



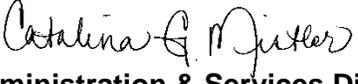
# OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

June 17, 2013

GOM 2013-17

**TO:** Financial Aid Administrators

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**SUBJECT:** 2013-14 Cal Grant Renewals

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce that on June 14, 2013, the Cal Grant renewal process was successfully completed. Approximately 197,000 current Cal Grant recipients are eligible to renew their Cal Grants for the 2013-14 award year.

## 2013-14 Renewal Process

In order to renew for the 2013-14 year, students must meet the same minimum need and income/asset ceiling criteria as new Cal Grant applicants. In addition to these financial eligibility requirements, they must establish renewal eligibility by receiving a 2012-13 payment or by requesting a leave of absence. Students who do not have a 2012-13 payment posted on WebGrants must establish their eligibility for renewal consideration or be withdrawn. Renewal students will receive e-mail notifications that confirm their Cal Grant eligibility and encourage them to update their demographic or school status in WebGrants for Students (WGS).

Cal Grant B students who failed to meet the income and asset ceilings during the renewal process, but met Cal Grant A eligibility during their initial award year, were re-evaluated in the 2013-14 renewal program using the Cal Grant A income and asset ceilings. The renewal process automatically assesses Cal Grant recipients who meet these criteria and allows these eligible renewal recipients to switch Cal Grant programs when necessary.

## Renewal Reports

The Commission generates the following reports on the WebGrants "Data Transfer" screen to identify students who were disqualified and those whose renewal Cal Grant eligibility is uncertain:

- *Unable to Determine Roster.* Lists students with 2012-13 Cal Grant award offers who were not renewed because the Commission did not receive a 2012-13 payment request or a leave of absence request.



- *Automatic Leave Report:* Lists students with 2012-13 Cal Grant award offers who were renewed in spite of not having a school term accounted for or paid for during the academic year.
- *Disqualified Renewal Students Report:* Lists prior year Cal Grant recipients/students who were disqualified for failing to meet the income and asset ceilings and/or minimum need requirements.

Students who did not meet the income and asset ceilings and/or minimum need criteria during the renewal process were notified of their Cal Grant program disqualification. As with all Commission correspondence, students were notified via e-mail or paper letter if no e-mail address was provided. Students are encouraged to check their Cal Grant status by logging into WebGrants for Students at [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org).

Schools are encouraged to post the Not in Attendance or "NA" code for Cal Grant students who have been determined to not be enrolled at your institution. By using the "NA" code, inactive Cal Grant students will receive a notification from the Commission that provides instructions to take action on their award and renew for the 2013-14 year.

### **Renewal Students at Ineligible Schools**

Under current law for the 2013-14 academic year, the two required thresholds for an otherwise qualifying institution are:

- A three-year cohort default rate (CDR) below 15.5 percent, as reported by the United States Department of Education (USED) and as certified by the California Student Aid Commission, is eligible for new and renewal Cal Grant awards. The 2009 three-year CDR used for the 2013-14 academic year was certified for each institution by the Commission on October 1, 2012, in accordance with California Education Code (CEC) Section 69432.7(l)(3)(C).
- A graduation rate above 30 percent for students taking 150 percent or less of the expected time to complete degree requirements, as reported by the USED and as certified by the Commission, is eligible for new and renewal Cal Grant awards. The 2010 graduation rate used for the 2013-14 academic year was certified for each institution by the Commission on October 1, 2012, in accordance with CEC Section 69432.7(l)(3)(G). The 2010 graduation rates were previously certified in late July 2012 for the 2012-13 academic year.

The Commission determined that 131 institutions or locations on the list for the 2013-14 academic year now have a CDR equal to or over 15.5 percent and a graduation rate below 30 percent. In accordance with CEC Section 69432.7(l)(3)(D)(i), these institutions may regain eligibility to provide initial and full renewal Cal Grant awards in the 2014-15 academic year if they satisfy the CDR threshold and all other requirements for the 2014-15 academic year.

Current 2012-13 Cal Grant students attending the 131 ineligible 2013-14 institutions were notified on May 9, 2013, regarding their Cal Grant award at their current school. A copy of the e-mail is enclosed. In order for these students to renew for the 2013-14 year, they must request a school change to an eligible institution. Otherwise, their Cal Grant award will be withdrawn during the year end process in December 2013. There are approximately 5,700 impacted students.

**CC Reserve Students**

Cal Grant A award recipients identified on the roster of a community college have not been processed through the renewal financial requirements. The students will have their income, assets and financial need evaluated once they or their school enters a school change to a Cal Grant eligible non-community college. This allows students to have their financial need verified based on the actual cost of attendance at the school where they will activate their awards. Also, if found ineligible based on the renewal financial requirements, the new school will be able to review the financial data and, if appropriate, initiate corrections or exercise professional judgment.

Contact the School Support Services Branch at (888) 294-0153 or at [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov) if you have any questions related to this Operations Memo.

Enclosure: Ineligible School E-mail to Impacted Students

*Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!*