



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Diana Fuentes-Michel, Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

**SUBJECT:** California Dream Act Financial Aid Update

**DATE:** May 30, 2013

In March 2013, we announced our first California Dream Act Financial Aid Update. By all measures the state's **California Dream Act** is emerging as a successful model for financial aid application processing. The Commission has appreciated all of your recommendations, comments, feedback, and the many hours you and your colleagues have contributed to putting the California Dream Act application into practice on behalf of students.

As a result of California's leadership, the Commission has been contacted by the State of Minnesota Office of Higher Education, Financial Aid Programs to help implement Minnesota's Dream Act program, Senate File (SF) No. 723 (Pappas). The Commission has also been contacted by New York, Wisconsin, and Indiana for advice on Dream Act best practices for student financial aid. We hope to continue to collaborate with these states.

The California Dream Act is a reflection of our state's commitment to invest in all of its citizens. Here is an update on the California Dream Act student financial aid application processing for the 2013-14 academic year.

### **Quick Facts**

- The current number of California 2013-14 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) submitted on or before the priority deadline is approximately 1.4 million.
- The number of 2013-14 California Dream Act Applications received on or before the priority deadline remains at 20,182.

- The number of completed 2013-14 California Dream Act Applications is 17,769.
- The total distinct number of Grade Point Average Verifications (GPAs) processed is 4,127,406, of which 333,540 represent high school students – the Commission received GPAs from 80% of California’s high school graduates.
- The total number of Cal Grant award offers to date is 126,590.
  - The total number of Cal Grant High School Entitlement award offers for California Dream Act applicants is 5,487.
  - The preliminary number of Cal Grant Community College Transfer Entitlement awards identified for California Dream Act applicants is 1,340.
  - The preliminary number of Cal Grant C awards identified for California Dream Act applicants is 816. These applicants have been sent a link to the online supplemental application to compete for the awards.
  - Since our last update, 576 additional dependent students have provided parental signatures and other necessary information to fully complete their California Dream Act applications.

A limited subset of California Dream Act applicants were impacted by application submission technical difficulties. Here is an update on the status of those applications:

- 73% of the 756 students who were impacted by technical difficulties and contacted by the Commission resubmitted their California Dream Act applications (550 of 756).
- A total of 27% of the impacted applications remain un-submitted (206 of 756). The Commission continues to monitor the status of these applications and will work with these students to ensure a successful submission.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact our Program Administration and Services Division at 1-888-224-7268, email us at [studentsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:studentsupport@csac.ca.gov), or visit our websites at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov), [www.caldreamact.org](http://www.caldreamact.org), or [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org).