



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

August 4, 2020

GSA 2020-26

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

FROM: Steve Caldwell 
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SUBJECT: **2020-21 California State Budget Update**

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the State Budget on June 29, 2020. This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the following updates related to the 2020-21 State Budget and the Commission's programs:

Maintains:

- The Cal Grant A and B tuition award for CSU mandatory systemwide tuition and fees at **\$5,742**.
- The Cal Grant A award for UC mandatory systemwide tuition and fees at **\$12,570**.
- The statutory Cal Grant B access award at \$1,648 but reduces the overall award from \$1,672 to **\$1,656** due to a decrease in available funds from the College Access Tax Credit Fund.
 - The Commission anticipates updating the Cal Grant B access award in the WebGrants system and reflecting those changes in the Grant Roster Data File by August 10, 2020.
- The maximum award for new Cal Grant recipients at private non-profit institutions at **\$9,084**.
- The maximum award for new Cal Grant recipients attending private, for-profit institutions that are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) as of July 1, 2020, at **\$8,056**.
- The maximum award for new Cal Grant recipients at for-profit non-WASC accredited institutions at **\$4,000**.
- The Cal Grant C award for students attending eligible for-profit schools at **\$2,462** for Tuition and Fees and **\$547** for Books and Supplies.
- The Cal Grant C Books and Supplies Award for students attending community colleges at **\$1,094**.

- Cal Grant access awards for students with dependent children attending a University of California, California State University, or California Community College campus at **\$6,000** for qualifying Cal Grant A or B recipients and up to **\$4,000** for eligible Cal Grant C recipients.
- The number of paid Competitive Cal Grant awards at **41,000**. The Commission is authorized to make up to **51,000** Competitive Cal Grant award offers.

Increases:

- **California Student Loan & Debt Service Review Workgroup** was established under the Commission. The Workgroup will be composed of public representatives and officials from the Commission, Department of Finance, and ScholarShare Investment Board and charged with researching implementable strategies and concepts to better ensure that prospective, current, and former student loan borrowers are able to access the most financially beneficial loan programs, repayment plans, and debt service forgiveness options. The Workgroup will submit a report to the legislature by September 2021.

Repurposes:

- **Dreamer Service Incentive Grants:** repurposes \$15 million in funding previously allocated for the Dreamer Service Incentive Grant program to support the Disaster Relief Emergency Student Financial Aid Program, which will provide emergency aid for students at the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California who were barred from receiving assistance funded by the CARES Act. These funds will be administered by the campuses receiving them. The Dreamer Service Incentive Grant program will relaunch in 2021-22.

Decreases:

- **Golden State Teacher Grants:** pending additional federal assistance received by the state, \$88 million in funding allocated toward the program for aspiring teachers in high-needs areas is eliminated. However, the 2020 Budget also allocates \$15 million in federal funding to support grants for students enrolled in special education teacher preparation programs who agree to teach at a high-needs school.
- **Child Savings Accounts:** maintains \$10 million in one-time funding approved in 2019 for the program to support local governments and nonprofit organizations that sponsor or collaborate on one or more comprehensive citywide or regional child savings account programs. This represents a reduction from the \$25 million in one-time funding that was allocated last year.

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