

**Action/Information Item**

***Governance and Monitoring Committee***

Legislation Update and Consideration of Bills Affecting the Commission  
and Commission Programs

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This agenda item will provide an update on current federal and state legislative issues and bills that have been introduced or amended in the second year of the 2009-10 Legislative Session.

Enclosed are:

1. Legislative Update
2. Staff Analysis and Recommendations for Bills
3. Commission Legislative Proposals
4. Commission's 2009-10 Legislative and Budget Guiding Principles
5. 2010 Legislative Calendar

***Recommended Action:*** Review enclosed information and adopt official positions on proposed legislation.

***Responsible Person(s):*** Lori Nezhura  
Legislative Liaison

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**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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**Federal Issues**

The year 2009 was marked by national recession, economic stimulus, health care reform debate and student aid reform. The House has passed, and President Obama has called on the Senate to do the same, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA, H.R. 3221). SAFRA follows through with many of the President's goals for discontinuing federal subsidies to private lenders for making student loans and redirecting the savings to the federal Pell grant program as well as simplifying the financial aid application process for low-income students. See detailed summary on next page.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee delayed discussion of student aid reform pending the passage of health care reform legislation. This was done to retain the single use of the Reconciliation process for health care reform, if needed, and if not needed, Reconciliation would be preserved for the student aid reform bill.

Reconciliation is a Congressional legislative technique intended to allow consideration of a contentious budget bill without the threat of filibuster. Introduced in 1974, reconciliation limits debate and amendment, and therefore favors the majority party. Until 1996, reconciliation was limited to deficit reduction, but in 1996 the Senate's Republican majority adopted a precedent to apply reconciliation to any legislation affecting the budget, even legislation that would increase the deficit.

At this time, it is still not clear if the Senate will be able to pass health care reform legislation without the Reconciliation process. If the one-time process is used for health care, it could have significant implications for the viability of passing student aid reform in the current session.

**State Issues**

On January 8, 2010, the California State Legislature was called into the 8<sup>th</sup> Special Session to address the fiscal emergency declared by the Governor. During this Special Session, they will attempt to eliminate a combined current-year and budget-year deficit of \$20 million through spending cuts, revenues, or a combination of both. The 2009-10 mid-year deficit is largely due to unrealized budget solutions passed in 2009.

For the second year in a row, the mid-year Special Session on budget is taking the focus away from many other non-budget legislative proposals. Also, the State's fiscal situation is making the passage of bills through the fiscal committees difficult. Nevertheless, Commission staff is still watching bills affecting the Commission and our programs. These are presented on the following pages for Committee consideration.

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**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BILLS**

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3221

**AUTHOR:** Miller, George (D)**TITLE:** Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act**INTRODUCED:** 07/15/2009**LAST AMEND:** 09/16/2009**LOCATION:** Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

**Summary:** Creates the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, proposes changes to the federal student loan program, federal Pell grant, student aid methodology, veterans educational grants and loan forgiveness, funding for college access and completion, cooperative education, civil legal assistance attorneys loan repayment, grants for public school facilities renovation and repair, charter schools, green schools, the early learning challenge fund, and a graduation funding initiative for the community colleges. (Major provisions of the bill bulleted below.)

**Student Loan Program**

- **Ends the Federal Family Education Loan Program on June 30, 2010**, unless continuation is expressly authorized by Congress through additional legislation.
- Provides the Department of Education with \$50 million in FY 2010 to provide schools with resources and assistance in transitioning into the Direct Loan program. That assistance includes "technical support, training for personnel, customized assistance to individual institutions of higher education, development of informational materials, and other services the Secretary determines to be appropriate."
- Requires the Secretary of Education to conduct outreach activities to educate students and their families about the transition to Federal Direct Lending.
- Makes interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans disbursed after July 1, 2012, equal to the bond equivalent rate of 91-day Treasury bills auctioned at the final auction held prior to such June 1, plus 2.5 percent for the next year, not to exceed 6.8 percent.
- Allows Schools located outside of the U.S. to receive federal student loans through the Direct Loan program.

