

Dear Cal Grant Students and Parents:

As I discussed in the previous update posted on June 19, 2009, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) remains committed to keeping students apprised of any developments relating to the status of the Cal Grant program.

On Tuesday, July 28, 2009, the Governor signed the 2009-10 budget, and I am very pleased to report to you that Cal Grants and all other Commission financial aid programs are intact and fully funded!

All students who received "tentative" award offers are now assured of their grants for the 2009-10 academic year.

In the face of proposed elimination and reductions, the realization of the Commission's efforts to maintain this valuable program for students is extremely rewarding, and we are appreciative of the legislative support and acknowledgement of the importance of Cal Grants for your future, and California's future economic workforce.

Although the funding for the Cal Grant and Specialized Programs remains whole, the Governor vetoed \$6.3 million in support for the administration of the Cal Grant and Specialized Programs. This veto includes a provision that would set aside \$4.3 million, which would be restored contingent upon enactment of legislation that authorizes the decentralization of the Cal Grant Program and other financial aid programs.

The revised budget includes the following:

- Continues to fund the maximum Cal Grant tuition and fee award for all new and renewal recipients at the system wide levels:
- \$4,026 for students attending the California State University.
- \$7,788 for students attending the University of California (UC). The UC is also considering further increases for implementation in the spring term, but there has been no formal action as of this date.
- Maintains the maximum Cal Grant tuition and fee award for all new recipients attending private and independent institutions at \$9,708.
- Maintains all eligible High School Entitlement awards.
- Maintains all eligible California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards.
- Maintains the 22,500 new Competitive Cal Grant awards.

- Maintains the 7,761 new Cal Grant C awards and award amounts.
- Establishes a new financial aid program for National Guard members.

We will continue to update this website with any relevant updates pertaining to Cal Grant awards and processing. In addition, we strongly encourage you to continue to maintain contact with the financial aid administrators at the institution you are planning to attend.

My best wishes for a successful Fall semester!

Sincerely,

Diana Fuentes-Michel
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission