



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

May 01, 2024

GSA 2024-29

TO: High School Counselors
Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: CADAA Option for Mixed Status Families – Continuing Students

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update on the new California Dream Act Application (CADAA) Option for Mixed Status Families as communicated in [GSA 2024-23](#).

CADAA Option Availability for Continuing Students

The first phase of the new CADAA option was intended for first-time applicants. This update expands the availability of the CADAA to include continuing students, defined as students with an incomplete 2024-25 FAFSA or students with an existing CSAC account from a prior year.

Although access to the CADAA has been expanded to FAFSA filers, filing of a CADAA is not needed in all cases, nor is it a requirement that all FAFSA filers complete a CADAA. Students who can successfully complete and submit a FAFSA application with no issues, should not complete a CADAA. The CADAA does not provide access to federal student aid. However, students who continue to experience challenges in successfully completing the FAFSA, which have been students whose contributor(s) do not have a Social Security Number, may choose to submit a CADAA to receive a Student Aid Index (SAI) for campuses to estimate financial aid awards for the 2024-25 academic year.

The Commission continues to emphasize that FAFSA filers who complete a CADAA, should continue to pursue the StudentAid.gov account creation. The Federal Student Aid (FSA) has simplified the identify verification process and made it easier for contributors without Social Security Numbers to successfully complete the 2024-25 FAFSA. Please refer to the updated guidance from Federal Student Aid on accessing the [FAFSA for individuals without a Social Security Number](#).

ISIR Statuses and Meeting the State Priority Deadline

As the Commission continues to receive FAFSA data through Institutional Student Information Records (ISIR), we will utilize the completed FAFSA with valid SAI for state financial aid consideration. FAFSA applications where the student has

signed their portion, retain their “Date Application Received.” This includes rejected applications where no SAI is generated. The “Date Application Received” does not change with subsequent corrections and it’s the date the Commission uses to verify meeting the state priority deadline of May 2nd. Should a student complete a CADAA prior to the state priority deadline and submit a FAFSA after the deadline, the Commission will accept the date the CADAA was submitted and treat it as the “Date Application Received” for state aid purposes.

At this time, there is no need for schools to submit G-55 conversion applications for FAFSA filers who have completed a CADAA MSF. The Commission is working on an automated process to convert CADAA MSF applicants to the FAFSA and will provide additional details on this process in a future communication.

Appeals Process

For students that are impacted by technical issues preventing them from submitting the FAFSA or CADAA by the May 2 deadline, the Commission will allow them to submit an appeal through the customary process found here: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/cal-grant-appeals-g-18-form>. An updated G-18 appeal form will be made available after May 2 and will include a new category that addresses the application’s technical issues.

Need to contact us?

- School Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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