

CSAC



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

California Dream Act Application Update

STUDENT IMPACT, OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Undocumented Student Affordability Workgroup



June – Nov 2022

- CSAC/The Raben Group convened workgroup
- Comprised of CSAC Commissioners, CSAC staff, financial aid administrators, Legal service organizations, undocu student liaisons, students, policy experts
- Discuss challenges undocu students face in the financial aid process
- Identify targeted solutions to streamline and expand financial aid opportunities at each step

March 2023

- *Report published, ["Renewing the Dream – Improving Financial Aid and College Affordability for California's Undocumented Students"](#)*

CADAA Enhancements: Primary Drivers

CADAA Enhancements



FAFSA Changes



CADAA Rollout: Current Status

CADAA ENHANCEMENTS

Requirements

Design

Development

User Testing

Rollout
(same day as FAFSA)

- Question and Help text (Finalized)
- Application Logic (In progress)
- Final versions of Cal ISIR layout (ISIR layout finalized on 11/27/23)



CADAA

Enhancements



Text Message Opt-In

The screenshot shows a web form with a navigation bar at the top containing icons and labels for 'Student', 'Spouse', 'Parent', 'Other Parent', and 'Sign & Submit'. Below the navigation bar is a grey bar with an 'Auto Hint' toggle switch. A row of blue buttons with red exclamation marks indicates required sections: 'Personal Identifiers', 'Personal Circumstances', 'Demographics', 'Financials', 'Colleges', and 'AB540 Affidavit'. A dark grey header section is titled 'STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION'. Below this, there is a label 'Your PHONE NUMBER' with an information icon, followed by a text input field containing '(555) 555-5555'. At the bottom, a question asks: 'Would you like to Opt-in to receive text messages from CSAC on important financial aid reminders and updates? You may Opt-out at any time.' with radio buttons for 'Yes' (selected) and 'No', and an information icon.

CSAC Use Only - Not Shared with Schools

- Financial aid reminders and updates sent via text message
- Allows CSAC to reach students through more direct means

Race/Ethnicity/Gender

Student Spouse Parent Other Parent Sign & Submit

Auto Hint

Personal Identifiers ! Personal Circumstances ! Demographics ! Financials ! Colleges ! AB540 Affidavit !

RACE/ETHNICITY/GENDER/LANGUAGE

The answer to this question is optional and will not affect your eligibility for financial aid, or be shared with schools. It will be strictly used for CSAC research purposes only.

What is your gender, or gender that you identify with? *

Male
 Female
 Nonbinary
 Prefer not to answer

What is the student's race/ethnicity? Select all that apply. *

Asian
 Black or African descent
 Filipino
 Hispanic/Latino descent
 Pacific Islander
 White
 Prefer not to answer

CSAC Use Only - Not Shared with Schools

- Optional –students can select “Prefer not to answer”
- Answers will not impact a student’s financial aid eligibility
- Used for CSAC Research Purposes Only

Primary Language Spoken at Home

What is the student's primary language spoken at home? * ⓘ

- Arabic
- Armenian
- Cantonese, Mandarin
- Farsi
- Filipino (Tagalog)
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Japanese
- Korean
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Spanish
- Vietnamese
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

CSAC Use Only - Not Shared with Schools

- Optional –students can select “Prefer not to answer”
- Answers will not impact a student’s financial aid eligibility
- Used for CSAC Research Purposes Only
- Will allow CSAC to develop future communication and outreach campaigns in multiple languages

Interested in Dream Act Service Incentive Grant

Student Spouse Parent Other Parent Sign & Submit

Auto Hint

Personal Identifiers ! Personal Circumstances ! Demographics ! Financials ! **Colleges !** AB540 Affidavit !

