



# SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA



## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

January 31, 2017

GSA 2017-04

TO: Financial Aid Administrators  
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler   
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **2017-18 California Dream Act Joint Letter (Revised)**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) notifies financial aid administrators and high school counselors of a joint press release from the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Commission. This letter emphasized the difference between the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, while reassuring Dreamers they are still able to receive financial aid.

The letter explained that the California Dream Act is a state law, separate and distinct from the federal DACA program. Regardless of what happens at federal level, state financial aid for Dreamers remains legal in California. The letter also highlighted:

- Losing DACA status will not affect most state financial aid
- Dream Act students do not need to be DACA-certified
- Eligible students are able to receive state financial aid while attending colleges in California
- CADAA is only used to determine eligibility for state financial aid and is **not** shared with the federal government or used for immigration enforcement purposes

The joint message can be found on our News Releases web portal located at [http://www.csac.ca.gov/NEWS/california\\_dream\\_act\\_application.pdf](http://www.csac.ca.gov/NEWS/california_dream_act_application.pdf)

The California Dream Act Application (CADAA) deadline for Cal Grants is **March 2, 2017**. After the March 2 deadline students can continue to fill out the CADAA for other financial aid such as institutional aid, fee waivers, grants and scholarships. All eligible students are encouraged to apply. The CADAA can be accessed at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Institutional Support.

### Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
- E-mail: [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)

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