**Pell Grant**

- Continues the trend set by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) dividing the Pell Grant into mandatory and appropriated funding. **Beginning in the 2011-12 award year, the mandatory portion of the Pell Grant would be indexed to the Consumer Price Index plus 1 percent.**
- **The mandatory portion of the Pell Grant is \$490 of the \$5350 maximum award for 2009-10. For 2010-11, that mandatory portion is scheduled to increase to \$690, raising the maximum award to \$5550. Barring any further changes, it is this \$690 portion that would be increased by CPI + 1 percent.**
- Clarify that part-time students can also receive year-round Pell Grants

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**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BILLS**

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HR 3221 Continued

**FAFSA Simplification**

- **Eliminates asset data from the FAFSA and the needs analysis formula, effective July 1, 2011.**
- **Imposes an asset cap of \$150,000 beginning on July 1, 2011, that would prohibit receipt of a Pell Grant or a subsidized Stafford Loan.** For each award year after 2011-12, the Secretary would be required to publish a revised net asset cap that would be determined by increasing the dollar amounts by a percentage equal to the estimated percentage change in the Consumer Price Index.

**The House bill does not specify how asset cap information would be captured on the FAFSA.**

**Veterans Educational Benefits**

- **Allows veterans who attend private colleges in states with a zero or very low basic tuition benefit to shift the unused portion of the maximum fee benefit to help cover costs of the veteran's actual tuition.** This provision seeks to fix an issue with the Post-9/11 GI Benefits where veterans were being denied funds because they attended schools in states that had no, or very low, tuition charges but higher student fees (California).
- Forgives any federal student loans for members of the military who borrowed for the term in which they later were called to active duty.

**College Access and Completion Innovation Fund**

- **Proposes \$3 billion over 5 years (2010-2014) or \$600,000,000 annually.** Within this fund are three grants:
  - ✓ **College Access Challenge Grant** (which currently funds the Commission's local Cal-SOAP programs and its statewide Cash for College Workshops, but is due to sunset this year leaving our programs unfunded);
  - ✓ State Innovation Completion Grants for increasing student persistence and completion of higher education, decreasing enrollment gaps, persistence and completion for underrepresented groups, and measurement; and
  - ✓ Innovation in College Access and Completion National Activities Grants which provides one-time funding for innovative programs increasing the number of individuals holding postsecondary certificates and degrees.

**Status:** 09/22/2009 - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

**Position:** In April 2009 the Commission took a position of **Support in Concept** on President Obama's 2010 Budget proposal to originate all new federal student loans through the Direct Loan Program and to use the savings to create a stronger and more reliable Pell Grant program.

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**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BILLS**

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HR 3221 Continued

Staff recommends a position of **Support if Amended** on this bill. Many states and institutions rely on the asset data for determination of aid. Gathering that information through alternate means will put cost pressure on California's General Fund; conforming Cal Grant law to federal law with regards to assets will create significant cost pressure for the General Fund. Staff recommends that the bill be amended to specify how the asset data would be captured and the cap would be determined.

Staff recommends that the Commission convey its position and concerns in a letter to the leadership of the House, Senate, and their respective education committees, members of the California Congressional Delegation, and the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and that staff be directed to work with the Department to create a method whereby asset data may be gathered for California students, perhaps by providing a state link to the online FAFSA.

**Guiding Principles:** Foster Educational Access and Affordability; Ensure the Availability of Information on Educational Opportunities; Preserve the Flow of Financial Aid

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**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BILLS**

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AB 1436

**AUTHOR:** Portantino (D)**TITLE:** Postsecondary Educational Institutions: Meetings**INTRODUCED:** 02/27/2009**LAST AMEND:** 01/04/2010**LOCATION:** Senate

**Summary:** Requires 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, including any auxiliary organization, to make available on the Internet a live audio broadcast of each of its meetings that is open to the public.

**Status:** 01/25/2010 - To Senate

**Commentary:** The Student Aid Commission does not currently possess a permanent meeting site with live audio broadcast capabilities. Due to the current Administration's proposal to sell the auxiliary, EdFund, the Commission was not allowed to move into planned permanent facilities that would have included a boardroom. Since 2008, Commission meetings have been held at various local and downtown sites. In reserving these locations, Commission staff has taken the utmost care to keep costs minimal, even adjusting meeting dates and times in order to secure rent-free State facilities. Facility resources, including audio-visual systems, extra microphones, and internet connectivity are sometimes available at these locations at an additional cost to the Commission or sometimes are not available at all.

The Commission believes in open, accessible meetings and discussions. However, since 2009-10 the Commission operating budget has been reduced by approximately 30% making the absorption of new expenses impossible.

