

Information/Action Item

California Student Aid Commission

Update on state issues and legislation and consideration of positions on bills affecting Commission programs

The 2012 Session has seen the introduction of many bills focussed on higher education accountability, affordability, and coordination. This tab will present those bills that directly or indirectly affect the Commission and its programs, encourage action on certain bills, and facilitate discussion about what the Commission's priorities will be for the future of the Cal Grant program.

Staff will provide an oral update of all actions and amendments to bills that occurred after the preparation of this tab.

Recommended Action: Accept the recommendations of staff and adopt official positions on proposed legislation.

Responsible Person(s): Lori Nezhura
Legislative Director

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following bills pertain to **DISCLOSURES** and **CONSUMER EDUCATION AND PROTECTIONS**.

AB 2296

AUTHOR: Block (D)

TITLE: Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009

INTRODUCED: 2/24/2012

LAST AMEND: 4/9/2012

LOCATION: Assembly

Summary: Makes minor amendments to the California Private Postsecondary Education Act. Prohibits offering associate, baccalaureate, and masters degree programs without making specified disclosures to prospective students. Requires a school catalog to include a statement regarding whether the institution is accredited by an approved accrediting agency and limitations of the programs such as whether or not graduates will be eligible to sit for applicable state licensure examinations or whether or not students are eligible for federal student financial assistance. Requires the School Performance Fact Sheet for each program offered to be on the school's Web site. Specifies that placement rates be provided for each educational program, amends definition of "graduates employed in a field," and requires disclosure of the most recent three-year cohort default rate and percentage of enrolled students receiving federal student loans.

Status: 04/17/2012 – Heard in Assembly Higher Education Committee

Commentary: AB 2296 refines current law governing non-exempt private postsecondary institutions operating in California by expanding certain reporting requirements to the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) and expanding disclosures made by institutions on their own Internet Web sites. In anticipation of similar SB 70 reporting by Cal Grant participating institutions, Commission staff is very interested in the data being defined through this bill and the possible opportunity to work with the Bureau to collect certain data, reducing the burden on Cal Grant participating institutions. Commission staff is still working to determine the nexus of this bill and SB 70, whether the data being collected by the Bureau and the Commission will be the same, and the purposes behind its gathering and usage.

AB 2296 affects all private postsecondary Cal Grant institutions not accredited by a regional accrediting organization, approximately 109 of the 450+ Cal Grant participating campuses.

Staff Recommended Position: The Commission staff recommends a SUPPORT IN CONCEPT position. Commission staff will work with the author to amend the bill to ensure that the data collection and how it is displayed by the Bureau is consistent with the requirements contained in SB 70. Staff recommends support of this measure as the Commission supports broader access and disclosure of information to students.

Commission Guiding Principle(s): *Ensure the Availability of Information on Educational Opportunities* by disclosing information necessary for student and parents to make an educated decision when enrolling in an educational/career training program.

SB 1103

AUTHOR: Wright (D)

TITLE: Cal Grant Program: Annual Report

INTRODUCED: 2/16/2012

LAST AMEND: 3/27/2012

LOCATION: Senate

Summary: Requires the Student Aid Commission to provide access on its Internet Web site to the annual reports submitted by Cal Grant participating institutions regarding enrollment, persistence, completion, placement rates, and wage and salary information. Also requires the Commission to provide links to workforce data such as the local occupation profiles available through the Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information Data Library.

Status: 04/18/2012 – Heard in Senate Education Committee

Commentary: The author's stated intent is to create a single Web site where students and parents can search and compare different postsecondary institutions including what the outcomes are for specific programs of study and the occupational options available to students upon completing those programs.

Staff Recommended Position: SUPPORT

Commission Guiding Principle(s): *Ensure the Availability of Information on Educational Opportunities*

SB 1289

AUTHOR: Corbett (D)

TITLE: Postsecondary Education: Private Student Loans

INTRODUCED: 2/23/2012

LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Requires a public or private postsecondary educational institution to make specified disclosures related to private student loans in financial aid material and private loan applications provided or made available by the institution.

Status: 03/28/2012 – Heard in Senate Education Committee.

Commentary: The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Act) was passed by Congress in 2010 in response to the need for "sweeping overhaul of the United States financial regulatory system" following the financial crisis of 2007-10. The Act created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that has since taken over the publication of certain regulations for the Truth in Lending Act. "Regulation Z", the section which contains provisions regarding private student loan disclosures was republished

under the Bureau's authority in 2011. Subpart F of Regulation Z requires private lending institutions providing student loans to disclose the term of the loans such as interest rate, fees and default or late payments, repayment terms, and rights of the consumer.

