



OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



June 3, 2016

GOM 2016-14

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Chief, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: 2016-17 Cal Grant March 2 Competitive Awards

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update on the processing of the 2016-17 Cal Grant March 2 Competitive Awards.

- On September 17, 2015, the Commission approved a change to the Competitive Cal Grant scoring matrix starting with the 2016-17 award year. The new scoring matrix is expected to benefit many more students living in poverty, recipients of means-tested benefits, single parents, homeless, and foster youth students.
- The new scoring matrix is available on the [Commission's website](#).
- Over 146,719 financially eligible applicants were considered for the statutory amount of 12,875 March 2 Competitive Awards.
- After scoring all eligible applicants, the Commission set a cut-off score of 648 for applicants receiving an award offer.
- Competitive Cal Grant offered awardees were notified by e-mail and advised to use WebGrants for Students for further information on their Cal Grant status.

To ensure that all eligible students receive their Cal Grant awards:

- View a breakdown of your students' Cal Grant scores by selecting the "Score Detail" button on the Student Award Detail screen on WebGrants. The Awards Detail screen will include the new scoring criteria.
- Identify students who are not attending your campus or are not eligible for the Cal Grant on the WebGrants payment rosters. Refer to the Cal Grant Pay Codes User Guide in the WebGrants Help Center.
- The Commission will closely monitor rosters to identify students without payments or other transactions.
- Eligible students will receive additional communications to remind them of their Cal Grant awards and the steps to take to get their payment processed.

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- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
- E-mail: schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov

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