California
Student Aid Commission

High School Counselor Newsletter

The California Student Aid Commission hopes that you had a restful and fun summer. As schools are preparing for students to arrive and begin the next academic year we wanted to provide you with a few updates and reminders.

SUMMER CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Confirm graduation dates by August 31, 2017
- ☐ Submit GPAs by the October 1st GPA Submission Deadline
- ☐ Register for a High School Counselor Workshop

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

- Malcolm X

In This Issue:

Making Education Beyond High School Financially Accessible To all Californians

High School Graduation Verification for 2016-17 Seniors

> ## Verifications are due by <u>August 31, 2017</u>

Every current high school senior's graduation needs to be verified by the high school or high school district no later than August 31. This is stated in California Education Code (EC) 69432.92 (b).

A student's Cal Grant award is held until their high school graduation date is verified by their high school or district office official. Below are the steps needed to verify the graduation dates for students.

- ♦ Log into your webgrants account (webgrants.csac.ca.gov)
- ♦ Select the "High School Graduate Verification" option from the GPA Menu
- ♦ A list of your Cal Grant eligible students will appear in alphabetical order by last name
  - ◊ All students will have "Graduated" preselected for convenience
- ♦ Verify each student's graduation status
  - ◊ For a student to have graduated, they must have received a diploma. A Certificate of Completion is not eligible for a Cal Grant
  - ◊ "Pending" is for students who are still working on meeting requirements through night classes, summer school, adult school programs, etc.
  - ◊ If "Not Graduated" is selected, the student's Cal Grant Award will be withdrawn
- ♦ A Mini-Training video on High School Graduation Verification is available here

<u>Example of Graduation Verification Page</u>

High School Graduation Verification

Name	Date of Birth	Graduation Status
APPLESEED JOHN A	02/07/1996	⦿ Graduated ◯ Not Graduated ◯ Pending
BROWN BLEU	07/26/1996	⦿ Graduated ◯ Not Graduated ◯ Pending
DOE JANE	11/14/1995	⦿ Graduated ◯ Not Graduated ◯ Pending
TEST STUDENT	04/29/1996	⦿ Graduated ◯ Not Graduated ◯ Pending

Verify Students

Tips for a Successful Non-SSN GPA Upload
For the Senior Class of 2018

GPA Submission Window Is Now OPEN

Upload Cal Grant GPAs by October 1

The earlier GPAs are submitted to the Commission the earlier students with a completed FAFSA/Dream Act Application can be awarded. Public schools are required to submit GPAs electronically to the Commission by October 1 (See California EC 69432.9 (c)(2)). The Cal Grant GPA does not include senior coursework so it can be uploaded now.

Make Sure that Cal Grant GPA is calculated correctly

SENIORS: 10th grade, the summer after 10th grade, 11th grade, and the summer after 11th grade. Exclude Physical Education (P.E), Reserve Officers' Training Corps (R.O.T.C), and remedial coursework.

GRADUATES: 10th grade, the summer after 10th grade, 11th grade, the summer after 11th grade, 12th grade, and the summer after 12th. Exclude Physical Education (P.E), Reserve Officers' Training Corps (R.O.T.C), and remedial coursework.

Ensure that the high school graduation date is correct

An incorrect graduation date for a student could delay the processing of his/her Cal Grant award.

Only submit 1 GPA for each student

If uploading more than 1 batch file, please be sure that all of the data is unique. Even if it is the same value, do not submit more than one GPA for a student because this could delay the processing of his/her Cal Grant Award.

Make sure the school code is correct

This past submission period we had hundreds of GPAs with an incorrect school code. Please be sure that all school codes are correct, especially if you are responsible for uploading GPA data for more than one high school.

Check your reports

To confirm that your GPA upload was accepted, download the *Non-SSN GPA School Upload Report* from WebGrants the morning after your upload. This report documents the upload and provides the date/time of the upload along with a batch number, total number of GPAs and the school code.

Live Webinar Trainings

To further help you with this and other processes we offer regular live webinars regularly on GPA uploads and other topics. Please visit our **registration page** for a list of the upcoming trainings.

