



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

June 13, 2024

GSA 2024-42

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
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SUBJECT: **Student Aid Index and Enrollment Intensity**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides information regarding the 2024-25 Student Aid Index (SAI) and Enrollment Intensity guidelines and how they impact 2024-25 Cal Grant awards.

Student Aid Index

Per the [2024-2025 Federal Student Aid Handbook](#), “the *FAFSA Simplification Act* eliminated the provision that allowed schools to use alternate or prorated EFCs (now SAIs) when packaging students for periods other than 9 months..”

- Prior to 2024-25, Expected Family Contribution (EFC) could be prorated when determining the unmet need of a student attending less than a full academic year. Beginning in 2024-25, EFC will be replaced by SAI, which will no longer be prorated for partial-year students for federal aid consideration.
- For 2024-25 Cal Grant awards, the Commission will allow campuses to report full year cost of attendance for all students, including on corrections and payments, regardless of planned enrollment.
 - This includes evaluating Cal Grant for the summer term.
 - This provision strives to maintain equity for students graduating early or otherwise enrolling in less than a full year.
- Schools should follow their policies and procedures when awarding students and utilize this guidance as needed.

Enrollment Intensity

- Beginning in 2024-25, the federal Pell Grant program will follow a new [enrollment intensity calculation](#). This allows for the disbursement of Pell Grant based on the number of units enrolled instead of enrollment status (full-time, three-quarter time, and half-time).

- In compliance with California Education Code sections [69433](#) and [69433.5](#), the Commission will continue to use the traditional enrollment statuses of full-time, three-quarter time, and half-time for the 2024-25 Cal Grant program.

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