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California Student Aid Commission Statement on Governor's proposed 2022-23 State Budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif., January 10, 2022 —

The California Student Aid Commission applauds Governor Newsom for the commitment to expanding access to higher education and efforts to promote college affordability reflected in his proposed 2022-23 State Budget. Given the continued impact of the pandemic and its disruption to the lives of students and our education system, the student-centered multi-year funding strategies reflected in the proposed Budget will be even more critical to ensuring California recovers with equity.

As the principal state agency responsible for administering state financial aid programs, including the Cal Grant, the Student Aid Commission would see its funding increase to an historic \$3.88 billion to serve an estimated 502,000 students in 2022-23.

The Governor's proposed Budget follows through on new investments referenced in the 2021-22 State Budget agreement, as well as includes new targeted resources that will support the Commission's work in assisting students applying for financial aid. In addition to honoring commitments to expand funding for the Middle Class Scholarship and Learning Aligned Employment programs, the proposed Budget also includes critical funding and new staff positions that will help the Commission support the new, universal approach to ensuring that all public high school seniors apply for financial aid or opt-out beginning in the 2022-23 academic year.

"We at the Commission commend Governor Newsom for his commitment to making higher education accessible and affordable for all California students," said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the Student Aid Commission, "Reforming the Cal Grant through streamlining of the program and elimination of the remaining barriers to student financial aid will help California and our higher education systems both meet the ambitious goals laid out in the proposed Budget, as well as meet our students' needs."

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The California Student Aid Commission administers the state's \$4 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 <https://www.csac.ca.gov/> or follow us on Social Media by clicking on our Link Tree, <https://linktr.ee/castudentaid>.
