



# CAL-SOAP CALIFORNIA STUDENT OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS PROGRAM

*INCREASING COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE THAN 160,000  
LOW-INCOME CALIFORNIA STUDENTS EACH YEAR*



**CAL-SOAP, THE CALIFORNIA STUDENT OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS PROGRAM**, is a vital component in California’s effort to build an educated workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> century by providing college, career and financial aid assistance to traditionally non-college going students.

The program was established by the California Legislature in 1978 and is administered by the **CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION**. Statewide projects support the Commission’s objective “to make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians”. The projects sustain and enhance the work of K-12, college and university partners and increase the value and reach of other important federal and state college preparation programs.

Cal-SOAP communicates important information about financial aid, postsecondary opportunities and career technical education. Through tutoring programs and outreach efforts, projects have raised the achievement levels of low-income elementary and secondary students from geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or college participation rates, and who may be the first in their family to attend college. Cal-SOAP projects provide academic tutoring, peer mentoring, college and career advisement, college access and admissions counseling, SAT/ACT test preparation, college tours and financial aid workshops and grants.

### **CAL-SOAP IS SUCCESSFUL: OVER 80% OF OUR STUDENTS ATTEND COLLEGE EACH YEAR.**

More than 77.1 percent of Cal-SOAP participants enrolled in a California public college or university after high school graduation in 2008 compared to the statewide rate of 47.1%. In addition, another 6.2 % of Cal-SOAP students enrolled in independent, career or out-of-state institutions.

### **CAL-SOAP IS PRESENT IN OVER 300 ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.**

Cal-SOAP projects are based in 15 regions serving 27 counties: Central Coast (Santa Maria), Central Valley (San Joaquin), East Bay (Oakland and Richmond), Greater Long Beach Region, Los Angeles, Merced County, North Coast (Eureka), Sacramento, San Diego/Imperial Counties, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Solano, South County Gilroy and South San Joaquin (Bakersfield).

### **CAL-SOAP’S STRENGTH IS ITS PARTNERSHIPS WITH ALL EDUCATION SEGMENTS, INCLUDING:**

126 public school districts, 9 of the 10 general campuses of the University of California; 18 of the 23 campuses of the California State University; 42 of the state’s 112 California Community Colleges; 16 campuses of the 77 Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities members; and 53 community-based organizations.

### **CAL-SOAP LEVERAGES OVER \$15 MILLION IN FEDERAL INVESTMENTS, DOUBLING THE STATE’S INVESTMENT.**

Cal-SOAP partners contribute millions in cash and in-kind support. Cal-SOAP projects are required by state law to match the federal funds they receive with at least a 1:1 cash or in-kind contribution.

### **CAL-SOAP INVESTS \$2.2 MILLION ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WORKING TOWARD THEIR COLLEGE DEGREES.**

At least 30% of each project’s budget is set aside for the stipends of college students who serve as positive role models and provide college and career counseling, tutoring and mentoring.

### **CAL-SOAP PROJECTS WORK WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS TO AUGMENT LIMITED RESOURCES.**

In California, College Access Challenge Grant funds support Cal-SOAP. One of the project requirements is to minimize duplication of services. Consortia work closely with the TRIO, GEAR UP, Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search programs in their areas.

### **CAL-SOAP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Since 2006, several projects have awarded more than \$10 million in scholarships with the support of funding and partnership with College Access Foundation of California.