



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA




Update from the California Student Aid Commission

December 20, 2017

GSA 2017-43

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors
High School District Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
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SUBJECT: **2017 California Wildfires and Those Who Have Been Impacted**

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is aware that a number of students and campuses have been impacted by the devastating wildfires that have burned and are currently burning throughout California.

The Commission encourages all high schools and post-secondary institutions to communicate with impacted students about the options that are available to them. Some options include:

- Extension of financial aid application deadlines for some colleges
- Students may be eligible for Professional Judgement, if they have experienced loss (jobs, homes, businesses) that impact their financial aid eligibility
- Title IV schools may be able to disburse financial aid to students that had to drop out due to the fires
 - More guidance for Title IV schools can be found here:
<https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN1708.html>

The Commission also encourages the following:

- Impacted students should contact their campuses if they have any questions or concerns specifically relating to their financial aid and eligibility options.
- All campuses should review and update their disaster response plans to ensure they are current and ready if needed.

The California Department of Education and California higher education segments have expressed willingness to work with campuses and students impacted by these wildfires.

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!