



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA




Update from the California Student Aid Commission

February 23, 2018

GSA 2018-11

TO: High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
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SUBJECT: **African American Outreach Initiative**

This Special Alert is a call for immediate action to encourage all California African American high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

While the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) encourages all California high school seniors to complete the FAFSA, surveys collected during the 2016 Cash for College workshops indicated that African American high school seniors had the lowest FAFSA completion rates.

This call to action is part of the Commission's African American Outreach Initiative, which aims to ensure equitable access for all students to financial aid to pursue education beyond high school.

To help boost your senior class FAFSA submissions, including African American seniors, the Commission recommends using the [Race to Submit Online Dashboard Tool](#). For more information, refer to [GSA-10: Update on the Race to Submit Statewide Campaign](#). Filing financial aid applications is the first step towards college success and helps eligible students qualify for federal, state, and campus-based aid, as well as some private scholarships.

We ask high school counselors, as well as college financial aid offices, and other educational partners, to reach out to as many students as possible to complete the FAFSA.

Need to contact us?

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

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!