



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

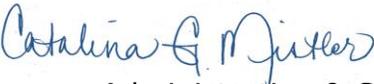


Update from the California Student Aid Commission

November 14, 2018

GSA 2018-37

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
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SUBJECT: **Automated Verification of Foster Youth Status**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces a new feature in the WebGrants system that provides Cal Grant participating institutions the ability to verify a student's status as current or former foster youth to aid in the processing of applications for federal financial aid.

Among other provisions, Senate Bill 12 (SB 12), Beall (Chapter 722, Statutes of 2017) tasked the Commission and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) with developing an automated system that will verify a student's status as a foster youth.

The Commission and the CDSS partnered to facilitate the data exchange needed to identify students in foster care after age 13 in California. Campus financial aid staff can now view the automated foster youth verification in WebGrants.

- To access the Foster Youth Verification screen, log onto WebGrants: Portal Menu>WebGrants>Foster Youth Verification>Student Lookup
- The institution performing the verification must be listed on the student's financial aid application. If the screen is not available, the user should contact the campus WebGrants System Administrator to obtain access.
- If foster youth verification cannot be confirmed through WebGrants, the institution should work with the student to perform a manual verification with the CDSS.

Need to contact us?

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