



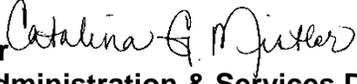
SPECIAL ALERT

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

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GSA 2013-27

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

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SUBJECT: New Cal Grant GPA Record Layout and Electronic High School Graduation Notifications

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the release of a new electronic Grade Point Average (GPA) upload record layout. The new GPA record layout for the 2014-15 year adds the State Student Identification Number (SSID) which will allow the Commission to better serve students and schools.

New Cal Grant GPA Record Layout

An SSID is assigned to every public school student to allow tracking the student as they progress through their primary and secondary education. Since the SSID is a unique student identifier, more efficient matching of records with public high schools and high school districts will be possible. Please be aware that the inclusion of the SSID with the GPA is optional and there will be no disadvantage in the selection of Cal Grant awards if no SSID is present. Both the SSN and non-SSN GPA record layouts now contain a field for the SSID. Colleges submitting high school GPAs may include the SSID if it is available.

Although inclusion of the SSID is optional, the Commission encourages its submission with any high school GPA uploads. Over the last three years, electronic GPA submission has significantly increased the number of awarded High School Entitlement Cal Grants. The example of electronic GPA submission highlights the value of direct data exchanges to award Cal Grants. We anticipate using data exchanges to confirm student graduation with high schools and high school districts and eventually to obtain graduation data from the California Department of Education.

The 2014-15 academic year GPA submission capability will open in early October. Please share the enclosed new GPA submission record layout with your IT staff and district.



State of California
Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

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Electronic High School Graduation Notifications

The Commission is currently sending out approximately 35,000 electronic notifications to awarded 2013-14 Cal Grant Entitlement students for whom their high school graduation has yet to be confirmed. High school graduation confirmation is a student responsibility. Students can use WebGrants for Students to confirm their graduation status. Colleges can report high school graduation on their Cal Grant rosters.

Although high school graduation confirmation is a student responsibility, many high schools confirm the graduation date for their students. Therefore we encourage you to access WebGrants to confirm your 2013 graduates, if you have not already done so. This is done by clicking on the WebGrants GPA tab and then "High School Graduation Verification." Instructions are provided on how to confirm graduation. This will help to reduce the 35,000 students whose graduation is not yet confirmed.

If you have any questions regarding this Special Alert, please contact the Commission's School Support Services staff at (888) 294-0153 or via e-mail at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

Enclosure: New Cal Grant GPA Upload Record Layout

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!