



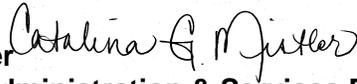
OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

August 22, 2011

GOM 2011-24

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: Cal Grant Awards Pending Asset Information

This Operations Memo informs schools that the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has placed a payment hold on a group of new 2011-12 Cal Grant applicants pending review of their asset information.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web has integrated skip logic that bypasses asset-related questions if the student's response is under the asset protection allowance in the expected family contribution formula. This was not an issue until the asset protection allowance amount exceeded the Cal Grant [asset ceilings](#).

For dependent students, this occurs when the age of the older parent is 59 or older, since the asset protection allowance exceeds the asset ceiling of \$60,500 at this level. For independent students, this occurs when the age of the student is 37 or older, since the asset protection allowance exceeds the asset ceiling of \$28,800. Because student and parent asset information in these situations was not collected on the 2011-12 FAFSA, the Commission must now request the asset information from the Cal Grant applicant, since it is required by state law to determine Cal Grant eligibility. Students who were considered to meet the simplified needs test were excluded from this group of applicants.

To collect the financial information from this group of students and parents, the Commission has mailed them a letter and an Asset Verification Form (G-35) explaining the situation and requesting that the asset information be provided to the Commission within 14 days from the date of the letter. Upon receipt of the G-35, the Commission will review and reprocess the data to determine Cal Grant eligibility. If the student does not return the form, they will be disqualified from the Cal Grant program.

Affected students will be flagged on the school's payment roster with a hold message stating, "Payment held, asset information needed." The student will not



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be eligible to receive payments until the Commission determines that they qualify for the Cal Grant. WebGrants will reflect the message that the award is on hold until the asset information is provided to the Commission.

Students can also log into [WebGrants for Students](#) to download the Asset Verification Form (G-35), print it out and send it to the address on the form. Students will be notified of their status once the review is complete.

If you have any questions, please contact our School Support Services staff at (888) 294-1053 or at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

Enclosure: Cal Grant Asset Verification Form (G-35)

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!