

Questions & Answers from SB 70 Webinar

Q: Is there any handout or PowerPoint?

A: This presentation is available at www.csac.ca.gov, then clicking the link "About Senate Bill 70".

Q: When referring to the CDR requirement, do you mean 40% of school enrollment or of financial aid applicants borrowing from the Feds?

A: Institutions with more than 40% of their enrollment borrowing from the Feds, must maintain a CDR of 24.6% or less for 2011-12 and 30% each year after.

Q: Can a student attend a school that is ineligible for year one, and then transfer to an eligible school for year 2 and then be eligible?

A: Yes. Students will have to post a Leave of Absence for their first year.

Q: Does the college have to determine if the renewal student meets the asset ceiling? (DOE is not requiring asset income to be reported for many students.)

A: CSAC checks against the ceilings. Institutions do not have to check.

Q: If verification changes need do we report on roster?

A: You will use the Grant Record Change process.

Q: If corrections are required on a student's FAFSA, then I would still have to compare the new amounts to determine that the student is still eligible for their Cal Grant? I would automatically use the income/asset year indicated on the online roster?

A: Yes. But you only need to report a financial change if the student's status would change

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Q: If the school no longer needs to report the renewal need on the roster, does the school still need to keep record of the renewal need calculation for compliance?

A: If your need matches CSAC's, you do not need to do anything. Report any need changes that would change the student's status. And retain any calculations that you report to CSAC.

Q: In the future (e.g. 13-14 year, etc); if aid year is based on 2010 on WebGrants--will that mean 09-10 or 10-11 Income Assets Ceiling charts should be used?

A: If a student is awarded in 2010-11 the Income ceiling charts he will be compared to will be the greater of the renewal year or the 2010-11 ceilings

Q: If a renewal student loses their Cal Grant in their 2nd year due to income/asset ceilings can they be eligible the next year if they meet the income ceilings or do they lose the entire award and have to reapply?

A: Any student that is withdrawn from the Cal Grant program for any reason would have to reapply for the Cal Grant program by completing an appropriate year FAFSA and GPA Verification form by the deadline.

Q: If a school was not impacted by SB-70 in 2011-12, for future award years, does the CDR of less than 24.6% apply to maintain continued eligibility?

A: In later years the required CDR goes up to 30%

Q: If a parent answers on the FAFSA they are eligible to file a 1040A/EZ, but they file a 1040, will their assets be considered? Has this changed from 2010-2011?

A: The Simplified Needs test requirements have not changed.

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Q: What happens to institutions whose borrowing rate is exactly 40%? Thank you.

A: The law says "institutions with 40 percent or less of undergraduate students borrowing federal student loans" are not affected by the CDR requirement.

Q: Would you use GPA from the college or refer to back to their HS GPA?

A: SB 70 doesn't have any effect on the GPA submission process....CDR schools can still submit GPA

Q: Can you go over renewal need? Is it, Budget - EFC - Pell - (@ CC's BOGW) = need?

A: Renewal need is calculation is Cost of Attendance - EFC = Unmet Need

Q: So if we were not impacted by SB70 in 11-12, as long as we maintain a CDR less than 30% in subsequent years, we are fine?

A: Yes, that is correct.

Q: Is there a timeframe for corrections to be done for renewal consideration?

A: It would be best if we got any corrections by December 31.

Q: Where is the data file for the Disqualified Renewal Students Report located?

A: The Disqualified Renewal Students Report is available among all the reports available in the Data Transfer area of WebGrants

Q: Also, on the Renewal Need Calculation -- where do Veteran Benefits fit in?

A: The Renewal Need Calculation is Cost of Attendance (COA) – Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = Unmet Need. Veterans Benefits is not calculated in the Need Calculation.

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Q: How would an institution find out if they are not affected by SB70 the list on the CSAC website only shows the affected schools who lost eligibility.

A: If your school is currently participating in the Cal Grant program and your school is not on the list, then you're not affected by SB70's Cohort Default Rate requirement.

Q: Who posts this LOA, the school that is ineligible?

A: Either the ineligible school or the student can post the LOA.

Q: Do we need the student's LOA request written or verbally?

A: Either method is fine. The student can also post the LOA in WebGrants for Students.

Q: Do renewal students that attend an ineligible school have put in for a Leave of Absence to possibly be eligible for a renewal for 12/13?

A: Renewal students at SB70 affected schools are eligible for payment, but these students will get a 20% reduction in their Cal Grant payment.

