



# SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

May 30, 2014

GSA 2014-15

TO: Financial Aid Administrators  
High School Counselors

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

SUBJECT: **Cal Grant Scam Warning**

\*\*\*\*\***ATTENTION**\*\*\*\*\*

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) warns you of scams targeting Cal Grant students.

There have been reports by students that they have been contacted by individuals claiming to be from the Commission who tell the student that they must pay money to receive, or reserve, their Cal Grant award. **THIS IS NOT TRUE.**

The Commission and its staff **never** ask for money or credit card information in order for a student to receive his or her Cal Grant award. A Cal Grant is free money, and students are never charged when applying for one using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application.

Please ask your students to disregard these calls (or e-mails), and to alert authorities immediately if contacted. If students believe they have been a target or a victim of financial aid fraud, please contact the Commission. You may also wish to file a report with your police department and/or notify the following agencies:

California Attorney General's Office

<http://ag.ca.gov/>

(800) 952-5225

Federal Trade Commission

<https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1>

### Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
- E-mail: [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)

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