

Item 8

(Information Item)

Preparation for FAFSA and CADAA new completion requirements

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the implementation of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) new completion requirements pursuant to Education Code 51225.7 that was most recently amended by Assembly Bill 469 (AB 469), Chapter 560, Statutes of 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

AB 469 expressly authorized the Commission to adopt regulations to provide guidance on the state law requirements relating to the local educational agency's (LEA) handling of pupil and parent data related to the FAFSA and CADAA completion requirements. Education Code Section 51225.7 (f) specifies that: "[t]he Student Aid Commission shall, on or before July 1, 2022, adopt regulations that include, but are not limited to, model opt-out forms and acceptable use policies for the purpose of providing guidance on the requirements relating to state law in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e). The Student Aid Commission shall post and make available any model opt-out forms and policies established pursuant to this subdivision on its internet website."

Proposed regulations were developed to satisfy the amended provisions of the Education Code for the Commission to establish a model opt-out form for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and to establish a model acceptable use policy for data collected from these applications by local education agencies. See Text of Proposed Regulations.

On Friday, January 21, 2022, the Commission adopted the proposed regulations and authorized staff to complete the regulatory process, which includes opening a 45-day public comment period, preparing, and submitting all required documents to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and making any non-substantive changes to the regulations and supporting documentation as requested by OAL. The entire regulatory process to finalize the regulations including OAL's review and approval will take about six months which is around early July 2022.

In anticipation of the successful completion of the OAL review and filing with the Secretary of State, CSAC has begun efforts to prepare institutions, educators, parents,

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and students for the FAFSA and CADAA new completion requirements for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

The Program Outreach and Marketing team led by Michael Lemus and the Training team led by Leslie Matthews have identified several key events, conferences, and workshops to share this information.

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Workshops

Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC) Conference 2022

Dates: April 12-14, 2022

Audience: Counseling and enrollment professionals from California and Nevada.

Objective: The Commission's Training Team along with Executive Director, Marlene Garcia and Deputy Director, Tae Kang will provide a Pre-conference session that highlights the Financial Aid Completion Requirement, best practices for LEAs and FAFSA/CADAA training.

2022 College Affordability Summit

Dates: April 20-21, 2022

Audience: K-12 school, district, and county level board members, administrators, school counselors and teachers. College and university leadership, student affairs staff, equity officers, outreach partners and policy advocates.

Objective: The Summit will gather K-12 and higher education professionals and advocates to create forums and address equity and access barriers to financial aid for students. Attendees will explore ways to bridge policy and practice, create partnerships across the state, and walk away with strategies to increase financial aid awareness and college affordability.

CSAC Statewide Cash for College Webinars

Dates: CSAC will be hosting the last two events for 2022 – 2023 and will have the opportunity to share FAFSA and CADAA new completion requirements for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Audience: California Community College Students as the deadline for Cal Grant consideration is September 2nd for them.

Objective: The Cash for College Statewide webinars educate students and their families on the financial aid process, including how to fill out the FAFSA and CADAA and will provide an opportunity for students and their families to receive live assistance in completing both applications via Zoom Q&A and a phone hotline.

Upcoming

- Date: April 13, 2022
- Time: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

- Date: May 18, 2022
- Time: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

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Upcoming Messaging and Social Media Campaigns

CSAC has started to develop future messaging and marketing collateral to support partners. Collateral regarding FAFSA and CADAA new completion requirements will be developed for institutions, educators, parents, and students.

Upon approval of the proposed regulations, CSAC will release a Grant Operations Memo (GOM) to High Schools announcing the website with the model opt-out form for local educational agencies to document grade 12 pupils who elect not to submit or are determined to be exempt from submitting a FAFSA or CADAA and a model acceptable use policy for the secure handling of parent, guardian, and pupil personal information gathered by local education agencies.

In addition, Program Outreach and Marketing will develop collateral, create campaigns, and disseminate information utilizing various multi-media tools. These tools include but are not limited to the following:

- Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn
- Social Media Toolkit
- Educator Toolkits
- Vodcasts
- Podcasts
- Targeted Advertising
- Video Campaigns
- Text messaging
- Direct marketing

Commission staff is evaluating technology resources including enhancements to existing high school reports, the Race to Submit Dashboard and additional tools for LEAs to track FAFSA/CADAA completion.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Terry Artica, Assistant Deputy Director
Program Administration and Services Division

Michael Lemus, Program Outreach and Marketing Manager
Executive Office

Tae Kang, Deputy Director
Program Administration and Services Division

ATTACHMENT(S):

Preparation for FAFSA and CADAA New Completion Requirements Presentation
Presented on March 10, 2022