

EL CAMINO REAL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

A California Distinguished School

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Dear 11th Grade Parent or Guardian,

This is an exciting stage in your student's educational career as senior year is fast approaching and countless opportunities exist after completing high school. This may include pursuing post-secondary education at a college, university, vocational or technical school, etc. Our dedicated teachers, counselors, and administrators will provide guidance and support with selecting and applying to the various institutions. To assist with covering the cost of post-secondary education, we strongly encourage all 12th grade students to apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Completion of the FAFSA is necessary in order to qualify for federal aid such as grants, work study, and loans. Students who were brought to the United States under the age of 16 without proper visas/immigration documentation can apply for financial aid by completing the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The window for 12th grade students to begin completing the FAFSA and CADAA opens every Fall semester.

California students who complete the FAFSA or CADAA may receive the Cal Grant based on their financial and academic eligibility. Cal Grants are monies for post-secondary education that does not have to be repaid. The state of California realizes that some students may not apply for financial aid. As a result, high schools must notify 11th grade students and parents by January 1st (per California Ed Code 69432.9) that they have the opportunity to "opt-out" of being automatically considered as a Cal Grant applicant. 11th grade students who do not "opt-out" will have their verified GPA submitted to the California Student Aid Commission during their senior year to be considered for a Cal Grant award (per Assembly Bill 2160).

We discourage students and parents from opting out of the process as millions of Cal Grant dollars are awarded every year to those who assumed they didn't qualify. However, if a student or parent chooses to "opt-out", an official form must be submitted. If the student is a minor, the form must be completed by the parent or guardian. The form can be obtained from the student's counselor. The deadline for 11th grade students or parents to submit the "opt-out" form to their college counselor is the last day of the school year.

Please contact your student's college counselor if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important part of your student's 11th grade year.