



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

December 6, 2019

GSA 2019-39

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
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SUBJECT: **Cal Grant Awards for Students with Dependent Children – Phase II**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update to [GSA 2019-34](#) regarding the Cal Grant awards for students with dependent children (SWD). The Commission anticipates releasing the next phase of implementation (Phase II) by December 11, 2019 and will send a communication with further details.

Phase II - Certification Process for SWD Students

- Students receiving the additional funds through this program must have dependent children who are under the age of 18 by July 1 of the award year and for whom they will provide more than half of their support between July 1 and June 30 of the award year.
- Cal Grant students with the SWD system indicator will appear on the school's roster in WebGrants with the maximum award amount but will have their record in a 'Hold Payment Status' pending the completion of the certification of eligibility.
 - Students will appear with an SWD-on Hold code on the display roster and with an SWH program code flag on the Grant Roster Data File.
- SWD students will have to certify that they meet the requirements for the additional funding through their WebGrants for Students account.
- When students complete the self-certification ('YES' or 'NO' response only), the hold will be removed immediately (real-time), and the record will be ready for payment.
- Institutions will also have the ability to certify on behalf of the student utilizing the online roster (only for students who have not yet completed the certification) and proceed with the payment.
- For students that are certified as not meeting the eligibility for the additional funds, the award amount (access award *or* books and supplies) will be recalculated to the base award amount for their Cal Grant program. As an example:
 - Cal Grant A will reduce from \$6,000 to \$0
 - Cal Grant B will reduce from \$6,024 to \$1,672
 - Cal Grant C will reduce from \$4,000 to \$1,094

Phase II - 2019-20 Cal Grant Awards for SWD Students

- For the 2019-20 SWD awards, a data maintenance will update records that currently show the SWD system indicator on the display roster with the maximum award amount they could be eligible for (based on the student's financial need).
- For students that have a partial payment reported in WebGrants for the Fall term, institutions will need to report an adjusted payment amount for the full amount the student was eligible for during that term and prorated based on the same enrollment status reported with the initial payment.
- All other payments should be prorated based on enrollment following the information provided in [GOM 2019-31](#) (Cal Grant Award Disbursement and Census Date).

Phase II - Grant Roster Data File

- The Grant Roster Data File will display a flag that institutions will be able to use to identify SWD students in the Grant Delivery System. The output file will identify eligible SWD students using the existing 'Program Code Flag' (position: 67-70) with the following codes:
 - **SWH** (SWD on hold pending certification)
 - **SWD** (SWD Eligible)
 - **FSD** (Foster Youth and SWD Eligible)
 - **5SD** (5th Year and SWD Eligible)
 - **TSD** (TCP and SWD Eligible)

Institutions will be provided with a Frequently Asked Questions document for additional guidance by next week.

Upcoming Grant Delivery System Functionality (Phase III)

- Institutions will have the ability to confirm changes in the students' eligibility through the Grant Record Change process (G-21) in Phase III of the SWD program implementation which is currently anticipated for February of 2020.

Need to contact us?

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