



State & Federal Legislative Update

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CSAC-Sponsored Legislation

AB 1746 (Medina & McCarty – Senator Leyva Principal Coauthor)



Summary: Reforms the Cal Grant Program through adoption of the Cal Grant Equity Framework set forth by the Commission.

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Sponsors:

- CSAC
- Fix Financial Aid Coalition
 - Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC)
 - California State Student Association (CSSA)
 - UC Student Association (UCSA)
- Campaign for College Opportunity

Alignment with Policy Priorities:

- Maximize equitable public investment in CA students through financial aid.
- Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

AB 2286 (Irwin)

Summary: Authorizes CSAC to receive donations, bequests, grants, and philanthropic funding, subject to conditions or restrictions that the executive director of the commission may deem advisable, and subject to the approval of DOF.

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Position: Sponsor

Alignment with Policy Priorities:

- Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.



Legislation with Staff Support Recommendation

AB 2004 (Cristina Garcia)

Summary: Increases the total amount of DREAM Loan funding that a student can access to \$40,000. Currently, students cannot borrow more than \$20,000 in the aggregate under the DREAM Loan program from any one participating institution.

The most current bill fact sheet states the intent of the author to add the following items:

- Loan forgiveness programs mirror federal forgiveness programs
- Establish terms of discharging debt that mirror the federal programs under certain circumstances
- Require UC and CSU to provide additional reporting to the legislature.

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Sponsor: Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Alignment with Policy Priorities:

- Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.
- Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities comparable to their peers

AB 2810 (Arambula)

Summary: States the intent of the Legislature to codify the [U.S. DOE's Dear Colleague Letter GEN-22-02](#) issued on January 2022.

Additionally, it requires each CSU campus and each community college district to use FAFSA data to identify students who meet the income qualifications for CalFresh and send an email informing the student that they may qualify for the CalFresh program if the student can also meet a student eligibility rule exemption.

Status: Assembly Print

Alignment with Policy Priorities:

- Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.
- Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.).

SB 20 (Dodd)



Summary: A 2-year bill that requires CSAC to notify students that they may be eligible for CalFresh benefits under other exemptions other than TANF-funded Cal Grant.

Also requires CSAC to annually consult with stakeholders to implement.

Lastly, it requires the CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to create a form that can be used by students and administrators to verify that a student qualifies for a student eligibility rule exemption.

Status: Assembly Desk

Sponsor: Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization (CCWRO)

Alignment with Policy Priorities:

- Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.
- Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.).

SB 641 (Skinner)



Summary: Requires the CA Dept. of Social Services to do the following:

- Post on its website a list of programs that meet the employment & training exemption for CalFresh & instructions with specific guidance for county workers regarding processing applications, reporting, and recertification for additional students who are exempt from the student eligibility rule
- Convene a workgroup (CSAC included) to identify the steps necessary to establish a CalFresh application submission process that improves access to real-time information about applications submitted and accommodates the large influx of CalFresh applications during the beginning of a school term

Status: Assembly Desk

Alignment with Policy Priorities:

- Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.
- Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.).

SB 1141 (Limón)

Summary: Reduces the total years of full-time attendance in certain California schools, the years of full-time high school coursework in California, and the total years of attendance in California elementary schools and California secondary schools required from 3+ years to 2+ years in order to be eligible for in-state tuition rates via AB 540.

Status: Senate Education

Sponsor: CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

Alignment with Policy Priorities:

- Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.
- Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities comparable to their peers.

SJR 9 (Limón)

Summary: Recognizes October 12, 2021, as the 20th anniversary of AB 540. The measure also calls on the United States Congress to pass the American Families Plan and provide financial resources for undocumented students through the budget reconciliation process, and to adopt comprehensive immigration reform.

Status: Senate Education (3/9/2022)

Position: Support

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

- Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities comparable to their peers.



Legislation with Direct Impact to the Commission

AB 1290 (Lee)



Summary: Requires the Commission to include four student members, one from each of the following: UC, CSU, CCC, and a California private postsecondary institution.

Status: Senate Education

Sponsor: Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC)

Position: Watch

AB 1633 (Seyarto)



Summary: Starting with the 2023-24 academic year, the CSU would have to electronically share to CalVet specific personal information regarding each student whose tuition/fees are paid (or are intended to be paid) using GI Bill educational benefits.

Also requires, on or before June 1, 2023, CSAC to develop a template for a written consent that permits a student to opt in to having the student's person information shared with CalVet.

