



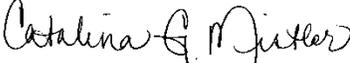
OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

February 25, 2013

GOM 2013-08

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

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SUBJECT: 2013-14 High School Entitlement Cal Grant Update

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the initial 2013-14 Cal Grant selection process for the High School Entitlement (E1) award cycle. This Operations Memo provides details on the E1 preliminary award offers, California Dream Act application processing and AB 540 holds, award amounts for new recipients at certain segments, ineligible institutions, asset holds, and School of Origin report for high schools.

2013-14 Preliminary High School Entitlement Award Offers

This first award cycle offered nearly 47,000 preliminary awards to graduating high school seniors and one-year-out high school graduates.

The 2013-14 rosters with the selected students are available for viewing on the WebGrants Display Roster screen in a non-payable status. The selected E1 students received e-mail notifications to create a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account and view their California Aid Report (CAR) online. The CAR provides instructions to manage their WGS account, process a school change, and read the "Important Facts About Your Cal Grant Award" fact sheet. Students who do not have an e-mail address or who have an undeliverable e-mail address will receive a paper CAR.

Students receiving the "Application on Hold" notification are directed to the WGS Cal Grant Application Correction page. Those students who receive the "Cal Grant Disqualification" notification are directed to the "Disqualification Fact Sheet."

Students who have not yet received an electronic CAR can also establish a WGS account and check their status online at www.webgrants4students.org. The Commission will continue to run weekly award cycles and provide electronic or paper CARs to applicants.



Dream Act Application Processing and AB 540 Holds

As part of the E1 award cycle, the Commission also processed the initial California Dream Act (CDA) applications for Cal Grant consideration. Within the 47,000 preliminary High School Entitlement awards, about 900 were offered to CDA students. These CDA students also had to meet the E1 criteria that included the grade point average (GPA) minimum, income/asset ceilings and minimum need requirement.

Institutions can identify CDA students on the WebGrants roster by their Dream ID which is located in the SSN field. The Dream ID, which is not an SSN, will have three leading zeros. In addition, the CDA students will have a message that states, "Payment Held, AB 540 information needed" with a corresponding AB 540 verification hold. A WebGrants AB 540 verification report listing the CDA students required for verification will become available in the next few weeks. The grant roster has been updated to reflect the new AB 540 hold flag on page 16 of the Grant Roster Record Layout found in the WebGrants Help Section. The AB 540 verification process will be detailed in a future Operations Memo.

2013-14 Award Amounts for New Recipients at Private Institutions

The 2012-13 State Budget changed the award amounts for new recipients at Cal Grant eligible private non-profit institutions and for-profit institutions. The award amount changes below are reflected on the WebGrants rosters, CARs and in WGS.

- Maximum Cal Grant award amounts for new students attending private non-profit institutions have been reduced to \$9,084 in 2013-14.
- Maximum Cal Grant award amounts for students attending for-profit institutions have been reduced to \$4,000 beginning in 2013-14.

Please note the following EXCEPTION to the reduction in award amounts for new students attending for-profit institutions: Students attending eligible for-profit institutions that were accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges as of July 1, 2012, shall have the same maximum Cal Grant award amount as new students attending private non-profit institutions.

Ineligible Institutions

Beginning in the 2013-14 academic year, new Cal Grant students will not appear on the WebGrants roster of ineligible [institutions](#). If an applicant lists an ineligible institution as their first choice on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the system will default to the next available institution for Cal Grant consideration. Applicants who only list an ineligible institution on their FAFSA will receive an "Application on Hold" notification requesting they select an eligible institution on the correction screen (G-23) in WGS. Once the applicant selects an eligible institution, they will be reprocessed. The California Dream Act Application does not allow the selection of ineligible institutions.

The Commission will notify continuing Cal Grant recipients at ineligible institutions that they will not receive Cal Grant disbursements due to the institution having a high Cohort Default Rate (CDR) or low graduation rate. The Commission will be working with those ineligible institutions over the next few months.

Asset Holds

For the 2013-14 academic year, the U.S. Department of Education lowered the maximum asset protection allowance for parents (married, not single) of dependent students to \$61,800. Since the 2013-14 Cal Grant asset ceiling for dependent students is \$64,300 and the maximum asset protection of \$61,800 falls below this ceiling, the Commission will not place any asset holds for dependent students. However, independent students with an asset protection allowance above the 2013-14 asset ceiling of \$30,600 will continue to receive the asset hold.

School of Origin Report for High Schools

The Commission produces a WebGrants School of Origin Report for high schools that lists all Cal Grant Entitlement recipients based on the high school that certified their Cal Grant GPA. Your students that do not appear on the report may have incomplete applications or other issues preventing them from being considered for the Cal Grant award.

The School of Origin Report is available in WebGrants under the Data Transfer menu. To obtain WebGrants access, schools should contact the Commission's Information Technology Help Desk at (888) 294-0148 or e-mail csachelpdesk@csac.ca.gov.

If you have questions regarding any of the information contained in this memorandum, please contact the Commission's School Support Services Branch at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov or at (888) 294-0153.

Enclosures: 2013-14 California Aid Report (paper CAR)
2013-14 Entitlement Cal Grant Application Correction Form (G-23)
2013-14 Entitlement Cal Grant Disqualification Fact Sheet (G-20)

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!