

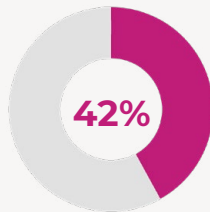


Double Down on Making California State University More Equitable and Accessible with the Cal Grant Equity Framework

A modern, accessible financial aid system will give even more of California's diverse and talented students the ability to graduate from a California State University.

Remodeling California's financial aid system will enable more students to attend state colleges and universities, fuel our workforce and contribute to economic recovery. As our workforce needs continue to increase, supporting California State University (CSU) students remains key to building the workforce of tomorrow.

California State University students need more support than ever and modernizing our outdated financial aid system is the first step in securing the resources necessary for them to succeed. CSU campuses maintain some of our state's most utilized transfer pathways, putting students on the road to attaining a degree and entering our state's workforce. As a result of the pandemic, many students attending the CSU have grappled with income insecurity and uncertainty in their path toward earning their degrees.



California State University students will make huge gains under the Cal Grant Equity Framework - with a 42% increase in students eligible for Cal Grant awards

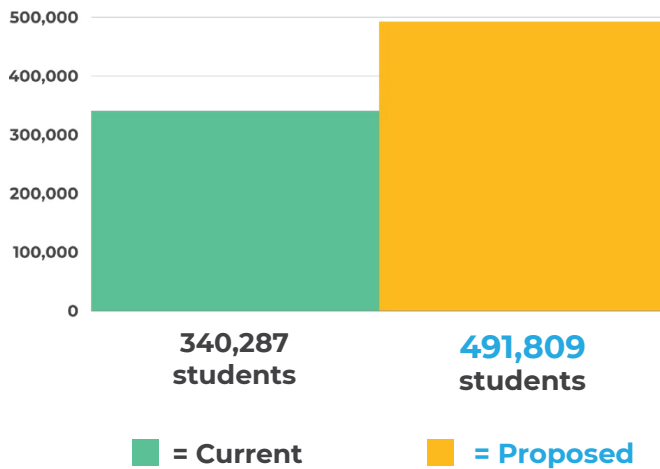
The Cal Grant Equity Framework, if adopted and funded through this year's state budget process, will provide an invaluable mechanism to modernize California's 60-year-old Cal Grant system. Under the Framework, an additional 32,250 CSU students would qualify while expanding the current tuition and fee coverage under Cal Grant 4, across all four years of attendance. Additionally, thousands more would qualify for nutritional assistance through CalFresh. Streamlining and simplifying the financial aid system will provide higher education opportunities for more students than ever before, better addressing the unique needs of today's students.

HOW WILL THE CAL GRANT EQUITY FRAMEWORK WORK?

The Cal Grant Equity Framework will streamline our current financial aid system to serve more students and revitalize California's economy, businesses and workforce. The remodeled program would align eligibility of state-based financial aid with federal policy, eliminate eligibility barriers and target state resources for the most financially vulnerable students by reaching over **150,000 MORE** students by leveraging all parts of the financial aid system.

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Cal Grant Student Eligibility



Fully modernizing California's state financial aid system under the Cal Grant Equity Framework and building off last year's investments would:

- Address gaps in the current Cal Grant program by removing barriers that keep out talented students who make an average income of \$36,000
- Streamline the eight current Cal Grant programs into two programs - Cal Grant 2 for community college students and Cal Grant 4 for students at four-year colleges.
- Align eligibility with the federal Pell Grant to enable earlier and clear communication with students and families about how much aid they can expect to receive.

- Expand access to awards for foster youth and student parents to use for non-tuition expenses, helping address the student basic needs crisis.

As higher education has become more accessible, talented students from diverse backgrounds have pursued college, and they need financial aid support to succeed. The new Cal Grant Equity Framework will:

- Provide additional grants like the Students with Dependent Children (SWDC) to reach more than 44,000 new student parents and uplift more families.
- Work in alignment with other forms of financial aid including the Middle Class Scholarship and institutional aid.
- Enable more students to apply for CalFresh, a federally-funded benefit that helps recipients afford regular meals to help better meet their basic needs.

The Cal Grant Equity Framework will provide a workable, equitable financial aid system that meets the needs of students of color and lower-income students. The Framework must be adopted and funded through this year's budget if the state is to meet the needs of students seeking higher education as well as the Governor's ambitious degree and certificate attainment goals.

California leaders have an unparalleled opportunity to address college affordability and decisively close attainment gaps by simplifying the Cal Grant system. California has what it takes to create the most equitable system in the nation by prioritizing its students and removing remaining barriers.