Despite these provisions, students are still confused about their private student loans and surprised at the somewhat inflexible repayment terms. Last month NERA Economic Counseling, on behalf of Young Invincibles, published a report entitled, *High Debt Low Information: A Survey of Student Loan Borrowers*. They surveyed about 6,500 high-debt undergraduate and graduate student borrowers (about 25 percent of which have outstanding student loan balances over \$100,000). About two-thirds of private loan borrowers said they did not understand the major differences between their private and federal options; 65% misunderstood or were surprised by repayment terms, amount of monthly payments, and their interest rates.

SB 1289 ensures that disclosures compatible with those found in Regulation Z are provided to students through the financial aid materials and award packages offered by postsecondary institutions in California. The author's intent is that students seeking private student loans know of their federal options, interest rates, repayment terms, and fees **before** applying for the private loans and hear it **from** the colleges' financial aid offices or other student services.

Staff Recommended Position: SUPPORT. The Commission supported SB 1355 (Corbett) in 2009 which was substantively similar to this bill.

Commission Guiding Principle(s): *Ensure the Availability of Information on Educational Opportunities* by providing information and guidance to students and their families on alternative methods for financing a college education.

The following bills affect **CAL GRANT PROGRAMS** and **ADMINISTRATON**.

AB 1637

AUTHOR: Wieckowski (D)

TITLE: Cal Grant Program: Student Default Risk: Index Score

INTRODUCED: 2/9/2012

LAST AMEND: 3/7/2012

LOCATION: Assembly

Summary: Amends the Cal Grant Program to require qualifying institutions to calculate, as specified, and certify to the Student Aid Commission its Student Default Risk Index (Index) score by October 1 of each year in lieu of the current Cohort Default Rate (CDR). Makes a qualified institution ineligible for initial and renewal Cal Grant awards if the institution's Index score exceeds 15.

Status: 04/17/2012 – Heard in Assembly Higher Education Committee

Commentary: The Index is similar to the CDR but takes more student borrower information into account in its calculation. The Index is calculated by dividing the number

of undergraduate federal student loan borrowers at the institution by the number of undergraduates enrolled at the institution and multiplying the resulting number with the institutions' official three-year CDR. All data involved in the calculation is readily available to the institutions and the Commission from the U.S. Department of education.

Commission staff has talked to the author and requested that the bill be amended to state that the Student Aid Commission calculates and certifies the Index, not the institutions.

Staff Recommended Position: SUPPORT IF AMENDED

AB 1899

AUTHOR: Mitchell (D)

TITLE: Postsecondary Education Benefits: Crime Victims

INTRODUCED: 2/22/2012

LAST AMEND: 4/9/2012

LOCATION: Assembly

Summary: Requires students who are victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes to be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the public colleges and universities, and to be eligible for all student financial aid programs and scholarships administered by a public postsecondary educational institution and the State, to the same extent as individuals who are admitted to the United States as refugees under specified federal law.

Status: 04/18/2012 - Heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Commentary: AB 1899 seeks to provide state-funded financial aid access to certain non-immigrant visa holders who were inadvertently not included in the California Dream Act last year. In most cases, these students are identical to AB 540 students, and must have attended a California high school for at least three years, graduated or the equivalent and be attending an accredited California college or university. However, the "T" and "U" visas held by these students preclude them from developing state residency for a period of 1-3 years following the granting of the visa (usually at age 18), which makes them ineligible for in-state tuition, and ineligible for Dream Act aid, including Cal Grants.

The author has stated there are only about 75-100 students that fulfill these provisions. Commission staff has determined that the fiscal effect of this bill will be less than \$43,000 for AY 2013-14.

Staff Recommended Position: SUPPORT

Commission Guiding Principle(s): *Foster Educational Access and Affordability* by encouraging the expansion of financial aid to the growing number of California college students who demonstrate financial need as the cost of completing a postsecondary education continues to rise.

The following bill affects **HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY, POLICY, and COORDINATION**.

AB 970

AUTHOR: Fong (D)
TITLE: Student Fees: Student Financial Aid Report
INTRODUCED: 2/18/2011
LAST AMEND: 1/26/2012
LOCATION: Senate

Summary: Establishes the Working Families Fee Transparency and Accountability Act. Establishes various policies relating to student fees and student financial aid at the University of California and the California State University. Requires any mandatory systemwide fees charged to resident students at those institutions to be known, and referred to, as systemwide fees or fees, not as tuition. Provides a process for fee increases requiring prior notification of student associations, public notice, and delay of 6 months after the increase is adopted before it can become effective. Requires a financial aid report to the Legislature by the Student Aid Commission.

