

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY LEGISLATION

As of February 25, 2021

DIRECT IMPACT TO COMMISSION & ALIGNMENT WITH POLICY PRIORITIES

[AB 469 \(Reyes\) – Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: financial aid applications](#)

Status: Assembly Education

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Advance early awareness of financial aid for California students and families.

Position: SUPPORT

Summary: This bill would require a school district, county office of education, or charter school to ensure that a 12th grade student completes and submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The bill would authorize, under certain conditions, the school district, county office of education, or charter school to exempt a pupil who fails to comply with the requirement due to extenuating circumstances.

[AB 1185 \(Cervantes\) – Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program](#)

Status: Assembly Rules (urgency measure)

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

Position: SUPPORT

Summary: This bill would require that, in a state of emergency, resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis, specified Cal Grant Program eligibility requirements related to time limits for award eligibility and to the age of an award recipient would not apply.

[AB 1456 \(Medina\) – Student financial aid: Cal Grant Reform Act](#)

Status: Assembly Rules

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Maximize equitable public investment in California students through financial aid. Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

Position: SUPPORT

Summary: This bill would enact the Cal Grant Reform Act, which would revise and recast the provisions establishing and governing the existing Cal Grant programs. The bill would authorize the Commission to adopt emergency regulations to implement the Cal Grant Reform Act. The new Cal Grant Program would include a Cal Grant 2 Program and a Cal Grant 4 Program, with eligibility requirements as specified.

[SB 737 \(Limón\) – California Student Opportunity and Access Program](#)

Status: Senate Rules

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Advance early awareness of financial aid for California students and families.

Position: SPONSOR

Summary: This bill would update and modernize the functions and priorities of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP), to focus Cal-SOAP projects on assisting students and families with understanding the true costs of college, understand their financing options (including grants, scholarships, student loans, and work opportunities), and applying for financial aid using the FAFSA or CADAA.

DIRECT IMPACT TO COMMISSION

[AB 299 \(Villapudua\) – Career technical education: Apprenticeship Grant Program](#)

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Summary: Commencing with the 2022-23 academic year, this bill would establish the Apprenticeship Grant Program under the administration of the Commission. The program would provide grants to students who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant or for state financial aid and who participate in approved apprenticeship programs at California Community Colleges. The bill would prohibit these grants from exceeding a student's actual cost of attending a participating community college.

[AB 1097 \(Santiago\) – Public institution of higher education: student financial aid: Cal Grants: abuse, and false advertising](#)

Status: Assembly Rules

Summary: This bill would make public postsecondary educational institutions established outside of the State California – but operate a branch or other location physically located in the state and meet certain requirements - eligible to receive Cal Grant awards for California residents attending these institutions. Without establishing targets for new Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) students, students attending these institutions and meeting Cal Grant criteria would be eligible for the same maximum tuition award for new students attending independent institutions of higher education. This bill would also apply provisions relating to fraud, abuse, and false advertising in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 to these public postsecondary educational institutions.

[AB 1290 \(Lee\) – Student Aid Commission](#)

Status: Assembly Rules

Summary: This bill would require the Student Aid Commission to include four student members, one from each of the following: the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, and a California private postsecondary educational institution.

[SB 20 \(Dodd\) – Student nutrition: eligibility for CalFresh benefits](#)

Status: Senate Education

Summary: Existing law requires the Commission to provide written notice to recipients of Cal Grant awards funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, who qualify for participation in the CalFresh program under federal regulations. This bill would additionally require the Commission, to the extent that it possesses pertinent information, to provide written notice to students who qualify for a waiver of the community college enrollment fee that they qualify, or may qualify, for benefits under the CalFresh program. This bill would also require the Commission to confer with legislative staff and advocates for students and for the CalFresh program – on at least a quarterly basis – to implement this provision and to continuously improve the process of securing CalFresh benefits for eligible students.

[SB 388 \(Stern\) – CalServe](#)

Status: Senate Education

Summary: Commencing with the 2024-25 academic year, this bill would establish the CalServe Higher Education Grant Program, under the administration of the Commission, which would award annual grants to eligible students to finance mandatory systemwide tuition and fees not covered by federal, state, or institutionally administered grants or fee waivers commencing with the 2024–25 academic year. The bill would establish the CalServe Higher Education Grant Program Fund in the State Treasury and require that all moneys appropriated for the program be deposited into the fund and appropriated by the Legislature to the Commission for the program.

[SB 795 \(Roth\) – Cal Grant Program](#)

Status: Senate Rules (spot bill)

Summary: This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the provision that establishes the Cal Grant Program.

INDIRECT IMPACT TO COMMISSION – RELEVANCE TO COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

[AB 104 \(Gonzalez\): Pupil instruction: learning recovery opportunities: COVID-19](#)

Status: Assembly Education

Summary: This bill would authorize a pupil who, in the 2020–21 school year, earned a letter grade in a course required for graduation from high school to request that the pupil's school district, county board of education, or charter school change the letter grade to a Pass or No Pass grade on the pupil's transcript. The bill would require the school district, county office of education, or charter school to make the requested change.

[AB 288 \(Bonta\): California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021](#)

Status: Assembly Education

Summary: Would enact the California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021, which would prohibit each public and private institution of higher education in the state that receives, or benefits from, state-funded financial assistance or enrolls students who receive state-funded student financial assistance, from reducing certain students' institution-based financial aid award below their financial need, as specified.

[AB 737 \(Santiago\): Public postsecondary education: California State University: tuition](#)

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Summary: This bill would prohibit the charging of tuition or mandatory systemwide fees for enrollment at a California State University campus, for up to two academic years, to a California Community College resident transfer student that completed an associate degree for transfer (ADT), has received a fee waiver pursuant to the California College Promise, and is at least 28 years of age. Upon appropriation, this bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University to distribute funding to each campus to offset the costs of waiving tuition and mandatory systemwide fees.

[AB 1113 \(Medina\): Public postsecondary education: exemption from tuition and fees: qualifying survivors of persons providing medical or emergency services deceased during COVID-19 California state of emergency](#)

Status: Assembly Rules

Summary: This bill would prohibit public postsecondary institutions from collecting mandatory systemwide tuition and fees from any qualifying surviving spouse or surviving child of a deceased person who: (1) was a resident of this state; (2) employed as a licensed physician or a licensed nurse by a health facility or as a first responder; and (3) died of COVID-19 during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency in California.

[AB 1421 \(Nguyen\): Public postsecondary education: refunds of student campus fees](#)

Status: Assembly Rules

Summary: This bill would require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and request the Regents of the University of California, to: (1) identify the students in their respective systems who, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were obliged to stay away from the campuses at which they were enrolled during the 2019–20 and 2020–21 academic years; (2) ascertain the amounts of campus fees collected from each of the students identified under subdivision (a), and calculate from those amounts of campus fees, the amounts from which the students received no value because of their enforced absence from campus and which should therefore be refunded to the students; and (3) submit the total amounts ascertained and calculated to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.