Status: Assembly Privacy & Consumer Protections

Position: Watch

AB 2222 (Reyes)

Summary: Establishes the Golden State Social Opportunities Program until 2027 for CSAC to administer and provide grants (up to \$20,000) to students enrolled in an in-state postgraduate program and who commit to working in a California-based nonprofit eligible setting for their required post degree hours of supervised experience.

Grants priority to current/former foster youth & homeless youth

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Sponsor: California Coalition for Youth

Position: Watch

AB 2263 (Villapudua)



Summary: Establishes the Golden State Apprenticeship and Vocational Training Emergency Assistance Grant Program under the administration of CSAC to provide one-time grants of \$1,000 to \$3,000 to California residents in financial need, as determined by the commission, who meet certain requirements for purposes of paying educational-related expenses associated with the eligible recipient's state-approved apprenticeship or vocational program of participation.

Status: Assembly Higher Education
Position: Watch

AB 2437 (Boerner Horvath)



Summary: Establishes the California Pay Our Interns Program administered by CSAC, to provide stipends to eligible recipients participating in unpaid internships at offices of the Legislature, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or any state agency/department.

Status: Assembly Print

Sponsor: Pay Our Interns

Position: Watch

AB 2489 (Salas)



Summary: Establishes the Neighborhood Teacher Incentive Grant Program for CSAC to administer and provide grants to local educational agencies for the purpose of providing awards to teachers who agree to reside within the attendance boundaries of a priority school in which they are assigned to teach for at least five years.

Status: Assembly Print

Position: Watch

AB 2572 (Blanca Rubio)

Summary: Currently a spot bill related to the provision about the commission's structure. However, the author's office has expressed their intent to amend it to establish the Adult Learners Grant Program Act for CSAC to administer, which provides grants to students enrolled solely in distance education courses at either California public postsecondary institutions and private postsecondary institutions operating as a nonprofit.

Status: Assembly Print

Position: Watch

AB 2652 (McCarty)

Summary: Currently a spot bill, but the author's office has expressed their intent to amend this bill and include recommendations from the CSAC CalFresh work group, potentially including provisions to:

- Establish a pilot program for regional hubs to process student CalFresh applications
- Establish a pilot food benefit program for CA Dream Act Application filers
- Direct colleges/universities to require local campus food service venues to accept CalFresh EBT cards

Status: Assembly Print

Position: Watch

AB 2880 (Bonta)



Summary: Extends the sunset date of the College Access Tax Credit (CATC) from 2023 to 2028.

Status: Assembly Print

Sponsor: California State Treasurer's Office

Position: Watch

SB 851 (Portantino)



Summary: Establishes the maximum tuition award amount at the same maximum tuition award amount for new Cal Grant recipients at private non-profit institutions from the prior year the same maximum tuition, adjusted by an amount equal to the CA Consumer Price Index.

Also allows a California Community College Expanded Entitlement Award recipient to transfer to an independent institution of higher education and remain eligible to receive the award.

Additionally, extends the Students with Dependent Children (SWDC) and the Foster Youth access awards to students attending a private non-profit institution of higher education.

Status: Senate Education (3/9/2022)

Sponsor: Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities (AICCU)

Position: Watch

SB 1341 (Cortese)



Summary: Currently a spot bill related to CalFresh. However, the author's office has expressed interest in turning this spot bill into a guaranteed basic income pilot program to address summer melt that CSAC would administer.

Status: Senate Rules

Position: Watch



Federal Update

H.R. 4521 – America COMPETES Act of 2022

(Rep. Eddie Johnson (D) – Texas)



Summary: Primarily addresses the United States/China trading relationship. However, it also includes the following higher education policy provisions:

- Expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to short-term programs at private nonprofit and public institutions, but not for-profit institutions
- Creation of a national postsecondary student unit record data system

Status: Passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on 2/4/2022

Next Steps: The Senate already passed its own version of a China trade bill, [S. 1260](#), sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer; Senate and House leadership will negotiate agreement to move forward for bicameral approval.

Pell Grant Expansion Proposal



Summary: At his State of the Union address on March 1, 2022, President Biden highlighted his Pell Grant proposal to:

- Increase the maximum Pell Grant award by \$2,000 (\$8,495 total)
- Extend Pell Grant eligibility to recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Next Steps: The administration could also utilize the annual appropriations process to further outline its priorities, with the White House now working on its budget request for fiscal year 2023 spending levels.