Status: Not yet set for hearing.

Commentary: The financial aid report to be provided by the Commission shall include interactions between the various state and federal financial aid programs including systemwide and campus-based student fees, institutional aid at UC and CSU, Cal Grants, and federal financial aid programs. The bill states that the CSU Trustees "shall" and UC Regents are "requested to" cooperate with the Commission to provide any information and data requested by the Commission for this purpose.

Staff Recommended Position: SUPPORT IN CONCEPT; this bill contains notification requirements that the Commission has supported in past legislative sessions. However, the "fee"/"tuition" terminology proposal contradicts a recent Commission action (approval of regulations changing terminology for purposes of Cal Grant disbursement). The larger policy issue of how fees are defined in statute and what fee revenue supports is left unanswered in AB 970. Commission staff recommends that the Commission seek amendments to this measure to define the terminology of fees and how fee revenue is used to support institutional aid.

Commission Guiding Principle(s): *Ensure the Availability of Information on Educational Opportunities* by providing information and guidance to students and their families on financing a college education.

AB 1723

AUTHOR: Fuentes (D)
TITLE: Postsecondary Educational Institutions: Meetings
INTRODUCED: 2/16/2012
LAST AMEND: 4/10/2012
LOCATION: Assembly

Summary: Amends existing law requiring the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, the Trustees of the California State University, the California Postsecondary Education Commission, and the Student Aid Commission and requesting the Regents of the University of California to provide live video and audio transmissions of each open meeting and to archive and post the video and audio on the entity's Internet Web site for 12 months following the meeting. Removes certain transmissions accessible by television.

Status: 04/18/2012 – Heard in Assembly Governmental Organization Committee.

Commentary: The author has stated that the problem he is seeking to address with this bill is discrepancies about the depiction of certain events and comments made at recent CSU Trustee meetings in regard to their decision to increase tuition by nine percent.

Commission staff has shared with the author our willingness to comply but that the Commission's current headquarters has no permanent board meeting room. Staff has asked for an amendment that would allow the Commission to delay implementation of the provision of providing live video transmissions until such time as the Commission has permanent meeting facilities. Also, staff has asked what the responsibility would be under this law for video transmission of teleconference meetings. At the time of this report, there has been no response from the author's office regarding the latter.

Staff Recommended Position: SUPPORT IF AMENDED

AB 2190

AUTHOR: Perez J (D)
TITLE: State Higher Education Authority
INTRODUCED: 2/23/2012
LAST AMEND: 3/29/2012
LOCATION: Assembly

Summary: Establishes the State Higher Education Authority (Authority) that would be responsible for developing, presenting, and monitoring postsecondary education goals for the state, including monitoring and reporting on the progress of the postsecondary segments towards their long-term goals, measuring, and reporting about, how efficiently and effectively the segments are serving the state's needs, developing a strategic financing policy, a student fee policy, and student financial aid policy.

Status: 04/17/2012 – Hear in Assembly Higher Education Committee

Commentary: AB 2190 establishes a 13 member board comprised of nine members of the public, three each appointed by the Governor, Speaker, and Senate Rules, and four students. Intent language states that the Authority shall have policy oversight of the private segments as well as the public. The Authority will become the repository of the former California Postsecondary Education Commission's (CPEC) data. As was the case with CPEC, the bill seems to create a tool for evaluation, reporting, and recommendation, but with no real power of oversight of the different segments.

Staff Recommended Position: WATCH; AB 2190 states that the Authority shall develop and recommend strategic finance policy to the Legislature and Governor on the

topic of student financial aid. This language is unclear as to its intent on how much authority the new agency will have on financial aid policy.

SB 721

AUTHOR: Lowenthal A (D)

TITLE: State Postsecondary Education: State Goals

INTRODUCED: 2/18/2011

LAST AMEND: 1/4/2012

LOCATION: Assembly

Summary: States the intent of the Legislature that budget and policy decisions regarding postsecondary education generally adhere to three specified goals, and to identify and define metrics to monitor the progress in achieving those goals by 2025. Requires a working group be convened to develop the metrics. States the intent to adopt statewide metrics based on those metrics. Requires the release of a related statewide performance report along with recommendations on goal achievement.

