported this service.</p>
5	<p>Contract management (including, but not limited to: technology, web conferencing, recycle, confidential shred, building security system, storage and cubicle services)</p>		1%	<p>Hours charged by CA Legal staff directly supported these services.</p>

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
10	<p>Access to retrieve documents previously imaged</p> <p>Existing license and system</p> <p>Assumes VisiFlow system will be given back to CSAC upon conversion completion</p> <p>Current contract in place with Western Integrated that runs through 12/31/2013 for software maintenance.</p> <p>Cost additional effort for building a standalone server for VisiFlow imaging.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose one of the existing machines - like VMServ-6 or VMServ-7 (R900) to repurpose as an ESXi server. 2. Order Large Capacity hard drives to house the data. 3. P2V NTStorage once EdFund's old data is removed or build new as a VM. 4. Configure ESXi server 5. Migrate 4 - VM's to the ESXi server. 6. Application Team to clean up any old data. 7. Create local CSAC accounts. 8. Remove the VM's from the corp.edfund.org domain. CSAC can join these servers to their domain. 9. Provide any existing VisiFlow documentation to CSAC. 10. Desktop Support to turn over the imaging stations and any supported documentation. 		0%	<p>No hours were charged to this effort in July by ECMC Staff. Planning activities for this project did start in July.</p> <p>Cheryl to follow up with ECMC Staff to ensure they are charging to proper code.</p>

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
11 A	<p>Estimated 800,000 paper applications and other documents to be imaged annually (such as paper GPA verification forms, the G-8 High School Graduation Certification Form, the Transfer Entitlement Certification Form and numerous Specialized Programs forms)</p> <p>CSAC estimates that annual imaging is closer to 200,000 and will decrease as certain items, such as APLE automation are completed during 11/12.</p>		COMPLETE	<p>16 boxes returned to CSAC in June.</p> <p>296 total boxes returned to CSAC.</p> <p>All inventory submitted to ECMC on June 30 and imaged. All boxes returned to CSAC on July 2. There is no CSAC imaging inventory on site at ECMC. Project Closed.</p>
11 B	<p>Backlog Imaging</p> <p>CSAC would like 250 of the remaining boxes of backlog imaging to be scanned.</p>		COMPLETE	
12	<p>Maintain and operate a Storage Area Network (SAN), which is architecture that allows remote computer storage devices to be attached to servers. This provides the server storage for the GDS system</p>		9%	<p>CA Infrastructure Team charged time to this effort.</p>

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
14	Software purchasing and contracting for imaging software, IVR, Oracle Data Base Management System (DBMS) software, and security software in support of the GDS system		13.5%	Hours charged directly supported this service, specifically Oracle contract review.
15	Backup database administration for the GDS to augment current Commission support Additional services include Oracle DBA support for upgrading and advanced tuning, and troubleshooting the production GDS databases		75%	ECMC Database Administrator charged hours to support this service in May.
16	When requested, provide needed expertise for support, troubleshooting or repair of GDS production networks, appliance, and firewalls – this service should not require more than 50 hours of support in a year		0%	No activity reported
18	Provide Linux system administration and support for GDS servers located at OTS – this includes upgrading, patching, auditing, and ensuring optimal performance and security controls are in place		0%	No activity reported
19A	Provide mainframe printing services for the Commission which includes changing and creating new overlays and letter formats for GDS letters – the Commission prints over 100 different GDS letter types (approximately 1.5 million letters a year) Hours to modify 50 letters and print all jobs		15%	CA I.T. Development worked on modifying letters for CSAC in May.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
20	Maintain the various ListServe accounts used by the Commission to distribute information to schools Current maintenance, training of CSAC staff on the current process and final transition of the application CSAC is in the process of transitioning this service in-house, these hours can be reduced.		4%	July activity included planning of the transfer of this service to CSAC. *These hours represent full time I.T. hours and contractor hours spent on the Listserve effort in April.
21	Programming and updating Student Expense and Resources Survey (SEARS) application software Transition support to CSAC		0%	No activity reported

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
22	<p>Provide Tier 1 Help Desk support for 400 postsecondary institutions, over 1800 high schools, over 300,000 student accounts on WebGrants for Students, and Commission staff – these calls are logged in the HEAT ticketing database and dispatched to appropriate Commission personnel for problem resolution</p> <p>Service labor hours—continue to use the CSAC HEAT system</p> <p>Due to CSAC call volume, 1.5 FTEs are required for 2011/2012 to accommodate peak call periods, while minimizing dropped calls.</p>		41%	
23	<p>Provide all telephony services for the Commission, including but not limited to telephone installation, configuration, modification and hardware support for over 150 IVR telephone interfaces, telephone number assignments, voicemail, and toll-free line support</p> <p>CSAC has assigned internal staff to perform these functions, but would like to be able to request assistance in the unlikely event it is needed.</p>		0%	No activity reported
41	<p>Contracts owned by ECMC but are shared with CSAC</p> <p>See contract list, the items stated as ECMC ownership joint use by ECMC and CSAC</p>		.66%	Hours charged by Legal staff directly supported these services.
42	<p>Project: CSAC SAN OS Upgrade (SAN Phase II)</p>		Complete	Completed Implementation on 12/17/11. Closed Project on 12/31/11.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
48	CSAC Services - General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Relationship Manager • Executive Support • Finance Support 		28%	Project Management and customer relationship support for CSAC Services. General management and support of CSAC Services.
55	Maintain edfund.org website. Updating of EdFund Board notices. Board Updates: 4 meetings/year + 4 amendments = 8 changes		0%	No activity reported.
49	Assist with filing IRS Form 990 for FY ending 9/30/2011 and FY ending 9/30/2012. Prepare, review, and file IRS Form 990 and associated state filings.		38%	Hours charged by CA Finance staff directly supported this service.

ECMC

CSAC Services Status Report - July 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

ECMC-CSAC
 Operating Agreement
 October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Ref #	Details	Hours to Date	% of Budgeted Hours	Status
50	<p>Support and review two EdFund audits for FY ending 9/30/2011 and FY ending 9/30/2012, prepare financial statement and audit report. EdFund financial statement required to prepare Form 990.</p> <p>Includes external costs for auditor fees, to be contracted by CSAC:</p> <p>2010-2011 Fiscal Year: \$50,000</p> <p>2011-2012 Fiscal Year: \$30,000</p>		87.5%*	<p>Hours charged by CA Finance staff directly supported these services. ECMC Finance reported that the 2010-11 Audit is complete. Activities for the 2011-2012 audit will begin in the fall. No additional activities will be reported until the 2011-12 audit begins at that time.</p> <p>Audit fees paid to date.</p> <p>*Run rate high but expected considering timeframe of work that was performed occurred mostly during early part of OA.</p>
51	Maintain and manage EdFund Auxiliary Account and other EdFund financial activity.		41%	Hours charged by CA Finance staff directly supported these services.

While not part of any of the services listed above, an update on ECMC’s funding of the Cal Grant Program is provided below:

- October 5, 2011 = \$20,750,000 – paid
- January 5, 2012 = \$20,750,000 – paid
- April 5, 2012 = \$20,750,000 – paid

Total appropriations for 2011-12 have been completed.