



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jake Brymner

916-531-6847 / Jake.Brymner@csac.ca.gov

California Student Aid Commission Statement on Governor Newsom's May Revision

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 12, 2023 – The California Student Aid Commission commends Governor Newsom's commitment to college affordability reflected in the May Revision released today. Despite challenging state revenue forecasts, the Governor's May Revision proposal upholds California's efforts to making higher education opportunities accessible and affordable, while also providing needed capacity to support the Commission's work toward this goal.

The Governor's May Revision includes proposals to:

- Allocate \$6 million in one-time federal funding toward additional awards for aspiring special education teachers through the [Golden State Teacher Grant Program](#)
- Provide the Commission with four new staff positions to support program implementation, outreach efforts, and engagement with external partners.
- Increase funding for the [Cash for College Program](#) by just over \$100,000 to offer assistance to students and families applying for financial aid through free workshops across the state.

"Governor Newsom's May Revision proposes key investments towards the Commission's ability to serve students. Though the broader economic climate might be uncertain, we know that investments in students always provide a strong return to California. We are grateful to the Governor for recognizing the value of financial aid in supporting college access and a bright future for California," said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the Student Aid Commission.

Additional support for the Commission's capacity is critical given significant upcoming changes to financial aid. Later this year, a new version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be released, while the Commission also looks forward to building on the initial success of the new universal financial aid application policy for high school students. These efforts will help more students apply for financial aid and receive more assistance for their college expenses, but also require more support for those working with students.

The Commission also looks forward to seeing through [critical reform of the Cal Grant](#) next year. Despite the generous financial aid that California provides through the landmark program, gaps in the Cal Grant leave out tens of thousands of students annually while not providing the clarity that students and their family need to understand available support. The Commission is continuing to prepare for implementation of the Cal Grant Equity Framework adopted last year and slated for funding consideration in the 2024-25 State Budget.

The Commission looks forward to continue working with the Governor and Legislature through the Budget process to ensure financial aid and higher education are accessible to students.

###

The California Student Aid Commission administers the state's \$3 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at www.csac.ca.gov or follow us on social media by clicking on our [Link Tree](#).