



OPERATIONS MEMO

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

June 5, 2024

GOM 2024-21

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

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

SUBJECT: 2024-25 Cal Grant SWD Awards - Program Changes

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) communicates system and processing changes to Cal Grant awards for Students with Dependent Children (SWD). Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, Cal Grant SWD awards will be processed under an opt-in model, as opposed to the opt-out model from prior years. This is in response to the recent Better FAFSA / Better CADAA changes that combine dependent children and other dependents in one question, while also removing the need to place payment holds on SWD student records.

Opt-In Model

- Students who indicate having dependents for whom they provide more than half of their financial support on their FAFSA/CADAA, will be flagged as potentially eligible for the SWD increased access award.
- Access award amounts will remain at the base level while the SWD certification is pending. There will be no payment holds on SWD records and campuses will be able to disburse tuition/fees, as well as base-level access and books/supplies awards for SWD unconfirmed students.
- Once the SWD certification is complete (by student or school) the access award amount will either remain at the base amount for ineligible students or increase to the SWD access amount (\$6,000 for Cal Grant A & B, and \$4,000 for Cal Grant C) for eligible students.
- Cal Grant A students attending a community college will appear on the Community College Reserve (CCR) section of the roster while their SWD certification is pending. Once certified as eligible for SWD, they will be moved to the eligible section of the roster, and the SWD access amount will become payable.

SWD Certification Completion Date

- The 2024-25 Cal Grant Roster Data File includes a new field that displays the SWD certification completion date. Institutions can use this information to identify students who had SWD certifications completed within a certain

period and post payment adjustments for the increased SWD access award for eligible students as applicable.

- Institutions can also customize their roster to locate students who have been verified as eligible for the SWD award and have been paid. To view a training video on customizing a Cal Grant roster, visit our training videos library at <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/training-videos>.

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Student with Dependent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Student with Dependent Confirmation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Asset Hold Flag | <input type="checkbox"/> On Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Release from Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Not On Hold |
| Payment Status | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid |

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