OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

February 20, 2015   **GOM 2015-08**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
           High School Counselors

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

SUBJECT: **Cal Grant GPA March 2 Deadline Reminder**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) reminds high schools and colleges of the upcoming **March 2, 2015 Cal Grant filing deadline** for the 2015-16 academic year, and provides information on the reports available to assist them in identifying students with missing information.

- Students applying for a 2015-16 Cal Grant must file a 2015-16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a 2015-16 California Dream Act Application (CADA) by **March 2, 2015**. Please encourage students to use the online applications at www.fafsa.gov or www.caldreamact.org

- In addition to the FAFSA or the CADA, the Commission must also receive a school certified Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) by the same deadline.

- The most direct method for a school to submit GPA records to the Commission is by using WebGrants, the Commission's online information sharing system. GPA records can be uploaded into WebGrants in batches or keyed individually.

- Once the GPA record(s) are successfully received by the Commission, a confirmation of the GPA submission is provided by the system.

- If high schools or colleges experience problems with logging into their WebGrants account, they may contact the Commission's Information Technology help desk at (888) 294-0148 for assistance.

Reports

- The "Student Summary" report lists all GPA records received from your school including Social Security Number (SSN) GPA and matched Non-SSN GPA records. This report is located within the Data Transfer link in WebGrants and is a good resource to ensure that GPAs have been submitted for all students.

- Under the "Fin App Stat" column of the Student Summary report, the "No EFC" statement indicates that the student's FAFSA or CADA is incomplete and requires additional actions. One of the most common incomplete application reasons is the missing parent signature. It is imperative that students have a complete 2015-16

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FAFSA or CADA to receive Cal Grant consideration. We encourage you to use this report to assist students in completing their application.

- The "Financial Application (No GPA)" report identifies students with a complete 2015-16 FAFSA or CADA but with a missing GPA. This report is available to high school administrators to assist them in identifying those students who may have been missed during an earlier GPA submission.

- The Commission has sent notifications to the students appearing on the "Financial Application (No GPA)" report, reminding them that a verified GPA is required to complete their Cal Grant application. These notifications will continue weekly until the March 2 deadline. A letter is mailed to students without an email address.

- We encourage all high school and college administrators to use the WebGrants reports to help students complete their applications to meet the Cal Grant deadline and qualify for a 2015-16 Cal Grant award.

Non-SSN GPA Process

- High schools may also choose to submit GPA records using the Non-SSN GPA upload process, continue to review the reports and follow-up with students accordingly.

If your students need help with applying for a Cal Grant, they can find a remaining Cash for College workshop at https://www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov/. Please make every effort to identify those students who do not yet have a GPA or FAFSA/CADA reported.

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!