



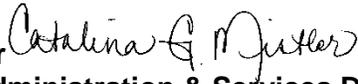
# OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

April 18, 2013

GOM 2013-12

**TO:** Financial Aid Administrators

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**SUBJECT:** 2013-14 California Dream Act Application Update

This Grant Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) updates institutions on the processing of the 2013-14 California Dream Act Application (CA Dream Application).

## Cal ISIRs

At this time, approximately 23,000 Cal ISIRs have been generated from the processed CA Dream Applications and posted in WebGrants. Since the CA Dream Application is used to apply for various types of state financial aid, not all applicants will be eligible for a Cal Grant award. Only applicants meeting the program deadline and the requirements for High School Entitlement, Transfer Entitlement, and Cal Grant C can be offered awards.

To date, 4,405 CA Dream Act applicants have been offered a High School Entitlement award. High School Entitlement awards are processed on a weekly basis for those eligible applicants. The Community College Transfer Entitlement award selections will begin in May, while Cal Grant C award offers will be made by June 15.

## FAFSA Filers

As of this date, we have identified approximately 2,000 students who have filed the FAFSA but appear to be AB 540/131 eligible and could have filed the Dream Act Application. Some of these students have been determined eligible for a Cal Grant as they used the "Valid for Work Only" Social Security number (SSN) issued to persons who completed the Deferred Action (DACA) process. When the FAFSA is processed, the record is selected for secondary confirmation of the student's citizenship status.

If the student who has filed the FAFSA is determined to be AB 540/131 eligible and is determined eligible for a Cal Grant, the student does not have to file a CA Dream Act Application. These students will be processed using the SSN submitted on their FAFSA.



The Commission is discussing with segmental representatives and student advocacy groups how best to identify all AB 540/131 students eligible for a Cal Grant. Initially, students were being advised to use the CA Dream Act Application since many institutions had expressed concerns of having undocumented AB 540/131 eligible students submit the FAFSA. We will provide an update on this as we gather more information and learn more from stakeholders.

### **Duplicate or Multiple Records**

In the first release of the 2013-14 CA Dream Application, approximately 700 students were issued more than one Dream Act ID number. The Dream Act ID number is the number that populates the Cal ISIR where a Social Security number would populate the federal ISIR. During this period, the duplicates occurred because students submitted applications using different identification information, including different name spelling, addresses and e-mail addresses.

The Commission enhanced the application system to prevent this type of duplicate record. It is important that students enter only one Dream Act Application. If they have problems in accessing an existing record they should contact us at (888) 224-7268.

Staff is currently working on removing duplicate records and will make a "Dream App Duplicate Account Clean-Up Report" available in the "Report Download" section of WebGrants. The duplicate account report will include the following fields: Applicant Name, Date of Birth, Address, Kept Dream ID, Deleted Dream ID(s), E-mail Address, and Phone Number. We will release a communication once the report is made available.

The type of duplicate record described above is different from a student who has multiple records. Students who have made multiple attempts at completing the application have many CA ISIRs under a single Dream Act ID. These students do not have a duplicate record and they will not be deleted.

### **GPA**

As with students completing the FAFSA application, CA Dream Act applicants must have their application matched to a school certified GPA to receive Cal Grant award consideration. At this time, approximately 13,000 of the received CA Dream Act Applications have been matched to non-SSN GPA records. Dream Act applicants who qualify under the High School Entitlement program and were unable to submit a non-SSN GPA may submit a late non-SSN GPA appeal by the May 16, 2013 deadline.

### **No Parent Signature**

The Commission has identified 2,576 dependent applicants for whom a parental signature is still required. Each of these students has been sent an individualized e-mail explaining the options they have to obtain the parental signature.

The options are to use the CA On-line Dream Act Application to secure the parent's signature or to access the generic signature page to obtain the signature.

### **AB 540 Confirmation Hold**

After consultation with the CA Dream Act work group consisting of segmental and campus representatives, the decision was made to remove the AB 540 Confirmation Hold on the WebGrants roster. Since the determination of an applicant's eligibility for AB 540 is already a

campus process, it was deemed unnecessary for an additional hold on the roster. The rosters have now been updated to reflect this change and a new message stating “Cal Dream Act Applicant” appears for these students. The output file for the grant roster layout will now indicate “Y” on the “dream\_app\_flag” field.

### **Cal Grant Payments for CA Dream Act Applicants**

At the Commission’s February 21, 2013 meeting, Commission staff provided an update on the CA Dream Act Application. Institutions brought to our attention the concerns of some campuses being unable to process Cal Grant payments for CA Dream applicants. After consultation with the CA Dream Act work group, a separate teleconference call was held on Friday, April 12, 2013, with campus financial aid administrators to further identify possible disbursement issues and find solutions to ensure that processes are in place to pay these Cal Grant recipients. Most institutions participating in the call informed us that they will have a process in place to pay the CA Dream Act applicants beginning this 2013-14 fall term. We plan on releasing an Operations Memo with some recommendations to better assist these students in accessing their Cal Grant funds.

The Commission will work with those institutions that are unable to establish a process to pay the AB 540/131 Cal Grant students. If your campus does not have a process in place to disburse Cal Grant funds to these students, please contact our School Support Services Branch so that we can assist in identifying a solution.

For assistance in learning how to use WebGrants and for any other questions on the California Dream Act, schools can contact the Commission’s School Support Services staff at (888) 294-0153 or at [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov).

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