STUDENT SCHOOL CHOICES

Are you interested in being considered for the California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) Program? ⓘ

Yes

No

Don't Know

Answer Shared with Colleges

- Promote one of CSAC's newest programs, catering to CADAA filers
- Responses are captured and shared with selected college(s)
- CSAC DSIG staff and colleges can send targeted outreach efforts to interested students
- Students can still apply for DSIG if they initially indicate "No" or "Don't Know" on CADAA

AB 540 Affidavit

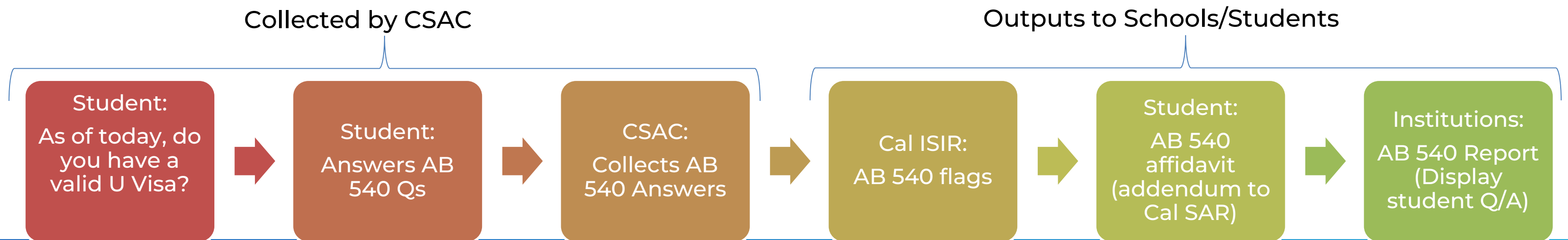
[Assembly Bill 1540](#)

- 09/07/2023: Passed in Senate (40 – 0)
- 09/12/2023: Passed in Assembly (70 – 1)
- 10/08/2023: Governor Newsom signed into law

What does bill do?

- Integrate AB 540 affidavit questions into CADAA application
- Addresses a common barrier in the financial aid process – missing affidavit
- Sets the stage for a more streamlined process – one less step students need to take
- Responses are captured and shared only with selected colleges
- Sharing of affidavit within the college is allowed (i.e. other departments that require it)
- Goal = ensure students are not required to submit multiple affidavits
- Colleges will continue to be the final arbiters of AB 540 eligibility

How will it function?



Parent Signature Process

23/24 and Prior	24/25
Student Signs CADAA	Student Signs CADAA
Student logs out	Parent signature captured within same login session (No PIN needed)
Parent applies or requests for Parent PIN	CADAA is considered complete
Parent signs CADAA using 4-digit PIN	
CADAA is considered complete	

Other key points

- Parent signature “card” will remain
- Reducing the frequency of parental signature data is changed –only when parental



Parent and student are present

A Parent signature is required for your CA Dream Act Application to be fully processed. Please read the two options below and select the one that applies to you: * ⓘ

- My parent/legal guardian can provide their signature now.
- I will submit my application now and will provide my parent signature later. I understand that my CA Dream Act Application will remain incomplete and will not be processed for financial aid consideration until my parent electronically signs my application.

Select the parent signing the application*

- JESSIE PARENT
- JORDAN PARENT

READ BEFORE PROCEEDING

You agree, if asked, to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form. This information may include U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file. Also, you certify that you understand that the State of California has the authority to verify information reported on this application with the Internal Revenue Service.

If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be subject to significant financial penalties, sent to prison, or both.

- I am affirming that the information listed on the "Parent" section of my child's California Dream Act application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that it is illegal to report false or misleading information. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Parent Signature

Parent Signature

Submit



Only student is present

- I will submit my application now and will provide my parent signature later. I understand that my CA Dream Act Application will remain incomplete and will not be processed for financial aid consideration until my parent electronically signs my application.



Submit button enabled for student submission



Parent signature captured using Parent Signature Card



PARENT SIGNATURE

- Request a parent PIN
- Forgot your parent PIN?
- Sign the student application

Submit



CADAA Verification

- 01 CSAC randomly selects **20%** of CADAA filers for verification. This has remained unchanged since 2013
- 02 Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Federal Student Aid has adjusted their algorithm, and is selecting **fewer FAFSAs** for verification. Downward trend is likely to continue for the 2024-25 application year
- 03 Verification as an **administrative burden?** Numerous studies on FAFSA verification have shown minimal changes to eligibility when selected for verification
- 04 CADAA will not rely on financial tax data being imported automatically. Students will continue to enter information manually. **Some level of CADAA verification is still necessary**
- 05 CSAC is evaluating the CADAA verification process – **Reduce the percentage of CADAA applicants selected for verification**

