



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear School Leader,

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) sincerely thanks you and your team for your efforts in the [All In for FAFSA/CA Dream Act](#) campaign this school year. The purpose of this campaign is to provide additional tools and resources to schools to help all high school seniors complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) pursuant to the new law in [California Education Code \(CEC\) Section 51225.7](#). Please note that the requirements of this new law are still in effect for the remainder of the school year.

The new state law is having a positive effect. More than 300,000 California high school seniors completed a 2023-24 FAFSA/CADAA by March 2, 2023, the first priority deadline. This was a 17.5% increase over the previous year. Also, while a smaller increase, 8,000 CA Dream Act students completed their applications, a 1.6% increase over last year. California now ranks 7th in the country for FAFSA completions, up from 18th in the country last year.

Although the March 2 priority deadline has passed, the job is not done!

High school seniors who have not completed their financial aid applications should still apply. There are many generous financial aid opportunities available, including the Cal Grant Entitlement award for Community College-bound students and federal Pell Grants for qualifying students.

The Commission will be extending its annual **Race to Submit** recognition to include districts and high schools with the highest completion rates as of March 2nd and June 30th. These districts and schools will be honored at the College Affordability Summit later this year. Stay tuned for details. We anticipate extraordinary results!

The Commission could not do this work alone. We greatly appreciate the support of K-12 Superintendents, administrators, counselors, teachers, parents and so many more to help increase the number of students completing their financial aid applications. This work could not be done without your deep commitment and tireless efforts to support students in their journey to college.

The Commission is committed to continuing its efforts to support schools, school districts, and the rest of the community throughout the state as we strive together to improve college-going opportunities for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marlene L. Garcia".

Marlene Garcia
Executive Director