

CSAC



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION



Update on state and federal legislation and issues affecting Commission programs

September 8, 2021

Jake Brymner, Director of Government & External Relations

Priority Legislation

AB 1456 (Medina and McCarty) – Cal Grant Reform Act

- Bill that reflects the Cal Grant Equity Framework by streamlining, simplifying, and expanding the Cal Grant program.
- **Position:** Support
- **Status:** Senate Floor

SB 737 (Limón) - Cal SOAP Modernization

- Updates and modernizes the statutory functions and priorities of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) to focus on financial aid awareness, literacy, and assistance.
- **Position:** Sponsor (co-sponsor The Education Trust-West)
- **Status:** Assembly Floor

AB 469 (Reyes) – Financial Aid Completion Requirement

- Requires local educational agencies to ensure that high school seniors submit a financial aid application or opt-out waiver.
- **Position:** Support
- **Status:** Senate Floor



Other Supported Legislation

COVID Relief

AB 1185 (Cervantes) - Senate Floor

Cal Fresh Access

AB 396 (Gabriel) - Senate Floor

AB 1326 (Arambula) – Senate Floor

SB 20 (Dodd) – Inactive

Student Loans & Debt

AB 340 (Ward) – Assembly Floor (Concurrence in Senate Amendments)

AB 424 (Stone) – Enrollment & Engrossing



Updates on Other Tracked Legislation

AB 104 (Gonzalez)

- An urgency measure authorizing a high school student to request a change from letter grade to Pass or No Pass during the 2020-21 school year due to the COVID -19 pandemic.
- **Position:** Watch
- **Status:** Chaptered

AB 1290 (Lee)

- Would have required the Student Aid Commission to include four student members, one from each of the following: University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), California Community Colleges (CCC), and a California private postsecondary educational institution.
- **Position:** Watch
- **Status:** Inactive

Status of Federal Proposals

- Pell Grant award increases, extension of Pell Grant eligibility to recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and creation of a federal-state partnership to make community colleges tuition-free included in proposed budget packages from the House and Senate, as well as President Biden's proposed FY 2022 Budget
- House and Senate leadership starting negotiation process for a "budget reconciliation" bill that would address key investment priorities outside the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework" ("BIF")
- Given the composition of the Senate, likely that further negotiations may narrow the scope of the budget reconciliation vehicle necessary for advancing these priorities
- House has indicated it will consider both the BIF and budget reconciliation vehicles before September 27
- Federal appropriations measure must be passed before September 30, while it is likely that the "debt ceiling" will need to be increased in October or November. Both deadlines could become opportunities to forge an agreement on the budget reconciliation and infrastructure negotiations.

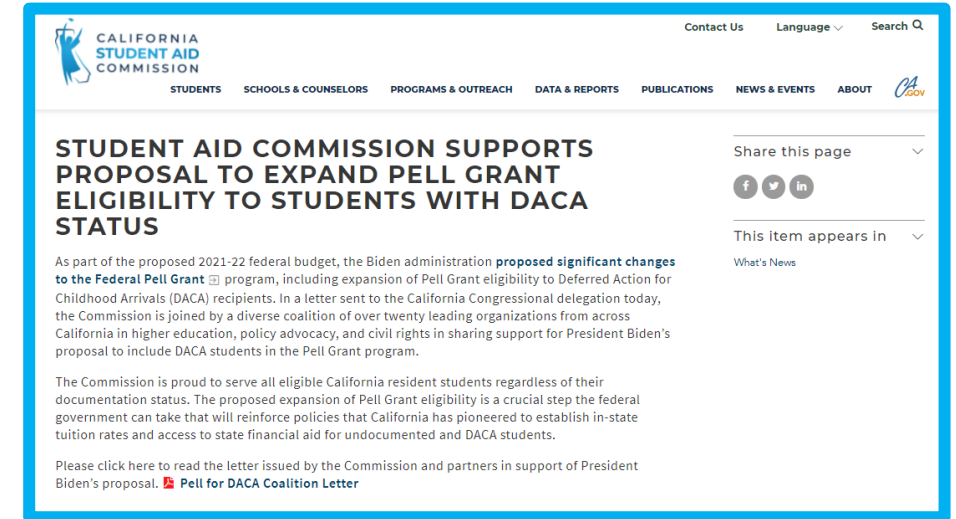
Pell for DACA Coalition Letter

Between June 30, 2021 – August 5, 2021:

- 8 Meetings with key CA Congressional Delegation Staff
 - Senator Dianne Feinstein
 - Senator Alex Padilla
 - Congressman Mark Takano
 - Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
 - Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard
 - Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
 - Congressman David Valadao
 - Congressman Mike Garcia

- Joined by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) & The Campaign for College Opportunity

- Next Steps: Continue to engage with Congressional members and staff around expansion of the Pell Grant





Other Key Federal Updates

- **Expansion of Second Chance Pell** – U.S. Department of Education announced that it will increase the number of sites participating in the program, bringing the total up to 200 participating colleges or universities
- **Change to Financial Aid Verification** – U.S. Department of Education announced that they would be revising their implementation of additional flexibility that was provided in July for the financial aid verification process for the 2021-22 academic year and would not maintain those guidelines for the 2022-23 year