



The Education Trust—West



Financial aid, equity advocates applaud Governor and state legislators for historic investments in Cal Grant expansion

As financial aid, higher education, equity, student, and workforce advocates, [we applaud Governor Newsom and the Legislature](#) for historic financial aid investments to support and expand California students' access to Cal Grant awards.

The Governor's and Legislature's budget investments and eligibility expansion for Cal Grant awards marks a historic step in making California's financial aid awards accessible and equitable for thousands more students and their families, a majority of whom are low and middle-income. This historic investment and eligibility expansion enables more students to realize their college dreams and offset the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These major new investments will put California on a course to offering students debt-free pathways to higher education by addressing the total cost of attendance and essential non-tuition costs that must be considered to achieve true, equitable financial aid reform.

As California continues to reopen and the vision of students returning to college campuses begins to take shape, supporting students in their pursuit of higher education has never been more critical. Structural financial aid reform will enable our state to lay a path so more students can earn credentials or degrees and to join the workforce, improving their own lives and the long-term economic outlook for the state.

We look forward to continuing working on the next critical step with the Newsom Administration and Legislature to realize full and equitable financial aid reform ---approval of the [Cal Grant Equity Framework](#) reflected in [AB 1456](#). This framework provides the long-term structural reform needed to streamline our state's complicated Cal Grant program and reach more Californians by making the most of the tremendous new investments by the Governor and Legislature.