High School Counselor Newsletter

Winter – 2017/18

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) hopes that the 2017-18 school year has been going well for all of you. This is a very busy time of the year for everyone involved with high school students and we hope this issue keeps you informed about what is going on at the Commission as well as how to help your students continue to prepare for college.

WINTER CHECKLIST:

☐ Encourage students to complete FAFSA/CADAA applications early

☐ Follow your Race to Submit Standing

☐ Promote or sign up to host a Cash for College Workshop

☐ Submit a nomination for the Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award

"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire."

- W.B. Yeats

In This Issue:

RACE TO SUBMIT
MISSION TO FAFSA AND CA DREAM ACT SUBMISSION
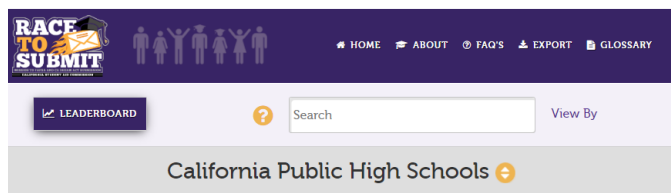### CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

Campaign Launched

The Commission is excited to announce the launch of the statewide Race To Submit campaign. This campaign aims to increase the number of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Applications (CADAA) that are submitted by California high school seniors.

To help you easily track your school's progress in this campaign, we have created a publicly accessible dashboard that clearly displays charts and graphs of data for high schools, districts, and counties. This dashboard is updated weekly and provides the following information:
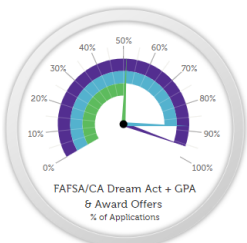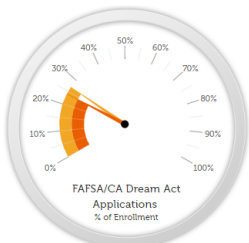
- FAFSA/CADAA completion and submission rates
- Number of Cal Grant applications submitted and completed
- Number of students eligible for Cal Grants
- Number of Cal Grants awarded

https://webutil.csac.ca.gov/Dashboard/

Race to Submit Homepage

Compare by School, District, or County
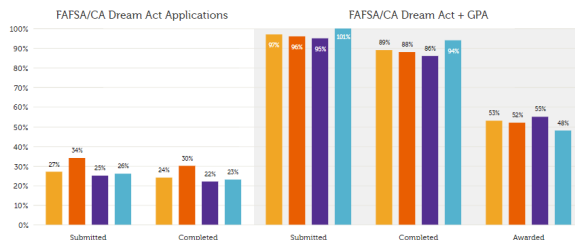
School Districts in California

School	Enrollment	FAFSA/CA Dream Act Applications				FAFSA/CA Dream Act + GPA					
		Submitted		Completed		Submitted		Completed		Awarded	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
ABC Unified (2018)	1,735	515	29.7%	474	27.3%	513	99.6%	486	94.4%	242	47.0%
Acalanes Union High (2018)	1,314	410	31.2%	388	29.5%	296	72.2%	293	71.5%	41	10.0%
Acton-Agua Dulce Unified (2018)	1,892	63	3.3%	56	3.0%	55	87.3%	52	82.5%	26	41.3%
Adelanto Elementary (2018)	73	4	5.5%	3	4.1%	0	-	0	-	0	-
Alameda County Office of Education (2018)	81	66	81.5%	57	70.4%	71	107.6%	62	93.9%	52	78.8%
Alameda Unified (2018)	660	199	30.2%	183	27.7%	221	111.1%	216	108.5%	102	51.3%
Albany City Unified (2018)	295	119	40.3%	113	38.3%	121	101.7%	115	96.6%	35	29.4%
Alhambra Unified (2018)	1,870	447	23.9%	409	21.9%	454	101.6%	429	96.0%	322	72.0%
		7	8.5%	5	6.1%	3	42.9%	3	42.9%	0	-
		535	36.3%	459	31.2%	567	106.0%	503	94.0%	357	66.7%
		73	23.2%	68	21.6%	74	101.4%	72	98.6%	37	50.7%
		1,254	24.2%	1,081	20.9%	1,200	95.7%	1,064	84.8%	745	59.4%
		79	18.5%	67	15.7%	50	63.3%	41	51.9%	28	35.4%

Comparison

FAFSA/CA Dream Act Applications

FAFSA/CA Dream Act + GPA

California DreamAct

Reminders

Counselors, the Commission would like to ask you to remind your students that the CADAA is a gateway to state, campus, and private financial aid for certain documented and eligible undocumented students. The CADAA is unrelated to the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The CADAA mirrors the FAFSA, only it is for students who do not have a permanent social security number. The application information is confidential - it is **NEVER** shared with the Federal Government, Homeland Security, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Dream Act students and their parents are protected by the same privacy and information security laws and safeguards as all other Cal Grant applicants.

