



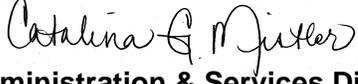
OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

April 5, 2010

GOM 2010-06

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

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SUBJECT: Cal Grant Operations Update

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to update schools on the status of the 2010-11 Entitlement Cal Grant awards, the completion of paper grade point average (GPA) verification forms, and the e-mail correspondence sent to inactive Cal Grant students.

2010-11 High School Entitlement Awards

As of March 29, 2010, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has offered approximately 75,000 Cal Grant awards to high school Entitlement eligible students. As mentioned in prior communications, the awarded students are immediately sent e-mails regarding their Cal Grant award status. The e-mail encourages students to open a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account and view their electronic California Aid Report (CAR).

WGS has other useful tools, such as updating demographic information, requesting school changes and checking other requirements. Most importantly, as of June 1, 2010, high school Entitlement students will be able to confirm their high school graduation in WGS.

Since paper CARS are no longer sent, except to those students without e-mail addresses, it's imperative that students check e-mail messages from the Commission. The Commission urges schools, especially high schools, to communicate to students the importance of reading e-mail correspondence from the Commission and of opening a WGS account. Once they establish a WGS account, they can manage their account to make important updates that may affect their award.

Paper GPA Verification Forms

Commission staff have successfully keyed approximately 65,000 paper GPA verification forms for the 2010-11 award year. These GPAs include students who



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have submitted test scores such as the GED, SAT and ACT in lieu of GPAs. Students who have incomplete data or errors on the GPA form will be sent a 10-day letter to correct any information on the form. State regulations specify that students who respond within the 10 days will still retain their March 2 priority filing date.

2010-11 Late Entitlement GPA Appeals Process

State regulations also allow Entitlement Cal Grant applicants to appeal the late submission of their Cal Grant GPA if circumstances beyond their control delayed or prevented the applicant from submitting a verified GPA by the March 2, 2010 filing deadline.

To receive appeal consideration, the applicant must submit an explanation of the circumstances that were beyond their control which prevented them from submitting an on-time Cal Grant GPA. The applicant must also have submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 2 deadline.

Schools may also submit late GPAs on behalf of students. The school's appeal should make it clear there were circumstances beyond the student's control preventing the student from meeting the March 2 filing deadline.

Entitlement applicants may submit a late March 2 GPA on the "Late Cal Grant GPA Verification Form." The form is only for Entitlement Cal Grant applicants who filed a FAFSA by the March 2, 2010 deadline, but whose GPA was not sent on time due to circumstances beyond the student's control. This form is available online at <http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1177>. A 2010-11 Entitlement Cal Grant candidate must graduate high school or achieve the equivalent on July 1, 2008 or later and, if submitting a GPA, the GPA must be calculated from high school grades.

In order for an appeal to be accepted, it must be **received** at the Commission by **May 17, 2010**. In the event that an appeal is accepted, the student will be processed for Entitlement Cal Grant award consideration and will receive correspondence from the Commission based on their application status. For appeals that are not accepted, the GPA will be retained to use for the September 2, 2010 Cal Grant award selection process.

Notifications of No 2009-10 Fall Transactions

The Commission has begun contacting students who were offered 2009-10 Cal Grant awards, but for whom no request for payment has been made by a school or for whom no leave of absence has been requested. The Commission is contacting students, as a courtesy, to remind them that they may be eligible to receive a Cal Grant award. This year's notifications are being sent primarily by e-mail or by regular mail. Both direct the student to WebGrants for Students to verify their school of attendance or to request a leave of absence if they are not enrolled. A copy of the e-mail message is enclosed with this correspondence.

If you have questions regarding any of this information, please contact School Support Services at (888) 294-0153 or at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

Enclosures: Late Cal Grant GPA Verification Form
E-mail Text for No Fall Transactions

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!