**Position:** Staff recommends a position of **Support if Amended**. The bill currently contains no appropriations for one-time or on-going costs to implement live audio broadcasts though staff has made these requests known to the author and committee staff. Therefore, staff recommends the bill be amended with the provision that the California Student Aid Commission is not required to comply with this bill until it secures a permanent meeting location and an amount of \$5,000 is appropriated for material costs.

**Guiding Principle:** Ensure Adequate Support and Flexibility for Commission Operations

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**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BILLS**

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AB 1703

**AUTHOR:** Knight (R)**TITLE:** Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education**INTRODUCED:** 02/01/2010**LOCATION:** Assembly

**Summary:** Expands the progressive assumptions of qualifying loans under the State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education (SNAPLE) program for a participant that completes at least five years of qualifying clinical registered nursing service at a state-sponsored veterans home. Provides for an additional loan assumption per year of additional qualifying service, with a maximum loan assumption amount equal to the participant's total outstanding liability under the qualifying loans.

**Status:** To be assigned to policy committee(s) by Assembly Rules Committee.

**Commentary:** The current SNAPLE – Nursing in State Facilities program provides for loan assumptions for up to four years of qualifying service “as a clinical registered nurse in a state-operated 24-hour facility that employs registered nurses and that has a clinical registered nurse vacancy rate of greater than 10 percent.” [California Education Code § 70120(b)(5)]. According to law (CEC § 70121), the Department of Personnel Administration determines and provides the Commission with a list of qualifying facilities.

**Position:** Staff recommends a position of **Support if Amended** on this bill. The bill proposes to extend SNAPLE assumption benefits for specified participants for an undetermined length of time—perhaps up to or beyond ten years—which will create workload pressures and potential administration costs. Staff recommends the bill be amended to identify resources for Commission administration and include, “The total loan assumption for a program participant under this subdivision shall be equal to the participant’s total outstanding liability under one or more of the designated loan programs **or \$50,000, whichever is less.**”

**Guiding Principles:** Foster Educational Access and Affordability; Ensure Adequate Support and Flexibility for Commission Operations

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**COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

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**Unbacked Bills**

**TOPIC #1: Veterans' Educational Benefits**

**Background:** Federal educational assistance programs for veterans have been authorized by federal law since 1944. Over time, there have been numerous changes to the veterans' education benefit (VEB) programs, including the addition of the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) in 1985. The newest VEB program, the Post-9/11 GI Bill or New GI Bill, took effect on August 1, 2009. The New GI Bill provides generous educational benefits including tuition and fee payments up to the level of the most expensive public institution in the state (in California it is calculated a little differently since California does not technically charge in-state students tuition), housing allowance, books and supplies stipend, and more.

In general, VEB are made available to veterans alongside a broad array of other federal student financial aid programs which are authorized by the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended. These programs include, but are not limited to: the Pell Grant program, the Academic Competitiveness Grant and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant programs, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, the Federal Work-Study program, the Federal Perkins Loan program; and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (DL) programs. The FFEL and DL programs both make available subsidized Stafford Loans, unsubsidized Stafford Loans, and PLUS Loans.

The types and amounts of aid that students, including veterans, may be eligible to receive are determined by programmatic requirements and the federal need analysis provisions. The federal need analysis provisions establish that "financial need" is calculated by subtracting the expected family contribution (EFC) from the student's cost of attendance (COA).

**Federal Need Analysis**

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{COA} \\ -\text{EFC} \\ \hline \text{Need} \end{array}$$

State law mandates the same formula for the calculation of student need to award Cal Grants [Education Code section 69432.9(b)].

For veterans, the monies received as VEB are not treated as income, and therefore are not used in the calculation of the expected EFC.

When creating a student's financial aid package, the financial aid office of an institution begins with the student's need as calculated by the federal processor from information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The institution then subtracts Pell (always considered first in a student's aid package) and any other EFA like those federal grant programs listed above, state aid, institutional aid, private scholarships and grants, veterans' educational benefits (no longer included in the list as of July 1, 2009), work study and (last) loans for which a student might be eligible. When the need is reduced to zero, no more EFA can be applied. In some cases, even after all EFA has been applied, the student still has need.

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COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

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Example:

COA  
-EFC  
 Need  
 -Pell  
 -SEOG  
 -Cal Grant  
 -Chapter 30 Veterans Educational Benefits  
 -federal work study  
-subsidized loan  
 0

Prior to July 1, 2009, with some very limited exceptions, VEB was treated as a resource, or estimated financial assistance (EFA), which was used to reduce a student's need. As shown above, the receipt of VEB decreased the amount of need-based aid a veteran student could receive in his or her financial aid package.

