



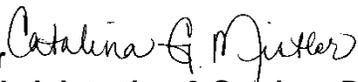
# SPECIAL ALERT

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

May 2, 2014

GSA 2014-13

**TO:** Financial Aid Administrators

**FROM:** Catalina G. Mistler   
Chief, Program Administration & Services Division

**CONTACT:** Program Administration & Services Division  
Phone: (888) 294-0153 Fax: (916) 464-8002  
E-mail: [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** 2013-14 Unpaid Competitive Cal Grant Awards

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update on the status of the 2013-14 unpaid Competitive Cal Grant awards. The Commission continues to monitor 2013-14 Cal Grant payment rosters on a weekly basis to track the progress of the students receiving payment. The Commission's objective is to have a payment or status code reported for all 2013-14 Competitive awardees.

A summary of the 2013-14 Competitive Cal Grant awards by school is enclosed. It reports the Competitive awards offered, paid, and unused as of May 1, 2014.

As the 2013-14 academic year comes near to an end, the Commission provides the following resources to schools in meeting a 100 percent 2013-14 Competitive award utilization rate.

**Unclaimed Awards Report** – This report identifies all new and renewal unclaimed awards for which no positive dollar amount has been reported to the Commission. Schools are able to identify Cal Grant recipients who may be enrolled at their institution but not currently on their roster. This report is updated on a monthly basis.

**Detailed Reconciliation and Roster Reports** – These customizable reports can be used to reconcile student-by-student term payments. These reports are updated on a weekly basis.

**Customized Roster** – The WebGrants roster provides customization filters to identify “paid” and “unpaid” students. This easy to use feature will identify all unpaid students ensuring all eligible students receive payment.

As stated in the 2012-16 Institutional Participation Agreement, final year-end reconciliation is December 31. Although final reconciliation is in December, the Commission urges schools to report all 2013-14 payments and status codes for their students as soon as possible to ensure a timely and accurate final year-end reconciliation.



### **Cal Grant Payment Process Webinar**

A "Cal Grant Payments" webinar will be held via WebEx for interested financial aid administrators on **May 21, 2014** from 2:00-3:00 pm. Commission staff will provide verbal instruction and allow participants to ask questions through the live chat feature. The webinar will cover the new payment and status codes. To register for one of the many Commission webinar training sessions please visit <https://csacevents.webex.com/>.

### **Commission Meeting Update**

During the April 10, 2014 Commission meeting, additional recommendations were discussed regarding the ongoing efforts to maximize the use of the Competitive Cal Grant awards. The Commission is moving forward with the following:

#### ***For the current 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years:***

1. Establish priority within a single group of students with the same Competitive score to allow available awards to be made to some, but not all, students within that group by increasing the points assigned to the GPA from 200 to 1,000.

#### ***For the 2014-15 academic year and beyond:***

2. Require all students with Competitive awards to complete forms to indicate whether or not their awards will be used during the year for which they are awarded.
3. Establish deadlines to withdraw awards and recycle them to the next group of students.
4. Require students offered Competitive Cal Grant awards to access their award in the initial year by confirmation of attendance through a payment or less than half-time code or be withdrawn. A Leave of Absence (LA) during the Fall term would not be accepted.
5. Continue discussion to determine if establishing new selection procedures and criteria would increase the utilization rate.

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](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov).

Enclosure: 2013-14 Competitive Cal Grant Awards by School

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