



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

January 29, 2018

GSA 2018-06

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
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SUBJECT: **2018-19 California Dream Act Application**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) reminds financial aid administrators and high school counselors that the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program are unrelated and students who use the CADAA are still able to receive state financial aid.

With the upcoming March 2, 2018 deadline, the Commission recommends that all financial aid administrators and high school counselors encourage their eligible students to complete the CADAA. This application allows AB 540 eligible students to receive state financial aid while attending colleges in California.

The California Dream Act is a state law, separate and distinct from the federal DACA program. Regardless of what happens at federal level, state financial aid for Dreamers remains legal in California. Remind your students that:

- Losing DACA status will not affect most state financial aid
- Dream Act students do not need to be DACA-certified
- CADAA is only used to determine eligibility for state financial aid
- The Commission will protect student information to the greatest extent of the law

The attached letter from the Commission's Executive Director will be sent to renewal Dreamer students and their families. The Commission is committed to provide access to state financial aid for non-resident students (AB 540), including undocumented students, who are attending or want to attend California colleges and universities. We recommend schools use this letter to encourage eligible students to apply.

The CADAA can be accessed at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>. A resource addressing frequently asked questions regarding AB 540 and the CADAA can be found [here](#). The California Dream Act Application (CADAA) deadline is **March 2, 2018** for Cal Grant consideration. After the March 2 deadline students can continue to fill out the CADAA for other financial aid such as institutional aid, fee waivers, grants and scholarships. If you have any questions, please contact Institutional Support.

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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