



OPERATIONS MEMO

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

December 8, 2023

COM 2023-40

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **2024-25 FINAL Cal ISIR Record Layout**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the final version of the 2024-25 California Dream Act Institutional Student Information Report (Cal ISIR), which is posted on the [CADAA Technical documents page](#) on the Commission's website. This version replaces the initial drafts that were communicated on [GOM 2023-21](#) and [GOM 2023-37](#).

Cal ISIRs are generated from the submitted and processed California Dream Act Applications (CADAAAs). Information is shared only with the colleges the student selected on their CADAA application for the sole purpose of determining financial aid eligibility. Below are some notable changes and additions to the Cal ISIR for the 2024-25 award year:

- **Student Aid Index:** SAI values will range from -1500 to 999999, matching the federal ISIR values.
- **Contributor Sections:** the CADAA and corresponding Cal ISIR will have sections for each contributor: Student, Student Spouse, Parent and Other Parent. Unlike the FAFSA, which will require each contributor to have their own login and complete their own section on the FAFSA, the CADAA will remain unchanged in this respect - the student will continue to play the central role in completing the CADAA and no additional contributor logins are required.
- **Financial Information:** responses to financial information questions (i.e. tax returns) on the Cal ISIR will be derived from manually entered information on the CADAA and not from any tax authority or data exchange. Help text on the CADAA has been expanded to guide students through these questions.
- **U Visa Flag:** corresponding Yes/No values will be shown on the Cal ISIR to indicate whether a student has indicated having a U Visa. This response can be utilized by institutions in the determination of AB 540 eligibility.
- **Interested in DSIG:** corresponding Yes/No values will be shown on the Cal ISIR to reflect a student's response on whether they are interested in being

considered for the [California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program](#) (DSIG). The Commission encourages institutions to utilize this data field to perform targeted outreach campaigns for any potential eligible DSIG students. Should a student initially indicate “No” for this question, it is not necessary to submit a correction to change the response to “Yes.” Students may apply or be accepted in the DSIG program regardless of their response to this question. This question should be treated only as an early indication of a student’s interest in the program and not be used to disqualify a student from participation.

- **AB 540 Questions:** per the passage of [Assembly Bill 1540](#), the Commission has embedded the AB 540 questions on the CADAA application and will pass the corresponding responses to these questions on the Cal ISIR. The Commission is not making any AB 540 eligibility determinations from a student’s responses and no logic is being built to automatically make an AB 540 determination based on these responses. Institutions will continue to have the flexibility to adhere to their existing policies and will continue to be responsible for the final determination of eligibility.
- **Data not shared on Cal ISIR:** the 2024-25 CADAA will have the following questions, but responses will not be passed on the Cal ISIR. Information will be retained at CSAC for research purposes only.
 - Student Gender
 - Student Race/Ethnicity
 - Primary Language Spoken at Home
 - Student Opt-In to receive text messages
- **Total Field Length:** the addition of some questions, specific to California, will result in the Cal ISIR being 19 bytes longer than the federal ISIR.
 - Federal ISIR total field length = 7609 bytes
 - Cal ISIR total field length = 7723 bytes
- **Reject and Comment Codes:** Final versions of the CADAA Reject and Comment Codes will be released within the next few days as the Commission continues to review the final federal layouts released in late November and early December 2023. An update will be provided as soon as these layouts are finalized.

For more information on the upcoming changes to the 2024-25 financial aid applications, please visit our [Better FAFSA, Better CADAA webpage](#). The Commission will continue to provide updates and communicate with schools as we work towards implementing these changes.

Need to contact us?

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