



# SPECIAL ALERT

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

April 29, 2010

GSA 2010-17

**TO:** Financial Aid Administrators  
High School Counselors

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**SUBJECT:** Misdirected 2010-2011 FAFSAs

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has received information from the Federal Student Aid Information Center that some Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applicants intending to file a 2010-2011 FAFSA were directed to the 2009-2010 FAFSA in error. Due to this technical error the wrong year FAFSA was filed and these applications appear to be late for the March 2, 2010 Cal Grant filing deadline.

## Students With the Wrong Year FAFSA

Affected students have been identified to the Commission, but the student must still file a 2010-2011 year FAFSA if they have not already done so. The Federal Student Aid Information Center has asked these students to do the following if they intended to file the 2010-2011 FAFSA:

- Contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center as soon as possible by calling 1-800-433-3243 between 8:00 a.m. and midnight Eastern Time. Hearing impaired callers can contact the TTY line at 1-800-730-8913.
- When the system prompts the caller to speak a menu option, callers should say "Website assistance."

The Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 will be able to answer any questions and to assist students in filing their 2010-2011 FAFSA.

## Commission Action

The Commission has taken the necessary steps to ensure that students intending to file a 2010-2011 FAFSA are given the priority March 2 deadline for their Cal Grant application. As affected students identify themselves to the Federal Student Aid Information Center, the Commission receives this information from the federal processor through a secure data transfer. Using a



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program created by the Commission's Information Technology Division, the 2010-2011 FAFSA "received date" is replaced by the original submission date of the inadvertent 2009-2010 FAFSA. Thus, the student will not be penalized for submitting a corrected 2010-2011 FAFSA at a later date.

The Commission successfully corrected the first batch of affected wrong year FAFSA students this past weekend. As the federal processor receives more responses from students in this situation, they will continue to communicate this data to the Commission. It is imperative that students with this issue follow the steps outlined earlier in this Special Alert so they do not lose out on Cal Grant consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission's School Support Services Branch at (888) 294-0153 or at [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov).

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