Q: When an income adjustment is made to a student's ISIR, does a community college notify CSAC via G-21 WebGrants or call CSAC?

A: For an ineligible student we will use a corrected ISIR, but only if the correction was made by a school. Or, you can use the G-21.

Q: For a non-UC, can the G-21 process also be used to request reinstatement for a student based on verification or review request changes, or will it just be possible through review of a school change ISIR?

A: Yes, either method will work.

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Q: How long would it take for reinstatement after submission of changes?

A: It can take 2-3 weeks depending on production schedule.

Q: Have all recipients of Cal Grants (new and renewal) been notified of SB70 and that it may affect them in subsequent years?

A: Yes, all affected students were contacted and informed of their status.

Q: Is there going to be a filing deadline in the future for Cal Grant Renewal students?

A: As of right now, there isn't a filing deadline, but we recommend students file their FAFSA application as soon as they can.

Q: IF CSAC calculates that a renewal student has insufficient Cal Grant need and is withdrawn, can schools use the G-21 process to report students that DO have sufficient need?

A: Yes. If your school makes the ISIR correction, we will process automatically. If not, then you can use the G21 process as well.

Q: Will CSAC take into consideration what budget the student is on per their current ISIR for example the student may have been with parent the first year but now are off campus so that impacts their need

A: Housing changes/updates can also be made through the Grant Record Change process.

Q: With all the changes to the Roster, will the roster file data layout change?

A: The new data layout changed as of 7/1 and is available on our Help section of WebGrants.

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Q: What is the turnaround time on the G-21?

A: The ISIR and Grant Record changes can take up to 2-3 weeks.

Q: How often does CSAC download ISIRs?

A: ISIRs are downloaded on daily basis. However, we run the renewal process about every 2 weeks.

Q: If a school becomes eligible during the year, can the student be back paid for the terms in which they were not able to receive payment for?

A: If the CDR changes, and that makes a school eligible, then the student is eligible for the entire year.

Q: Can a COA adjustment based on PJ be used to help student keep their cal grant?

A: Yes. We will accept a school's PJ assessment.

Q: If a student was awarded in 09-10 with a household size of 4 and subsequent years household size changes do we use the original household size and income ceilings?

A: The student will be evaluated based on the household size in the renewal year. Then initial household size will not be used.

Q: Does the school have to collect asset information for these students?

A: CSAC checks against the ceilings. You do not have to check unless conflicting information comes to your attention.

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Q: If student has been disqualified from Cal Grant this year, is it permanent or this student will be able to reinstate CG eligibility next year if ceiling is met?

A: Once the student has been disqualified, he/she can reapply next year.

Q: Will the ISIR changes that we make on CPS or via our database system be all picked up for consideration for non UC institutions?

A: CSAC will pick up ISIR changes made by a school for ineligible renewal students. Any ISIR changes made by the student will not be used unless the school tells us to.

Q: What if a student was disqualified with the 1st ISIR due to Income/Assets, the school performs a Professional Judgement and as a result student now meets Income/Asset Ceilings, will you guys send this person a notice of eligibility?

A: Veronica: When the school updates the ISIR for the PJ decision, we will use that updated ISIR. We will then send the student a new notice.

Q: The letter says "your first choice" school is not eligible. What does the letter say if they chose multiple schools on FAFSA and the 1st listed is ineligible but the other schools are eligible?

A: The student has a valid Cal Grant offer. Unfortunately, as a new participant they can only activate it at a non-CDR affected school. The student would have to request a school change to one of the eligible schools, IF they will be attending the eligible school.

Q: Can you explain what a "Leave of Absence" will do to a students Cal Grant award?

A: The LOA will simply allow the student to retain the award at the ineligible school. If the ineligible school becomes eligible during the year, then they can activate and receive payment. In a nutshell, they are buying some time.

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Q: What if a student was at an eligible school in the Fall term and was paid then transfers to a non eligible school spring term?

A: The award will be placed back on hold. No payments can be made to a CDR school for new recipients.

Q: Can you explain more about the 20% reduction? Thank you!

A: The 20% reduction is to the tuition fees amount for renewal students at SB70 affected schools.

Q: How would an ineligible school regain their eligibility during the same award year? The same cohort default rate would be applicable for the entire award year correct?

A: A correction to the CDR by the USED would reinstate a school.

Q: Do renewal students meet both income/asset ceiling and minimum need to be eligible?

A: Yes. They must meet both requirements.

Any additional questions can be forwarded to

schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov or call 1-888-294-0153