

## **RE: Assembly Bill (AB) 2160 (Ting): Cal Grant Program and Opt Out Option**

Dear Parent/Guardian or Adult Student:

There has been a recent update to the Cal Grant Program. Below you will find an overview of the Cal Grant Program, information regarding the update, and how it affects you and your student.

### **Cal Grant Program Overview:**

A Cal Grant is money for college that you do not have to pay back. To qualify, students must meet the eligibility and financial requirements as well as minimum grade point average (GPA) requirements. Cal Grants can be used at any University of California, California State University, or California Community College, as well as qualifying independent career colleges or technical schools in California. There are three types of Cal Grants – A, B, and C. To determine which Cal Grant you are eligible for, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) takes into consideration, your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) responses, your verified Cal Grant GPA, the type of California College the student plans to attend, and the high school graduation status.

**Note:** The FAFSA is separate from the Cal Grant submission, and must be filed by March 2, 2017.

### **Cal Grant Program Update:**

Assembly Bill (AB) 2160 has made an update to the Cal Grant Program. The California Student Aid Commission is now requiring that **all students** enrolled in grade 12 in a California public school, including charter schools, be **deemed a Cal Grant applicant**, unless the parent or the grade 12 adult student (at least 18 years of age) opts out. Starting **November 1, 2016**, AVUHSD schools will begin electronically submitting GPA verification for all seniors to the CSAC, this will override the blanket authorization release in InfoSnap. Only those who opt out in writing, are exempt from being a Cal Grant applicant. **Note:** To ensure successful submission, ALL STUDENT INFORMATION IN POWERSCHOOL MUST BE CURRENT.

Social security numbers shall not be included in the information submitted to CSAC. However, if the CSAC determines that a social security number is required to complete the application for financial aid, the school, school district, or charter school, may obtain permission from the parent/guardian or adult student, to submit this information to the CSAC.

### **Parent/Guardian (education rights holder) or Adult Student:**

If you would like yourself or your student to have the opportunity to receive Cal Grant funds for their higher education goals, you do not have to respond to this notice; he or she is automatically deemed a Cal Grant applicant. *Note: Until a student turns 18 years of age, only a parent or guardian may opt the student out. Once the student turns 18 years of age, only the pupil may opt himself or herself out. If a student becomes an adult prior to the conclusion of the notification period (November 1, 2016), the student may opt in, over the prior decision of a parent or guardian to opt out.*

If you do not wish for yourself or your student to be a Cal Grant applicant, **YOU MUST OPT OUT BY November 1, 2016**. Please do so by completing the form on the back of this letter, and returning it to your school's Guidance Office.

Thank you,

Site Guidance Team

# 2016-2017 Cal Grant **OPT OUT** form

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is now requiring that **all** students enrolled in grade 12 in a California public school, including charter schools, be deemed a Cal Grant applicant, unless the parent or the grade 12 adult student (at least 18 years of age) opts out. Starting November 1, 2016, AVUHSD schools will begin electronically submitting GPA verification for all seniors to the CSAC, except for those who have chosen to opt-out.

If you do not wish for yourself or your student to be a Cal Grant applicant, you must OPT OUT by **November 1, 2016**. To opt out, complete the form below and return it to your school's **Guidance Office**.

I am an adult student, and I would like to OPT OUT of being automatically deemed a Cal Grant applicant.

I am a parent or guardian of the student below, and would like to OPT OUT my son or daughter from being automatically deemed a Cal Grant applicant.

Student Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing below I am indicating that I understand that OPTING OUT is required in order for me/my student to not be deemed a Cal Grant recipient. I also understand that by OPTING OUT, I make myself ineligible to receive a Cal Grant award (free money for college).**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian/Education Rights Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student (*If adult student*)

**PLEASE RETURN THIS OPT OUT FORM TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE**