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California Student Aid Commission Statement on 2023-24 State Budget

"The Governor and legislative leaders have shown their commitment to making college affordable for students and understand that investing in students will always provide a strong return for California."

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 12, 2023 – The California Student Aid Commission applauds Governor Newsom and the Legislature for their shared commitment to college affordability reflected in the 2023-24 State Budget. The budget reflects the importance of investing in California's students and how critical it is to continue to expand access to financial aid. Additionally, the budget provides additional resources to the Commission to better support our efforts to bring financial aid to students.

The 2023-24 State Budget maintains the state's significant investments in financial aid, which includes \$2.3 billion for the Cal Grant program and over \$860 million for Middle Class Scholarships. The final budget agreement also includes:

- \$5.2 million in ongoing funding to the Middle Class Scholarship program to support the full cost of attendance for current or former foster youth students attending a California State University or University of California campus.
- \$6 million in one-time funding to support additional Golden State Teacher Grant awards for special education teachers, as well as policy changes to allow grantees to fulfill their service obligation at a California preschool program
- Over \$2 million in funding and additional staff positions to support continued implementation and expansion of financial aid programs, cybersecurity efforts, and outreach to students through Cash for College workshops

"We thank Governor Newsom and the Legislature for their ongoing investment in California's students," said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California

Student Aid Commission. “Despite the challenging budget environment, the Governor and legislative leaders have shown their commitment to making college affordable for students and understand that investing in students will always provide a strong return for California.”

This budget underlines the importance of higher education, whether it be college or career training beyond high school. To ensure that higher education remains accessible, it is critical that California move toward a financial aid system that is easier to understand for students and families without eligibility barriers that keep out thousands of students. The Commission looks forward to seeing through the critical reform of Cal Grant next year, which will simplify the program and make more students financial aid eligible. The Commission will continue to partner with the Governor and Legislature to build on this year’s investments in students and ensure that our financial aid system reinforces California’s talent pipeline.

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The California Student Aid Commission currently serves over 400,000 students and administers the state’s \$3 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at www.csac.ca.gov or follow us on social media by clicking on our [Link Tree](#).