Financial Aid

The colleges of the District offer both federal and state Financial Aid programs.

Federal Student Financial Assistance Program (Title IV) includes:
- Pell Grants;
- Direct Student Loan Program;
- Work Study;
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG); and
- other federal grants and scholarships.

State funded programs include:
- College Promise Grant (formerly known as the BOG Fee Waiver);
- Cal Grants;
- CalWORKS; and
- other special grants and scholarships.

The colleges provide up-to-date information on:
- application procedures, including deadlines;
- student eligibility;
- payment procedures;
- overpayment recovery;
- accounting requirements; and
- satisfactory academic progress.

Misrepresentation

Misrepresentation is defined as any false, erroneous, or misleading statement that the District, a representative of the District, or a service provider with which the District has contracted to provide educational programs, marketing, advertising, recruitment, or admission services, makes directly or indirectly to a student, prospective student, a member of the public, an accrediting agency, a state agency, or the United States Department of Education.

A misleading statement includes any statement that has the likelihood or tendency to deceive or confuse. If a person to whom the misrepresentation was made could reasonably be expected to rely, or has reasonably relied, on the misrepresentation, the misrepresentation would be substantial.

This procedure does not apply to statements by students through social media outlets or by vendors that are not providing covered services, as reflected herein.

Loss of Eligibility for California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the BOG Fee Waiver)

A student shall become ineligible for a California College Promise Grant if the student is placed on academic or progress alert, or any combination thereof, for two consecutive primary terms. Loss of eligibility shall become effective at the first registration opportunity after such determination is made.

The District shall notify students of their placement on academic or progress alert no later than 30 days following the end of the term that resulted in the student's placement on alert. The notification must clearly

state that two consecutive primary terms of alert will lead to a loss of the California College Promise Grant until the student is no longer on alert. The notification must also advise students about available student support services to assist them in maintaining eligibility.

The District shall adopt, prominently display, and disseminate policies/procedures ensuring that students are advised about the student support services available to assist them in maintaining and reestablishing California College Promise Grant eligibility. Dissemination includes, but is not limited to, information provided in college catalogs and class schedules.

A student seeking to appeal the loss of a California College Promise Grant due to extenuating circumstances must complete and submit the Registration Appointment and California College Promise Grant Appeal form which is available in person or online from the college Admissions and Records Office or website. Extenuating circumstances are verified cases of accidents, illness, or other circumstances that might include documented changes in the student's economic situation or evidence that the student was unable to obtain essential student support services. Extenuating circumstances also include special consideration of the specific factors associated with Veterans, CalWORKS, EOPS, and DSPS student status.

Foster Youth shall not be subject to loss of the California College Promise Grant due to placement on academic or progress alert. This exemption for Foster Youth is effective until the date specified in the California Education Code, Section 66025.9(c).

Students Enrolled in a Baccalaureate Degree Program

Students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program who wish to apply for a California College Promise Grant (CCPG) waiver must submit either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act application in lieu of completing the CCPG application.

Scholarship Displacement

The District shall not reduce the award package of a student who is eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant award, a Cal Grant award, or financial assistance under the California Dream Act for an academic year as a result of private scholarship awards designated for the student unless the student's award package exceeds the student's annual cost of attendance. The District shall not consider receipt or anticipated receipt of private scholarships when considering a student who is eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant award, a Cal Grant award, or financial assistance under the California Dream Act for qualification for institutional aid.

Conflict of Interest

An employee shall not have a conflict of interest with respect to any student financial aid program for which the employee has responsibility. No employee may process any transaction (packaging, adjusting, or disbursing aid) related to their own personal financial aid eligibility or that of a relative. Should an employee or employee's family member be eligible for financial aid, another staff member shall process all related transactions.

Separation of Duties

In compliance with federal regulations, the colleges separate the functions of authorizing financial aid payments and disbursement of financial aid funds between the college financial aid offices and the District Accounting Office. This serves to reduce the risk of inappropriate action and ensure that no single office or individual exercises both functions for any student receiving financial aid program funds.

20 U.S.C., Sections 1070 et seq.
34 CFR, Section 668
California Education Code, Sections 66021.3, 66021.6, 66025.9, 69432.7, 69514, 70045 et seq., 76300, 78042, 94912.5
Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 55031 and 58600 et seq.
U.S. Department of Education Regulations on the Integrity of Federal Student Financial Aid Programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Historical Annotation:
Related Board Policy:
Board Policy 3023

Adopted: 1/20/04
Revised 5/4/11, 5/27/14, 6/7/16, 6/22/21, 9/19/23, 3/31/26