

**California Student Aid Commission  
Student Impact Committee**

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## **Item 4**

### **(Information Item)**

#### Cal-SOAP Project Directors Report

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**SUMMARY:**

This item provides an update on Cal-SOAP summer activities, including efforts to address Summer Melt during the COVID-19 pandemic. Project directors will discuss summer activities and services since the transition to a virtual environment and plans for how they will engage students throughout the year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information item; no action required.

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) was created to increase accessibility of postsecondary educational opportunities for students who are from low-income families, first in their families to attend college, students who are from schools or geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or low college participation rates, and students who are homeless youth in various communities throughout California.

Since March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cal-SOAP operations transitioned to a virtual environment. The change in environment drastically impacted student engagement and caused greater concern for summer melt. Summer melt refers to students who have the intention to go to college but fail to show up. Every year, Cal-SOAP's plan summer activities and provide follow-up services for students to prevent summer melt. This year it was imperative to reach out to students and provide additional support for successfully enrolling in college. In addition to scheduled summer activities, Cal-SOAP's made phone calls, sent text messages and met with students via virtual platforms to support first-generation, low-income students to successfully enroll in college. Project directors will discuss their efforts to reduce summer melt, lessons learned and future goals.

**RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):**

Yesenia Castellon, Cal SOAP Coordinator  
Executive Office

Cindy Porter, Higher Education Pathways Manager  
North Coast Cal SOAP Program Director

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

CSAC Cal-SOAP Summer Melt 2020