

California Student Aid Commission

2019 Cal Grant Regional Training

For College Financial
Aid Administrators



Day One Agenda

- 1. CSAC Updates**
- 2. Institutional Eligibility**
- 3. Cal Grant Overview**
- 4. Dream Act Application**
- 5. Payments Overview**

California Student Aid Commission

**CSAC
Updates**





Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM Project)



Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.



What will GDSM do?

- GDSM will replace CSAC's WebGrants system with a more compatible and user-friendly one that can interact better with multiple internet browsers and mobile devices
- CSAC hopes to integrate all main Commission administered programs into one system
- Project launch date for the initial phase is targeted for 2020-2021



Student Interface

Student Login Page

The screenshot displays the California Student Aid Commission website. At the top, there is a red alert bar with the text "Time sensitive alert will be sliding down and displaying here." Below this is the site's logo and a search bar. A navigation menu includes links for "For Students", "For Schools & Counselors", "Outreach", "Reports & Publications", "News & Events", and "About". The main content area features a large image of a smiling student. Overlaid on this image is a "Get Started today" section with buttons for "How to Apply", "Cash for College", and "Cal Grant FAQ". To the right is a "Login" section with input fields for "User ID" and "Password", a "Forgot Password or User ID?" link, and a "Login" button. Below the image, a section titled "Applying for aid doesn't have to be hard." includes a sub-heading "Follow these simple steps to apply for a Cal Grant." and a list of three steps: 1. Apply (Complete the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application beginning October 1st.), 2. File your GPA (File a certified grade point average (GPA) with us no later than March 2nd.), and 3. Go! (Financial Aid Checklists, Explore Colleges). A "Need Help?" section at the bottom right provides the phone number 888.224.7268 and a "Submit a Question" link. A small image of a student sitting cross-legged with an open book is positioned below the introductory text.

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Student Interface

Student
Landing Page

* This will replace the current
WebGrants for Students accounts

The screenshot displays the user interface for a student account. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the California Student Aid Commission logo, a search bar, and links for 'Contact Us', 'Resources', 'Help', and 'Logout'. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a smiling woman, Jennifer Smith, with a 'WELCOME' message and her name. A yellow bar below the banner contains a 'NEARBY EVENT' notification for '10/21/2018 in CSU Sacramento' and a '24 Events' button. The main content area is divided into three sections, each for a different grant type: 'CAL GRANT', 'MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP', and 'CHAFEE'. Each section has a header with the grant name and a dropdown menu for the academic year (2019-2020 and 2018-2019). Below each header is a grid of four cards: 'Application Status', 'School of Attendance', 'Annual Award Amount', and 'Remaining Eligibility'. The 'CAL GRANT' section shows 'Awarded' status, 'CSU Sacramento' school, '\$5,742' award amount, and '2 Years' remaining eligibility. The 'MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP' section shows 'Award Pending' status, 'CSU Sacramento' school, '\$5,742' award amount, and '2 Years' remaining eligibility. The 'CHAFEE' section shows 'Not Awarded' status, 'CSU Sacramento' school, and '---' for both award amount and remaining eligibility. Each card has a 'Details' or 'Apply' button. A 'More Details' link is located below each grid.

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Recent Legislative Changes



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Foster Youth Status Verification

California Student Aid Commission (SAPRD)
WebGrants System

[Portal Menu](#) [WebGrants](#) [Tools](#) [Help](#) [Sign Out](#)

[Enrollment](#) [GPA](#) [Student Info](#) [School Info](#) [Roster/Reconciliation](#) [Data Transfer](#) [Chafee Grant](#) [NON-SSN GPA](#) [Foster Youth Verification](#)

[Foster Youth Verification](#) [Student Lookup](#)

Foster Youth Student Lookup

The California Student Aid Commission, in partnership with the State Department of Social Services provides schools the ability to verify a student's status as a foster youth to aid in the processing of FAFSA or CADAA applications for federal financial aid.

Required:

- Enter the School Code.
- Enter the Student's Last name.
- Enter the Student's First name.
- Enter Date of Birth in "MM/DD/YYYY" format.

Senate Bill 12 (SB 12) tasked CSAC and the California Department of Social Services with developing an automated system for colleges to verify a student's status as a foster youth

School Code

Last Name

First Name

Date of Birth
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Verify

A new feature in the WebGrants system provides Cal Grant participating institutions the ability to verify a student's status as current or former foster youth to aid in the processing of applications for federal financial aid. **This is a tool to use in verifying potential eligibility for FEDERAL AID and campus programs for Foster Youth (i.e. not Chafee).**

Chafee Grant Eligibility Expanded

- Chafee Grant eligibility has expanded to include students who have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year
- Chafee Grant participation is limited to 5 years (they do not have to be consecutive)
- Students who have previously applied for a Chafee Grant only need to renew their FAFSA/CADAA to receive consideration under this provision
- Previously age-ineligible participants have been renewed

23  **26**



Timely Degree Completion



Effective January 1, 2019, new legislation (AB 2248) requires CSAC and Cal Grant participating institutions to notify students in writing of the following:

- Cal Grant A and B awards are limited to 4 academic years
- Students need to take 15 units per semester, or the equivalent quarter units, in order to graduate within four years

15 units per semester



Cal Grant B for Foster Youth

Expansion of Cal Grant B

- May be renewed for a total of 8-years for current or former foster youth (FY)
- FY students may be considered for a Cal Grant B High School Entitlement Award as long as they have not reached their 26th birthday before July 1st of the award year
- Application deadline extended to September 2nd for FY Cal Grant B High School Entitlement applicants attending a community college

STATUS: CSAC is working on the program changes that will allow this process to be automated





SEARS

2018-19 *Student Expenses and Resources Survey*

- Overall 151,000 students were sampled. The survey was complete as of April, 2019.
- Survey Response Rates: 9.6% Overall

UC – 10.0%

CSU – 11.9%

CCC – 7.5%

Non-Profit – 14.0%

For-Profit – 9.0%



- September - Present final report to Commission
- We are tentatively planning on releasing regional student expense budgets for the 2020-21 academic year

Cal Grant Reform Recommendations

Cal Grant A

Cal Grant C

Middle Class
Scholarship

Cal Grant B



Consolidate Cal Grant A, B, C, and MCS → one Cal Grant



Cal Grant Reform Recommendations

- The Century Foundation's report ***Expanding Opportunity, Reducing Debt: Reforming Student Aid*** was released in April of 2018
- The policy positions adopted by the Commission for reforming the Cal Grant programs are to:
 - Remove or reduce eligibility and access barriers
 - Focus on total cost of attendance, including maintaining full coverage of tuition and systemwide fees for public college and university students
 - Reinstate a formula for an annual maximum Cal Grant for students attending private nonprofit institutions
 - Support additional Cal Grant eligibility for students taking summer coursework



Questions?

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