OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

February 8, 2016   **GOM 2016-02**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
         High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler
         Chief, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **2016-17 High School Entitlement Cal Grant Award Offers**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the completion of the initial 2016-17 Cal Grant selection process for the High School Entitlement (E1) award cycle.

2016-17 Preliminary High School Entitlement (E1) Award Offers

- Approximately 24,800 preliminary awards were offered to graduating high school seniors and one-year-out high school graduates. Approximately 1,000 of the preliminary awards were offered to California Dream Act students.

- The selected E1 students are notified by email to create a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account at www.webgrants4students.org to view their California Aid Report (CAR) online. Students who do not have an e-mail address or have an undeliverable e-mail address will receive their CAR in the mail.

- Students receiving the "Application on Hold" notification are directed to the WGS Cal Grant Application Correction screen.

- Students receiving the "Cal Grant Disqualification" notification are directed to the "Disqualification Fact Sheet" located on the WGS login screen.

- The Commission will continue to process students in the weekly award cycle. Eligible applicants will receive an electronic or paper CAR.

- 2016-17 selected E1 students are now viewable on the WebGrants Display Roster screen in a non-payable status.

Cal Grant Eligible Institutions

- A list of 2016-17 Cal Grant eligible institutions can be obtained from the Commission's homepage.

- The 2016-17 award amounts for new recipients at Cal Grant eligible institutions will be reflected on the student's CAR and their WGS account.

- If a student lists an ineligible institution as their first choice on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the system will default to the next eligible institution for Cal Grant consideration.

- Students who only list ineligible institutions on their FAFSA will receive an "Application on hold" notification requesting they select an eligible institution on the Application Correction screen in WGS. The student will be reprocessed once they select an eligible institution.

- The California Dream Act Application does not permit students to choose an ineligible institution.

Report for High Schools

- The Commission generates a report titled "Your Cal Grant Awardees" in WebGrants. The report lists all students that are offered a Cal Grant award based on the high school that certified their Cal Grant GPA.

- Students who do not appear on the report may have an incomplete financial aid application or other issues preventing them from being considered for a Cal Grant award offer. We encourage schools to utilize this report to assist students with completing the necessary forms to qualify for a Cal Grant.

- The "Your Cal Grant Awardees" report is available in WebGrants under the "Data Transfer" menu. To obtain WebGrants access, schools should contact the Commission's Information Technology Help Desk at (888) 294-0148.

Need to contact us?
- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
- E-mail: schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!