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High School Counselor Workshops

Registration is open for the 2017 High School Counselor Workshop Series. Do not miss out on this opportunity to learn more about financial aid and how you can help your students receive it. Below is the list of workshops that are still available for registration

These are free workshops and will include topics on:

- All State Financial Aid programs
- The California Dream Act Application
- The 2018-19 FAFSA
- General advice on what high school students need to know, and do, to receive financial aid

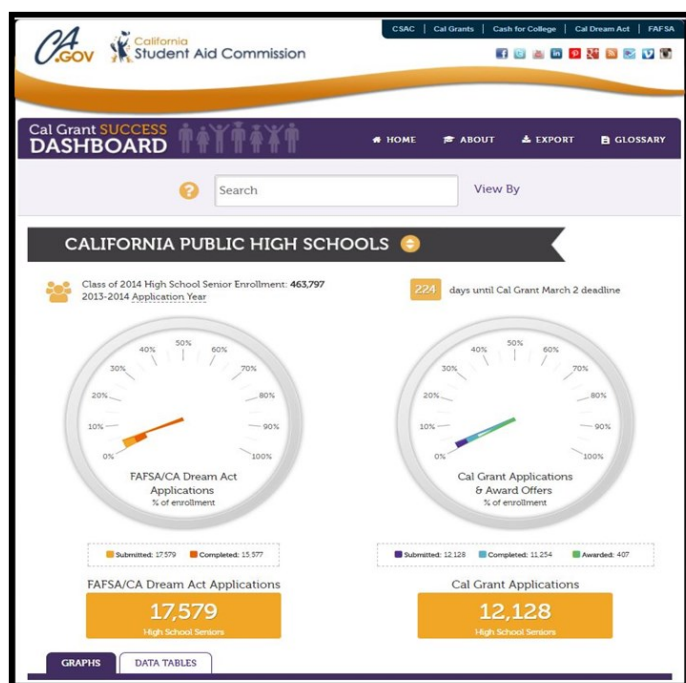**To Register Visit: https://events.com/r/en_US/registration/2017-high-school-counselor-workshops-august-32426**

DATE	DAY	WORKSHOP SITE
9/8/2017	Friday	Cuesta College - San Luis Obispo
9/12/2017	Tuesday	Cañada College - Redwood City
9/15/2017	Friday	Sierra College - Rocklin
9/19/2017	Tuesday	San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
9/20/2017	Wednesday	Riverside County Office of Education
9/20/2017	Wednesday	Redding (College Options) - Shasta County Office of Education
9/21/2017	Thursday	College of the Desert - Palm Desert
9/22/2017	Friday	Eureka - Cal-SOAP
9/27/2017	Wednesday	Oxnard College
9/28/2017	Thursday	Pierce College - Woodland Hills
9/29/2017	Friday	Los Angeles Mission College
10/4/2017	Wednesday	Irvine Valley College
10/5/2017	Thursday	San Diego and Imperial Counties - Scottish Rite Center
10/11/2017	Wednesday	Solano College - Fairfield
10/12/2017	Thursday	College of Marin - Kentfield
10/12/2017	Thursday	Coast Community College District - Costa Mesa
10/13/2017	Friday	San Joaquin Delta College - Stockton
10/17/2017	Tuesday	American River College - Sacramento

California Student Aid Commission

casfaa
California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

ECMC

CCCSFAAA
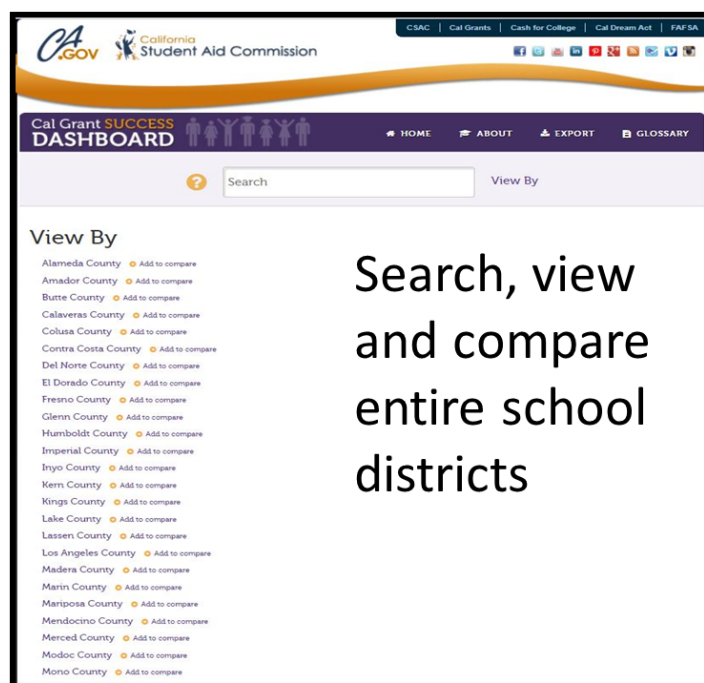California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association