Status: Not yet set for hearing.

Commentary: SB 721 states the intent that all budget and policy decisions regarding postsecondary education adhere to the following three goals: (1) improve students' success; (2) better align the types of degrees and credentials awarded with the state's workforce and civic needs; and (3) increase efficiency so that desired postsecondary outcomes can be achieved with a given level of resources while maintaining high quality.

The Legislative Analyst's Office shall convene the working group of representatives from each of the postsecondary segments, Department of Finance, other members with expertise in similar state accountability efforts, and a member from the LAO who will act as the group's chairperson. The group shall develop 6-12 metrics for assessing the state's progress toward the goals. Those metrics will be presented to the Legislature for adoption.

Staff Recommended Position: WATCH

The following bills compare **FINANCIAL AID PROPOSALS FOR MIDDLE CLASS STUDENTS**.

See attachment tab 15.b.

FINANCIAL AID PROPOSALS FOR MIDDLE CLASS STUDENTS

AB 1501 (Perez) *Student financial Aid: Middle Class Scholarship Programs* and SB 1466 (De León) *Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program eligibility* propose to create financial aid access for middle class students.

- These students have family incomes of up to \$150,000 (there is an additional provision in AB 1501 for students with family incomes between \$150,000 and \$160,000)
- Both authors state that the financial aid award is intended to mitigate the devastating impact of a decade of fee increases that has been born by group that is otherwise needy but unlikely eligible for other state and federal grants.
- However, the two bills set up very different programs with different funding mechanisms
- Both AB 1501 and SB 1466 have companion bills (AB 1500 and SB 1356, respectively) which set up those funding mechanisms and are contingent upon the passage of those companion bills

	AB 1501 (Perez) Middle Class Scholarship	SB 1466 (De Leon) "Middle Class Cal Grant"
Funding Mechanism	<p>AB 1500 modifies the Single Sales Factor corporate tax law to reverse the \$1 billion tax benefit provided in 2009 to out-of-state corporations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues generated from modifying this corporate tax law will be deposited into the Middle Class Scholarship Fund (Scholarship Fund) • For the implementation year, 2012-13 AY awards will be made based on tax revenues from the tax year beginning on January 1, 2012 • The bill provides that the Director of Finance shall make a deposit into the Scholarship Fund on or before September 1, 2012, and each year following, of the estimated revenues from the corporate tax modification • In any year in which there is any money left over after funding all the scholarships, the excess may be appropriated for Cal Grants. • Earmark: higher education 	<p>SB 1356 creates the Higher Education Investment Tax Credit Program Special Fund (Special Fund).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions may be made to this fund in return for a tax credit against the "net tax", as defined in the Revenue and Taxation Code • The credit is equal to 65% of the amount contributed to the Special Fund, and the aggregate credit may not exceed \$500 million per calendar year • Earmark: all contributions to the Special Fund are available for appropriation to the California Student Aid Commission for purposes of awarding Cal Grants pursuant to SB 1466.

	AB 1501 (Perez) Middle Class Scholarship	SB 1466 (De Leon) "Middle Class Cal Grant"
Awards	<p>SB 1501 creates a scholarship for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students attending the UC and CSU • whose family incomes are at or below \$150,000 • the scholarship is equal to or greater than 2/3 of the mandatory systemwide fees • for students whose family incomes are between \$150,000 and \$160,000, the scholarship is decreased by 10% for every \$1,000 above \$150,000 • another \$150 million dollars will be appropriated out of the Fund annually to the Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for allocation to the CCC districts according to FTES; the CCC funds are for the for provision of grants to students to reduce the impact of enrollment fees or help cover the cost of textbooks and other educational expenses 	<p>SB 1466 increases the income ceilings for all new Cal Grant applicants to a maximum of \$150,000 for the duration of the "Special Fund"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Cal Grant is for use at any Cal Grant eligible school • no other Cal Grant eligibility changes are proposed
Administrator	Student Aid Commission determines the amount of the award annually, but is mainly a pass-through for block grants to the UC and CSU. The UC and CSU make the awards.	Student Aid Commission
Supplement/Supplant	Intent language states this scholarship program shall augment, not replace other state-supported financial aid, institutional financial aid, and federal grants. However, in the event there are excess funds appropriated to Cal Grant, there is no language specifying that it shall be an augmentation to the General Fund commitment.	Intent language states that the use of the Special Fund is to "expand eligibility for Cal awards for middle class families."
Implementation	2012-13 AY	2014-15 AY
Sunset	None.	This program ceases when there are no monies left in the Special Fund.
Urgency	Yes. Requires 2/3 vote and is enacted upon chaptering of AB 1500 or AB 1501, whichever occurs later. If either bill is not chaptered, they both become inoperative.	No. Requires a majority vote. SB 1466 becomes operative on January 1, 2013 if SB 1356 is also chaptered. If either bill is not chaptered, they both become inoperative.