After July 1, 2009, the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) made certain changes to federal law which impact how VEB is treated for purposes of the federal need analysis and the calculation of resources that are available to meet the veteran's EFA. Beginning with the 2009-10 academic year, VEB is not treated as EFA and will, accordingly, *not* decrease the amount of need-based aid a veteran student can receive.

**Problem:** Since the 1990s the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has reduced a Cal Grant applicant's need by the amount of VEB in order to determine need for a NEW Cal Grant award. (Calculation of need for renewing Cal Grant awards in subsequent years does not take VEB into account.)

**Cal Grant Need Analysis**

COA  
-EFC  
 Need  
-VEB

**Cal Grant Need (for NEW awards only)**

(1) A provision in state law requires using VEB to reduce need even though the federal government has changed its methodology to ignore VEB. California Education Code § 69432.9 (b) states:

Financial need shall be determined using the federal financial need methodology pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 and applicable regulations adopted by the commission, and as established by Title IV of the Federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq., as amended). **The calculation of financial need shall be consistent with the commission's methodology of financial need for the 2000-01 academic year.** [Emphasis added to highlight aforementioned provision.]

**COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

(2) A second issue that has developed as a consequence of the federal change is the removal of VEB information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The 2009-10 FAFSA removed the question, “What is the amount of the Veterans’ Educational Benefits that you expect to receive” and replaced it with the question, “What type of Veterans’ Education Benefits do you expect to receive?” With this change, the Commission was no longer able to include VEB when calculating need for NEW Cal Grant awards. The Commission created a school-by-school report of any individuals who identified any type of VEB on the 2009-10 FAFSA. Staff then sent a memo informing institutions that they would need to collect VEB information from all those on their school list who were, in fact, using VEB (even though institutions were no longer collecting VEB information for any other reason). The school then had to recalculate each of those students’ NEW Cal Grant need. If any students became ineligible due to the inclusion of the VEB, the institution notified the Commission who then notified the student of his or her disqualification.

The 2010-11 FAFSA has removed all questions relating to VEB. The Commission and schools now have no way of identifying these students/Cal Grant recipients. If state law is not changed and brought into conformity with federal law, the Commission will have to collect this information from applicants in a supplemental fashion.

<b>CSAC</b>	<b>CAMPUSES</b>
2009-10 Reduced VEB data on FAFSA. Created lists of affected students to be verified by institutions.	2009-10 Collected VEB data and recalculated NEW Cal Grant need for those on list. Informed Commission if VEB consideration made student ineligible for Cal Grant. Did not collect VEB data from any other financial aid recipients.
2010-11 VEB data completely eliminated on FAFSA.	2010-11 Awaiting Commission direction about how to identify affected students.

**Summary of bill:** Removes the requirement in law that the Student Aid Commission calculate financial need consistent with the method used by the Commission in the 2000-01 academic year.

**Position:** In 2009, Commission staff, along with representatives from the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) and the California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA), brought the issue of the changing federal law for the 2009-10 academic year and FAFSA data elimination for the 2010-11 academic year to the Commission’s attention. At that time, the Commission directed staff to pursue a bill to bring state law into conformity with federal law in regards to VEB.

With this change to state law, a small number of veterans formerly ineligible for Cal Grant will become eligible. Using 2008-09 data, the fiscal effect has been determined to be less than \$300,000. Staff is in the process of identifying costs involved with VEB data collection absent FAFSA data: supplemental application, online self-reporting, CSAC workload, campus workload, etc. It is possible that the fiscal effect of doing nothing may be equivalent to the costs of new awards.

Based on the intent behind the Commission’s previous directive, staff recommends a position of **Sponsor** if an author can be found to introduce this bill.

**COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

**TOPIC #2:** Cal Grant B Award Amounts

**Background:** Last session, Assemblymember Hector de la Torre introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 2365, which the Commission supported, to increase the number of Cal Grant B Entitlement recipients receiving tuition and/or fees in their first year. It is staff’s understanding that this proposal will be reintroduced again this year by a different author. The California State Student Association is seeking to sponsor this measure.

The Cal Grant B Entitlement program provides an access grant (for books/supplies/living expenses) of \$1,551 to low-income students who are in their first year of college, then tuition and/or fees along with the access grant for the following three years. Also under the Cal Grant B Entitlement program, the top two percent of students scored on GPA, financial need, and disadvantaged factors receive access, tuition and/or fee assistance in the first year of attendance at a four-year college and universities. To be eligible for a Cal Grant B Entitlement award, a student must have a grade point average of at least 2.0, demonstrate financial need, and meet all other general eligibility requirements (U.S. citizen, CA residents, not incarcerated, etc.).