To be eligible for financial aid, Dream Act students must:

- Not have filled out a FAFSA
- Attend a CA high school for at least 3 years OR attain the equivalent of at least 3 years of credits from:
  ◊ A California elementary or secondary school
  ◊ A California adult school
  ◊ Attend a California Community College (CCC)
  ◊ Or any combination of the above
- Graduate from a California high school, pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), pass the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), pass the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), pass the Certificate of General Education (GED), attain an associate degree from a CCC, or fulfill the minimum transfer requirements for UC/CSU at a CCC
- Enroll in an accredited California institution of higher education
- In the case of students without legal immigration status, fill out an affidavit stating that they have filed or will file an application to legalize their immigration status as soon as they are eligible to do so
- Meet all other Cal Grant eligibility criteria

For more information on CADAA please click here**

CASH FOR COLLEGE
Workshop Season Still Open

As you know, many students wait till the last minute to fill out a FAFSA or CADAA, luckily, California Cash for College (CCFC) workshops run through the March 2, 2018 Cal Grant deadline. So, there is still plenty of time to schedule a workshop to ensure these students submit their applications on time. These workshops are set up to help schools and counselors assist low income and first generation college-bound high school seniors with applying for financial aid.

If you have not scheduled your workshop yet or have not hosted one before but are interested, there is still time to set it up! For interested new hosts, please register to become an approved host and work with your Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO) or the Statewide Office to schedule your workshop.

All workshop processes are being automated through the Workshop Management System (WMS) website. This includes requesting and approving your CCFC workshops, placing material orders and requesting site support funding. The RCO for your region will review all requests and approve workshops or request additional information accordingly.

Should you have any questions or need assistance in the registration process, please contact your RCO or the Statewide Office. You may also access the WMS User Guide for assistance with account setup.

Cash For College:

♦ **Cash For College Homepage:** www.cash4college.org

♦ **Cash For College Workshop Management System User Login**

♦ **Cash For College Student User Guide**

♦ *Fund Your Future* **Magazine**

♦ **Cash For College Partners**

Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award

The Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award, named after the longest-serving executive director in the history of the Commission, is a $1,500 annual award that goes to one outstanding California high school counselor who demonstrates exemplary skills in helping students fulfill their dreams of going to college.

Nominations can be submitted by High School District and County leadership, school counselor/teacher colleagues, or site administration. One winner will be chosen by the Commission.

Nominations are currently open and will be accepted through January 26, 2018.   Information about the award and links to the online nomination form can be found **HERE.**

WebGrants 4 Students

What is WebGrants 4 Students (WGS) and why is it so important for students to use? Many students do not know that they need to create a WebGrants 4 Students account after completing the FAFSA or CADAA so that they can claim their awards. This account also allows students to access tools, resources, and other information that will be helpful with the college financial aid process.

Steps for student to create their own account:

1. Go to the WebGrants 4 Students homepage. (This can also be accessed through the Commission's homepage).

2. Select the "Create an Account" link.

3. Students will need to use their Social Security Number or Dream Act ID, first name, middle initial (optional), last name, and date of birth to match the Commission's records from the student's FAFSA or CADAA.

4. If their information matches their FAFSA or CADAA, their account will be created.

WebGrants 4 Students: Support Contacts

- Support for Counselors:
  ◊ Institutional Support
  schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov
  1-888-294-0153

- Additional support for Students:
  ◊ Student Support
  studentsupport@csac.ca.gov
  1-888-224-7268

Important Reminders for WGS-

- To claim Cal Grant award, students MUST go to WGS and:
  – Confirm School of Attendance (must be on their FAFSA/CADAA) - Starting in February
  – Confirm their High School Graduation date
- Students who do not claim their Cal Grant award and are not claimed by a college, will have their award withdrawn at the end of the academic year.
- If a student is ineligible for a Cal Grant, they can find the reason on the California Aid Report screen.

WGS should be used on current versions of the following:
- *Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox*

Operations Memos and Special Alerts

- GSA 2017-37 2017-18 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award

- GSA 2017-35 The 2018-19 Race to Submit Campaign

- GSA 2017-34 2018-19 Online California Dream Act Application

- GSA 2017-31 California Dream Act Application for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Repeal

- GSA 2017-28 California Cash for College Workshop Registration Begins

- GOM 2017-33 2018-19 Electronic Grade Point Average Submission Update

- GOM 2017-28 2018-19 Electronic Grade Point Average Submission

- GOM 2017-27 2017-18 High School Graduation Verification for Entitlement Cal Grant Offered Awardees

If you are not receiving the Commission's Operations Memos and Special Alerts you can subscribe via this link: http://www.csac.ca.gov/prosubscription.asap

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