



# OPERATIONS MEMO

## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA



**September 8, 2014**

**GOM 2014-29**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators  
FROM: Catalina G. Mistler *Catalina G. Mistler*  
Chief, Program Administration & Services Division

**SUBJECT: WebGrants for Students Update for New Competitive Award Offers**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update on a new WebGrants for Students (WGS) feature for new Competitive offered awardees.

### **New Competitive Process**

Based on a series of Competitive Cal Grant Communication Workgroup (CCGCW) meetings with stakeholders, Commission staff implemented a 2014-15 online WGS Competitive option, which allows students to either accept or decline their Competitive Cal Grant award offer. Accepting or declining the award offer will have **no impact** to the Cal Grant payment rosters.

#### If students accept the award:

- They will receive a pop up message informing them they are being redirected to the School Change screen to ensure the school on record is accurate.
- But do not utilize it **or** do not satisfy the new WGS requirement by a certain date, based on the CCGCW recommendations, their awards will be withdrawn and recycled to the next cohort of eligible applicants.

#### If students opt to decline the award:

- They will be advised in advance that this action will result in their award offer being withdrawn and offered to another eligible student.
- They will be encouraged to reapply the following academic year if they plan on attending an eligible college at least half-time (6 units) or more.
- They may indicate one of the following reasons for declining their award:
  - I am attending college out-of-state.
  - I am attending a college that does not participate in the Cal Grant program.
  - I have already graduated college.
  - I will not attend college this year.
  - I do not want to use this award offer and would like it withdrawn.

This new WGS option will allow the Commission to:

- Further evaluate the Competitive program by identifying the number of declined awards.
- Gather statistics regarding why students decline their awards.
- Be able to recycle unused award offers to the next cohort of eligible students earlier in the year, thus improving the paid rate.

Prior to withdrawing award offers, students will receive multiple informational and warning communications. The Commission will encourage students who are withdrawn to reapply in the future.

The Commission's goal is to offer Cal Grant awards to eligible students who are enrolled and eligible to receive payments. It is also important to withdraw ineligible students timely so that they have the opportunity to apply for the next award cycle and meet the upcoming March 2 deadline to be considered again for a Cal Grant.

**Need to contact us?**

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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