Discussion:

1. What are the Commission's priorities with regard to funding for Cal Grants? Maintain General Fund commitment? Seek funding from other sources? Will seeking funding from other, possibly volatile, sources weaken General Fund support?
2. What are the Commission's priorities with regard to expansion of the Cal Grant Program? Expand award amounts for lower income students? Expand awards to middle class students? How might either strengthen/weaken the Cal Grant Program?

Staff Recommended Position: Staff has no recommendation at this time.

Commission's 2011-12 Legislative and Budget Guiding Principles

It is essential that the Commission collaborate with the Legislature and the Administration to ensure that the Cal Grant program and other specialized aid programs are successful. The continued commitment from the State to improve the availability and amount of financial aid is crucial to secure educational access for all California students. This commitment strengthens the state's economic well-being by educating California's future workforce.

California statute (Education Code §66021.2) adopted as part of the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program (SB 1644, Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000) affirms the state's historic commitment to provide educational opportunity to students pursuing a higher education by ensuring both student access and choice for students with financial need and who meet academic criteria.

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has a long-standing commitment to pursue increased resources for student financial aid. Therefore, the Commission continues to support the policies adopted by the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act and opposes any changes that would undermine them. Consequently, the following policy principles are the priorities of the Commission, and the Commission urges the Governor and Legislature to support them.

MISSION: To make education beyond high school financially accessible to *all* Californians.

GOAL: To ensure all California students learn about and apply for benefits provided through the Cal Grant program and other specialized aid programs the Commission administers and to serve the public interest by providing quality financial aid services, including student loans at a reasonable cost to those students who need financial assistance to attend a college or university.

PRINCIPLES: Recognizing the critical need to maintain Legislative and Executive support for postsecondary educational opportunities, the Commission seeks to

- 1. Foster Educational Access and Affordability;***
- 2. Ensure the Availability of Information on Educational Opportunities;***
- 3. Preserve the Flow of Financial Aid; and***
- 4. Ensure Adequate Support and Flexibility for Commission Operations and Its Programs.***

*Numbering principles in no way indicates priorities; all principles are equally considered.

The guiding principles and objectives should be reviewed at the beginning of each two-year legislative session to ensure they continue to be applicable, valid, and supportive of the Commission's mission.

Each of these principles is discussed in further detail below.

PRINCIPLE #1: Foster Educational Access and Affordability

The Commission and the State should advocate for increased higher education opportunities by providing all California students financial access to the postsecondary education of their choice.

OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage the expansion of financial aid to the growing number of California college students who demonstrate financial need as the cost of completing a postsecondary education continues to rise;
- Preserve and Expand the Cal Grant Entitlement and Competitive Programs
 - ◆ Eligibility Requirements
 - Maintain statutory GPA requirements
 - Maintain statutory income ceiling
 - Support eligibility requirements that provide greater student access to the program
 - ◆ Award Value
 - Cover full-fee funding for University of California and California State University students
 - Retain the current maximum award amount for nonpublic postsecondary institutions and support the development of a statutory formula that adjusts the maximum award amount for nonpublic postsecondary institutions and would not be subject to the annual budget process
 - Recommend and fully support increases to the Cal Grant B access award and first year tuition for Cal Grant B recipients
 - ◆ Competitive Awards
 - Advocate for funds that increase the number of Competitive Cal Grant awards
- Preserve and Expand the Cal Grant C Program
 - ◆ Eligibility Requirements
 - Maintain statutory income ceiling
 - Support eligibility requirements that provide greater student access to the program
 - ◆ Award Value
 - Support, at a minimum, the current maximum grant amount for institutional tuition and fees at applicable postsecondary institutions
 - Support increases to the book and supplies allowance
 - ◆ Number of Awards
 - Recommend and support increases in the number of awards in the Cal Grant C program
 - Support expanded financial aid opportunities for career technical education students
- Cultivate legislative and budget actions that protect, strengthen, and increase the state's General Fund commitment to student financial aid;
- Encourage continued bipartisan support for funding of statutory growth in state and federal grant programs and for continued access to lower interest federal student loans;
- Promote expanded educational and transfer opportunities for students transferring from community colleges to four-year colleges;
- Seek the greater utilization and enhancement of all Commission-administered specialized programs; and
- Enhance the benefits to those participating in state or federal tuition savings plans that encourage saving while offering tax relief incentives, such as the ScholarShare Program.

