



# SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA



## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

**August 5, 2021**

**GSA 2021-31**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators  
High School Counselors

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*  
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SUBJECT: **2021-22 California State Budget Update**

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the State Budget on June 30, 2021 and a bill outlining the implementation of higher education provisions (AB 132) on July 27, 2021. This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the following updates related to the 2021-22 State Budget and the Commission's programs:

### Changes to current programs:

- Expands the Cal Grant Program by establishing a new Community College Entitlement Program. Cal Grant A and B entitlement eligibility for students attending a California Community College (CCC), despite not having been awarded at the time of their high school graduation. Students who receive a Cal Grant under this provision will be permitted to retain their remaining Cal Grant eligibility when transferring to a public university so long as they continue to meet income and academic requirements. The application deadline for CCC students is September 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Current or former foster youth attending public institutions will receive additional Cal Grant benefits. Eligible Cal Grant A and B students may receive an access award of up to \$6,000 and Cal Grant C students may receive an access award of up to \$4,000.
- Broadens the eligibility in the Golden State Teacher Grant Program for students currently enrolled in a professional teacher preparation program in a high-needs field such as: special education, multiple subject instruction, transitional kindergarten, bilingual education, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, STEM, including computer science and career technical education in STEM areas, and other subjects. Also extends eligibility for participation in the Program to students in other teacher preparation programs approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing beyond those offered by institutions of higher education.

### Increases:

- The maximum Cal Grant A and B tuition award for Cal Grant recipients at private non-profit institutions from \$9,084 to **\$9,220**.

**Maintains:**

- The Cal Grant A and B tuition award for CSU mandatory systemwide tuition and fees at **\$5,742** and **\$12,570** for UC.
- The statutory Cal Grant B access award at \$1,648 but reduces the overall award from \$1,656 to **\$1,648** 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 in the next few weeks.
- 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) 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.

**Decreases:**

- The number of paid Competitive Cal Grant awards from 41,000 to **13,000**. The Commission is authorized to make up to **16,000** Competitive Cal Grant award offers.

**Establishes the Following New Programs:**

- **Learning-Aligned Employment Program:** Provides eligible students with the opportunity to gain educationally beneficial or educationally aligned, career related employment experience. Public institutions are eligible to participate. Additional information about program implementation will be communicated later.
- **Golden State Education and Training Grant Program:** Awards grants to California resident workers who have been displaced from employment due to COVID-19, are not already accessing an educational or training program, can demonstrate financial need, and agree to use their grant toward accessing an educational or training program at a public institution or other eligible provider. Additional information about program implementation will be communicated later.
- **Financial Aid Application Completion Requirement:** Establishes a requirement that beginning in the 2022-23 academic year local education agencies shall confirm that high school seniors complete a financial aid application or an opt-out waiver.

**Restores:**

- **California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program (DSIG):** Encourages California Dream Act Application (CADAA) students with a Cal Grant B award to perform community or volunteer service. The Commission will award up to \$3,000 per academic year (up to \$1,500 per semester or up to \$1,000 per quarter) to 2,500 eligible students. The grant will be available to the student for up to 8 semesters or up to 12 quarters while they have an active Cal Grant B award.
- **Cal Grant A:** Students impacted by a change in housing status due to COVID-19 in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 award year will have their eligibility reevaluated based on what it would have been had the change due to the COVID-19 pandemic not occurred.

**Need to contact us?**

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