



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 16, 2002

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## **INITIAL CAL GRANT AWARDS ARE A SUCCESS** **CALIFORNIA'S STUDENTS GET MORE "FREE MONEY" FOR COLLEGE THAN EVER!**

**RANCHO CORDOVA**—This year California's college-bound students have already been awarded more than 64,600 Cal Grants, or free money for college, and that number is growing daily. The California Student Aid Commission announced that as of today 53,000 graduating high school students statewide have Cal Grant Entitlement awards and an additional 11,600 students have received notification of a Cal Grant Competitive award – a total of 64,600 awards. And there are more to come.

To get California's college-bound students the free money they have earned, and need, to realize their dreams of pursuing a college degree, the Commission will be awarding more Cal Grants in a continuous process as the next weeks and months unfold.

"The Commission is extremely proud of the numbers of students being served so far this year, even though these numbers are very preliminary," emphasized Wally Boeck, executive director of the Commission. "We will continue to award Entitlement grants to qualified applicants, and the Commission will be making an additional 7,760 grants to students on a vocational path. It is gratifying to realize that the number of students being served by this historic program is growing so dramatically."

To apply, graduating high school seniors must fill out and submit a 2002-03 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as well as a verified Grade Point Average (GPA) signed by a school official. Both forms must be submitted between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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For 2002-03, students who submitted a FAFSA with information that needs clarification are getting an opportunity to correct their information and be reevaluated for a Cal Grant Entitlement award. Commission representatives are on the phone daily, personally assisting students in this correction process.

“This is the second year of the new Cal Grant program, and it is already realizing nearly a 10 percent increase in awards to students!” said Commission Chair Michael Cooney. “And these are just the preliminary award numbers.”

The implementation of Transfer Entitlement awards also begins this year and will be made to an unknown number of students transferring from California Community Colleges that will support their education at 4-year institutions.

Requirements for all Cal Grant Entitlement awards include financial need eligibility. In addition, the Cal Grant A requires a minimum 3.0 grade point average and graduation from high school in 2001 or later. Cal Grant A awards provide full fees at the California State University, the University of California, as well as tuition support at California’s private colleges and universities. The Cal Grant B requires a minimum 2.0 grade point average and graduation from high school in 2001 and later. This award provides up to \$1,551 for books and living expenses for the first year of college. Beginning with the second year of Cal Grant B benefits, this award also pays for tuition and fees at public schools or support for tuition at private four-year colleges or other qualifying institutions. The Transfer Entitlement award requires a minimum 2.4 Community College GPA. The award provides support in the same amount of the A or B grant depending upon the student’s financial need.

For further information, visit the Commission’s Web site at [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov), the FAFSA on the Web site at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov), or talk to a high school counselor or financial aid advisor.

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*The California Student Aid Commission is the state’s principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission’s primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which will distribute nearly \$590 million to California’s college students during the 2001-2002 school year, and several targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. The 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its non-profit student loan services auxiliary, EdFUND. The Commission is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California.*

*California Student Aid Commission and its associated graphic are the service mark of the California Student Aid Commission.*

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