

Good news! On Friday morning, June 20, 2014 Governor Jerry Brown signed California's 2014-15 budget.

The California Student Aid Commission would like to update you on changes to the Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) programs for the 2014-15 award year.

### **Cal Grant B Access Award**

The Cal Grant B Access award is increased from \$1,473 to **\$1,648**.

### **Maximum Cal Grant at Private Institutions**

The budget repealed the 11% cut to the maximum Cal Grant award for new students at schools within the Independent Segment. This means the maximum award for incoming students will remain at \$9,084 for 2014-15. The maximum Cal Grant A and the equal tuition portion of Cal Grant B for students attending private non-profit institutions and WASC accredited for-profit institutions will remain at the 2013-14 level of **\$9,084**. It was scheduled to be reduced to \$8,056 for the budget year, but that reduction is being postponed for one year. The tuition award for students attending non-WASC accredited for-profit institutions continues to be \$4,000.

### **Expanded Cal Grant Renewal Eligibility**

Students whose Cal Grant awards were not renewed in 2012-13 or 2013-14 due to not meeting the income/asset ceilings or minimum need requirements may be eligible for renewal in the 2014-15 award year. The lifetime payment eligibility for these students will be reduced by one year for each year they were not eligible to renew their Cal Grant award.

The maximum lifetime eligibility for a Cal Grant award continues to be the equivalent of four full-time years with a fifth year available to awardees pursuing an approved five-year undergraduate degree program or entering a fifth-year teaching credential program.

## **Institutional Eligibility**

For institutions seeking Cal Grant Program eligibility for initial and renewal Cal Grant awards through the 2016-17 academic year, an existing graduation rate exception is changed to allow:

- a three-year cohort default rate under 15.5% (was 10%) and
- a graduation rate over 20%.

## **Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)**

The following changes are made to the MCS, a new program in 2014-15 for students attending the University of California or the California State University:

- All federal, state, or institutionally administered student grants or fee waivers are taken into account when determining award eligibility and amount.
- A March 2 deadline is established.
- The MCS is limited to first undergraduate baccalaureate degree programs and teacher preparation programs.
- Recipients must be enrolled at least part-time.
- Part-time students will receive a prorated award amount.
- For full-time students who qualify for any amount between \$1-\$90, the annual award will be \$90.

Any students whose awards changed from their initial award offers will be informed of their updated status by mid-July.