PRINCIPLE #2: Ensure the Availability of Information on Educational Opportunities

The Commission should work to expand and strengthen its early, statewide outreach efforts to middle and high school students as well as to non-traditional, re-entry and older students.

OBJECTIVES:

- Advocate for adequate funding for outreach, academic preparation, and public awareness activities;
- Promote the availability of information on college educational opportunities for all California students and families;
- Provide information and guidance to students and their families on alternative methods for financing a college education;
- Provide the resources needed to maximize the effectiveness of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) and the Cash for College program;
- Encourage the expansion of public and private partnerships in the Cash for College program;
- Strengthen the Commission's partnership with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and local school districts; and
- Recognize that the Commission's outreach programs are designed to supplement and not supplant the activities that should be provided by secondary schools and districts.

PRINCIPLE #3: Preserve the Flow of Financial Aid

The Commission should promote the uninterrupted flow of student financial aid to enable students to achieve their educational goals. The process of applying for and receiving student aid should be as simple as possible for students and their families, educational institutions, and other program participants.

OBJECTIVES:

- Advocate for federal and state actions that result in a streamlined application process for California students;
- Advocate for continued enhancements and improvements to the Grant Delivery System to promote transparency and ease of use in the system while maintaining speed and accuracy;
- Advocate for policies that promote the cost-effective and timely administration of student financial aid programs;
- Strengthen the Commission's communication and partnerships with financial aid administrators through written communication and other training opportunities related to program changes and informational updates; and
- Encourage the expansion of public and private partnerships in the Cash for College program.

PRINCIPLE #4: Ensure Adequate Support and Flexibility for Commission Operations

The Commission should ensure that it can administratively fulfill its essential mission and responsibilities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Work with the Legislature and the Administration to ensure the Commission continues to maintain the resources, including funding, equipment, and skilled personnel, necessary for an uninterrupted flow of financial aid and services to California students;
- Work to ensure that any new specialized programs have appropriate resources;
- Advocate for additional resources for new, advanced technology for delivery and customer services; and

- Continue evaluating the opportunities offered through, and the potential impact to the Commission and EdFund model in light of the potential sale of EdFund.

PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

POSITIONS ON BILLS

Staff will draft an objective analysis of all legislative bills that affect the Commission. All positions will be in a “pending” status until the Commission has the opportunity to review the legislation and analysis and take an official position. During the legislative session, the Commission should support these legislative principles by taking the following actions for proposed legislation at Commission meetings as appropriate.

No Position

- A bill that the Commission has not yet discussed or is not relevant to the Commission’s mission or Legislative Principles.

Watch

- A bill that is not within the scope of the Commission’s responsibility or would not affect the Commission’s operations or procedures in its current iteration, but which may be amended to do so.

Support

- Supports the Commission’s mission and principles.

Neutral if Amended, Support if Amended, or Oppose unless Amended

- The Commission’s position would change if recommended amendments are made to resolve implementation or policy concerns. This position should indicate which concerns must be resolved before the Commission would change its position.

Oppose

- A bill that is in conflict with the Commission’s mission and principles; it cannot be administered; it is too costly and burdensome to the Commission, the students, and schools.

Sponsor

- A bill proposal that the Commission identifies as beneficial to preserve or enhance service to California students and families and central to the Commission’s administration of its programs, its mission and its legislative principles.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIRECT INVOLVEMENT

Staff will request the Commission’s involvement during the legislative session as opportunities arise. Commission staff will develop and provide Commissioners with an advocacy binder to aid the Commissioners in communicating Commission policy and messaging.

- Discussions related to the January Governor’s Budget, bills and new proposals beginning in January;
- Participation in the Commission-sponsored annual Legislative Briefing Day and annual Cash for College Kick-off;
- Work with Commission staff to arrange visits with member offices to promote the Mission and advocate for the passage of Commission-supported legislation;
- Work with legislative budget committee staff to preserve the Cal Grant program and maintain adequate funding for Commission operations; and
- Work in coordination and cooperation with our partners in the financial aid community including secondary schools, all segments of higher education, and state and national financial aid associations by attending board and annual meetings and Webinars.