The Cal Grant A Entitlement program is for low- to middle-income students who have a grade point average of at least 3.0, demonstrate financial need (income levels not as low as for Cal B), and meet all other general eligibility requirements.

**Problem: (1)** Cal Grant B awards go to the financially neediest students, yet they only provide \$1,551 for the first year of attendance at a four-year college or university.

**(2)** The Cal Grant A award pays more over a four year period to a student attending a private institution or the University of California than the Cal Grant B recipient attending the same institutions. Cal Grant B awards at the California State University and community colleges still pay more over four years than Cal Grant A.

	<b>CAL GRANT A</b>	<b>CAL GRANT B</b>
<b>University of California</b>	Up to \$41,208	Up to \$37,110
<b>Private Institution</b>	Up to \$38,832	Up to \$35,328

**Summary of Bill:** Amends current law to provide step increases in the number of Cal Grant B students receiving tuition and/or fees in their first academic year over the next four years from 2% in 2010-11 to 25% in 2011-12, to 50% in 2012-13, to 75% in 2013-14, and finally increasing to 100% in the 2014-15 academic year and beyond.

**Position:** Staff recommends the Commission reaffirm its support of this measure by taking a position of **Co-sponsor** with the California State Student Association.

**Guiding Principle:** Foster Educational Access and Affordability

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**COMMISSION'S 2009-10 LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

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***The Commission adopted the following Guiding Principles for the 2009-10 Legislative Session at their November 21, 2008 meeting.***

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 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.

**COMMISSION'S 2009-10 LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**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;
- 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 the Cal Grant programs and for continued access to lower interest federal student loans administered through EDFUND;
- 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 #1: Foster Educational Access and Affordability  
FUNDING OBJECTIVES FOR THE CAL GRANT PROGRAM**

- ❖ **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**
    - Advocating for funds that increase the number of Competitive Cal Grant awards for qualified non-recipient students
- ❖ **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 fully support increases in the number of awards in the Cal Grant C program
    - Support expanded financial aid opportunities for career technical education students

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**COMMISSION'S 2009-10 LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

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**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:**

- Continue to 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.

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COMMISSION'S 2009-10 LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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**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.

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**COMMISSION'S 2009-10 LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

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**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.

**Neutral**

- A bill that is not within the scope of the Commission's responsibility or would not affect the Commission's operations or procedures.

**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, 2nd-year 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.

2010 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

DEADLINES

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 4 Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10 Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (a)).
- Jan. 15 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report bills introduced in 2009 for referral to **fiscal committees** (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 22 Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house in 2009 (J.R. 61(b)(2)). Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31 Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2009 (J.R. 61(b)(3)) (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)).

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Interim Recess						1	2
Wk. 1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wk. 4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 1	31						

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 1	28						

- Feb. 15 Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 19 Last day for bills to be introduced (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Spring Recess	28	29	30	31			

- Mar. 25 Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 29 Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Spring Recess					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	

- Apr. 5 Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51 (b)(1)).
- Apr. 23 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Wk. 3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Wk. 4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Hrgs.	30	31					

- May 7 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 14 Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 7 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 28 Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 7 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 31 Memorial Day observed.

2010 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
No Hgs.			1	2	3	4	5
Wk. 1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wk. 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Wk. 3	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Wk. 4	27	28	29	30			

- June 1-4** Floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- June 4** Last day to pass bills out of house of origin (J.R. 61(b)(11)).
- June 7** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).
- June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)).
- June 24** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 2 General Election ballot. (Elec. Code Sec. 9040)

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4					1	2	3
Summer Recess	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Summer Recess	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Summer Recess	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Summer Recess	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- July 2** Last day for policy committees to hear and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)). Summer Recess begins on adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- July 5** Independence Day observed.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No Hgs.	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
No Hgs.	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No Hgs.	29	30	31				

- Aug. 2** Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- Aug. 13** Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(14)).
- Aug. 16 - 31** Floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(15)).
- Aug. 20** Last day to amend on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).
- Aug. 31** Last day for any bill to be passed (Art. IV, Sec 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)). Final Recess begins on adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

**2010**

- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec.10(b)(2)).
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2011 (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Nov. 2 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 6 2011-12 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

**2011**

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).