SPECIAL ALERT

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

April 23, 2024   **GSA 2024-25**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang   *Tae Kang*
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SUBJECT: **2024-25 Cal Grant Award Processing Updates**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces important Cal Grant award processing updates for the 2024-25 academic year. The Commission is hosting two live webinars on **Thursday, April 25** and **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**, to provide further details on initial awards and anticipated changes.

Cal Grant High School Entitlement Awards (E1 Cycle)

To expedite the delivery of initial 2024-25 Cal Grant awards for incoming freshmen students and to avoid further confusion in this unprecedented financial aid application season, the Commission will be running its legacy Cal Grant High School Entitlement award cycle (E1 cycle) instead of the modified cycle communicated in GOM 2024-05.

- The initial run of 2024-25 E1 awards is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, April 26, 2024**.

- 2024-25 Cal Grant Rosters will be in read-only mode pending final confirmation of the Cal Grant Reform May revenue trigger and WebGrants system updates to align with the Better FAFSA/Better CADAA changes. School claiming and school change functions will be on hold until further notice.

- Students from Mixed Status Families (MSF) who opted to apply through the CADAA as announced in GSA 2024-23, will be processed for 2024-25 Cal Grant award consideration during this initial run.

  o Institutions will be able to identify awarded MSF students on their 2024-25 Grant Roster Data files (Field #105 Dream App Flag: M = Mixed Status).

Students with Dependent Children (SWD) Processing Change

- As part of the Better FAFSA/Better CADAA changes, students no longer indicate whether the dependents they support are their children or other dependents.

- To adapt to this change, the Commission is updating the Cal Grant SWD awarding from an "Opt-Out" process to an "Opt-in" process.
  - The SWD hold flag will be added to all awarded students who indicate they have dependents; however, award amounts will not be increased until the student has certified their SWD eligibility.
  - There will be no payment holds for SWD flagged students and institutions will be able to pay Cal Grant base-level awards at any time, and the increased access award after the SWD eligibility has been certified by the school or the student.
  - To help institutions identify SWD students who may have been paid their base-level Cal Grant award before completing the SWD certification, a new field was added to the 2024-25 Grant Roster Data File to identify the date the SWD certification was completed (Field #113).
- The Commission is still working on incorporating these changes and will not be flagging SWD students during this initial run of the 2024-25 E1 Cal Grant awards. Once the changes are ready, we will provide an update.

Live Webinars – 2024-25 Cal Grant Processing Updates

The Commission is hosting two live webinars to provide additional details on these processing updates for the 2024-25 award cycle:

- Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 11:00 AM - Register for this webinar.
- Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 3:00 PM – Register for this webinar.

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