May 23, 2017

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, High School
Principals, and High School Counselors:

CAL GRANT GRADE POINT AVERAGE SUBMISSION
AND GRADUATION VERIFICATION CHANGES

It is our goal to provide our students with the best opportunities to succeed in high
school and during their transition to higher education. As students are preparing for
college, it is important that we work together to provide them with accurate and timely
information about state-funded financial aid. Recent statutory changes have been made
that will increase the effectiveness of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
(FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

Effective January 1, 2017, changes to the California *Education Code (EC)* established
new timelines for districts, charter schools, and public high schools regarding Cal
Grants and graduation dates. Revisions to the *EC* are listed below:

1. *EC* 69432.9 (d)(1): No later than **January 1** of a pupil's grade 11 academic year,
   school districts or charter schools must notify, in writing, each grade 11 pupil (and
   their parent or guardian if the pupil is under 18 years of age) that the pupil will be
   considered a Cal Grant applicant unless he or she opts out. Pupils and parents
   must be notified and given 30 days to opt out. The required notice shall indicate
   when the school will first send grade point averages (GPAs) to the California
   Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

2. *EC* 69432.9 (c)(2): No later than **October 1** of each academic year, a Cal Grant
   GPA is required to be submitted electronically to the CSAC for all grade 12 pupils
   [except for those who opted out per *EC* 69432.9 (d)(1) at public high schools,
   including charter schools]. Social Security numbers shall not be included in the
   information submitted to the CSAC.

3. *EC* 69432.92 (b): As soon as possible after a pupil's graduation, and no later
   than **August 31** of the academic year following the pupil's graduation, all high
   schools and high school districts are required to verify the graduation date of

their pupils. This subdivision also applies to pupils who graduate during the summer following the grade 12 academic year.

The summary table below outlines important dates:

2018–19 Award Year (Class of 2018)

Date	Deadline
January 1, 2017	GPA opt out due (junior year)
May 1, 2017	2018–19 GPA submission window open
October 1, 2017	High school GPA deadline
October 1, 2017	2018–19 FAFSA/CADAA available
March 2, 2018	2018–19 FAFSA/CADAA deadline for Cal Grants
August 31, 2018	High school graduation verification deadline

Districts, high schools, and charter schools are strongly encouraged to prepare now for the earlier GPA submission requirement and to begin notifying the class of 2018 about their option to opt out no later than the end of their junior year. GPAs for the class of 2018 can be electronically submitted to the CSAC as of May 2017.

The CSAC will host a series of Cal Grant GPA Upload Webinars to assist with the Cal Grant GPA submission process. To register for the Webinars, please visit the CSAC Training Web page at http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=55.

For more information, please visit the CSAC Web site at www.csac.ca.gov or contact CSAC's Institutional Support by phone at 888-294-0153 or by e-mail at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

TT/LCA:lfb

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