Upcoming Success Dashboard

We are excited to announce that we will soon be providing a new tool to public high schools and high school districts to help them better track their FAFSA/CADAA completion rates. The Cal Grant Success Dashboard will track the total number of application submitted and completed, and show how many of those students are ultimately awarded a Cal Grant.

We hope to have the Cal Grant Success Dashboard rolled out and on our website in October 2017. When it goes live, we will send out an e-mail notification.

This is what the main page will
potentially look like

The dashboard will allow for users to look at/
compare individual schools or districts

On the Horizon

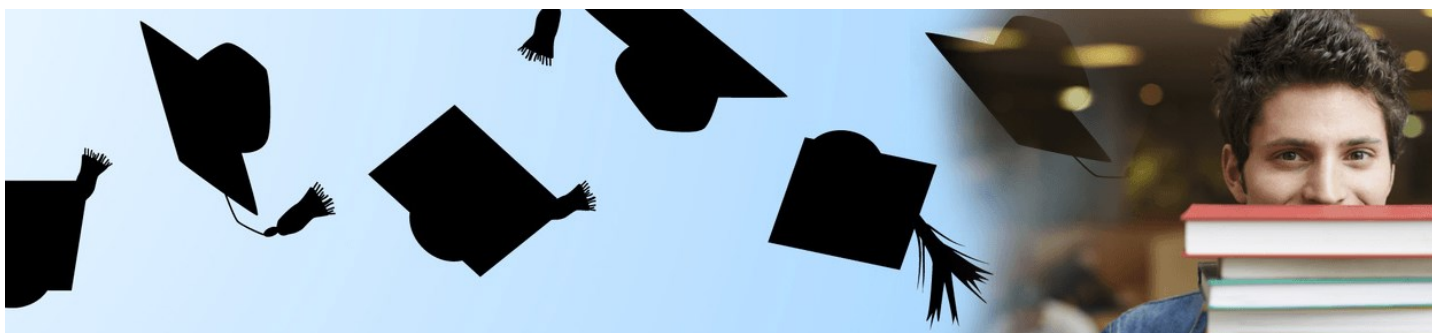Below is a list of things to be aware of that are coming up between now and the next issue:

◊ Register to host a Cash for College Workshop: **www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov**

◊ FAFSA and Dream Act Applications Open on October 1, 2017

◊ Think about a potential nominee for the Arthur S. Marmaduke Award: Click **HERE** for more information

◊ Remind your students to set up a WebGrants for Students Account

◊ Sign up for a Live Webinar: Click **HERE** for the registration page

Operations Memos and Special Alerts

- GSA 2017-24 [2017-18 California State Budget Update](#)
- GSA 2017-20 [Password Reset Tool Available for WebGrants for Students & California Dream Act Application](#)
- GSA 2017-19 [2017 High School Counselor Financial Aid Workshop Registration](#)
- GSA 2017-16 [IRS Data Retrieval Tool Unavailable](#)
- GSA 2017-15 [March 2 Competitive Award Processing for 2017-18](#)
- GOM 2017-21 [California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Update](#)
- GOM 2017-20 [2018-19 Student Expense Budget / Income and Asset Ceilings](#)
- GOM 2017-19 [2017-18 California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Update](#)
- GOM 2017-17 [2018-19 Electronic Grade Point Average Submission](#)
- GOM 2017-16 [2017-18 High School Graduation Verification](#)
- GOM 2017-12 [Extended Customer Support Hours](#)

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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