Students with Dependent Children (SWD) FAQs

Eligibility

1. **How is a "dependent child" defined?**

   According to Article 9. *Awards for Students with Dependent Children*, section 69465, in Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, a "dependent child" or "dependent children" means a child or children, as applicable, under 18 years of age whose parent or legal guardian is the student and if the child or all the children collectively receive more than 50 percent of their support from the student.

   A parent is defined as someone who has a biological and/or legally adopted child.

   A legal guardian is defined as someone other than the child's biological parent who accepts legal responsibility for the child.

2. **A student had a child during the 2024-25 academic year, are they eligible for the SWD increase?**

   No, to qualify for the SWD award in the 2024-25 academic year, the student must have a qualifying dependent child born prior to July 1, 2024. A child born during the 2024-25 academic year will count toward 2025-26 SWD eligibility.

3. **Will students who complete the CA Dream Act Application also be considered for SWD?**

   Yes, students who complete the CA Dream Act Application will also be considered for SWD.

4. **Which Cal ISIR/ISIR transaction will be used to determine initial eligibility?**

   The most recent, complete Cal ISIR/ISIR (with SAI) will be used to determine initial eligibility.

5. **Will CSAC reconsider a student for SWD if there are changes that now make the student potentially eligible for SWD?**

   Yes, if the student has a Cal Grant award, CSAC will reconsider the student for SWD. These changes must be indicated on the FAFSA or CA Dream Act

Students with Dependent Children (SWD) FAQs

Application so that the student can be reprocessed using the latest ISIR/Cal ISIR. Once those changes are made, an institution must submit a grant record change (G-21) indicating in the 'REASON' section to reconsider the student using the ISIR that reflects the changes for the student. Also, include whether the school has determined eligibility, i.e., 'the student is eligible for SWD'. Record change requests will be processed bi-weekly, at which time, institutions will be able to process SWD payments.

Students also have the option to submit a Confirmation of Eligibility for Students with Dependents (G-60) form to CSAC to have SWD reinstated. This does not process the student for payment. Reinstatement requests will be processed bi-weekly, at which time, institutions will be able to process SWD payments.

6. **Can SWD be awarded to students who have the <u>same</u> dependent child/children under the age of 18?**

   Yes, if both students meet the criteria for Cal Grant eligibility, they will be eligible for the SWD grant if they both have enough unmet need.

7. **Does SWD eligibility rollover?**

   No, SWD eligibility is based on the corresponding Cal Grant award year.

8. **Once certified, does the SWD certification rollover into the next academic year?**

   No, the certification is only valid for the current academic year. The student will have to re-certify every year.

9. **How do we pay SWD awards for students who are not meeting SAP?**

   Institutions should refer to their SAP policies.

10. **Which schools are eligible to receive SWD award?**

    Students attending University of California, California State University, California Community College, or Private Non-Profit institution are eligible.

Students with Dependent Children (SWD) FAQs

Reporting and Processing

1. **How will students get processed for SWD Awards?**

   Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, Cal Grant SWD awards will be processed under an opt-in model, as opposed to the opt-out model from prior years. This is in response to the recent Better FAFSA / Better CADAA changes that combine dependent children and other dependents in one question, while also removing the need to place payment holds on SWD student records.

2. **What is to be reported for students without an unmet or limited need?**

   An adjusted amount based on the student's unmet need should be reported.

3. **Can institutions report the SWD certified status via Grant Roster Batch Upload?**

   Institutions **will not** be able to certify the SWD certified status using the Grant Roster Batch Upload process.

4. **Are California Community Colleges able to pay Cal Grant A access awards?**

   Yes, if a student is SWD eligible, California Community Colleges can pay Cal Grant A access awards. Cal Grant A students attending a community college will appear on the Community College Reserve (CCR) section of the roster while their SWD certification is pending. Once certified as eligible for SWD, they will be moved to the eligible section of the roster, and the SWD access amount will become payable.

5. **Is the SWD code removed if a student certifies as not having dependent children under the age of 18?**

   Yes, once a student or institution has certified the student as NOT having dependent children, the system will set the SWD flag to 'N' for no, and the award amounts will remain at the base access amount.

6. **Can institutions view which students have certified "No" to having children under the age of 18, either through a report or a customized roster?**

   Yes, the 2024-25 Cal Grant Roster Data File includes a new field that displays the SWD certification completion date. Institutions can use this information to identify students who had SWD certifications completed within a certain period and post payment adjustments for the increased SWD access award for eligible students as applicable. On the roster, students who confirmed as no will have an 'N' value for the SWD Flag Field, as well as a 'Y' value for the SWD Confirmed Flag field.

Students with Dependent Children (SWD) FAQs

Institutions can also customize their roster to locate students who have been verified as eligible for the SWD award and have been paid. To view a training video on customizing a Cal Grant roster, visit our training videos library at https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/training-videos.

Student with Dependent	☑ Yes ☐ No
Student with Dependent Confirmation	☑ Yes ☐ No
Asset Hold Flag	☐ On Hold ☐ Release from Hold ☐ Not On Hold
Payment Status	☑ Paid ☐ Unpaid

7. **How do institutions handle conflicting information?**
Institutions are required to resolve any conflicting information prior to distributing funds, including SWD increased access portion. If the student is no longer eligible for SWD after having initially been certified by the student/institution, institutions can now use the Grant Application-MG21 screen in WebGrants to have the SWD status flag changed.

8. **How can institutions customize their roster to view which students have (or have NOT) certified their SWD eligibility?**
The "Customize Roster" screen in WebGrants (WebGrants > Roster/Reconciliation> Customize Roster) includes a flag which provides the status of the student's SWD certification. A value of 'Y' indicates that the SWD eligibility has been confirmed and the payment hold has been released. A value of 'N' indicates that the certification is still pending (see Figure 2). Rosters can now be customized in WebGrants based on this flag to allow users to view students who have (or have NOT) confirmed their SWD status (see Figure 3 and Figure 4).

Figure 1: 2023-2024 SWD Award Amounts by Enrollment Status

Enrollment Status	Eligibility Used	SWD Award Amount ($6,000)
FT – Semester	50%	$3,000
FT – Quarter	33.33%	$2,000
TT – Semester	37.50%	$2,250
TT – Quarter	25%	$1,500
HT – Semester	25%	$1,500
HT – Quarter	16.67%	$1,000

Students with Dependent Children (SWD) FAQs

Figure 2: Online Roster SWD Confirmation Flag

Figure 3: Customize Roster – Add New Data Element

From the "Data Elements Available" field, select "SWD CONF", then select the "Add" button. Then once added, you may move to the next section of the Customize Roster Screen or save Roster Format on the bottom.
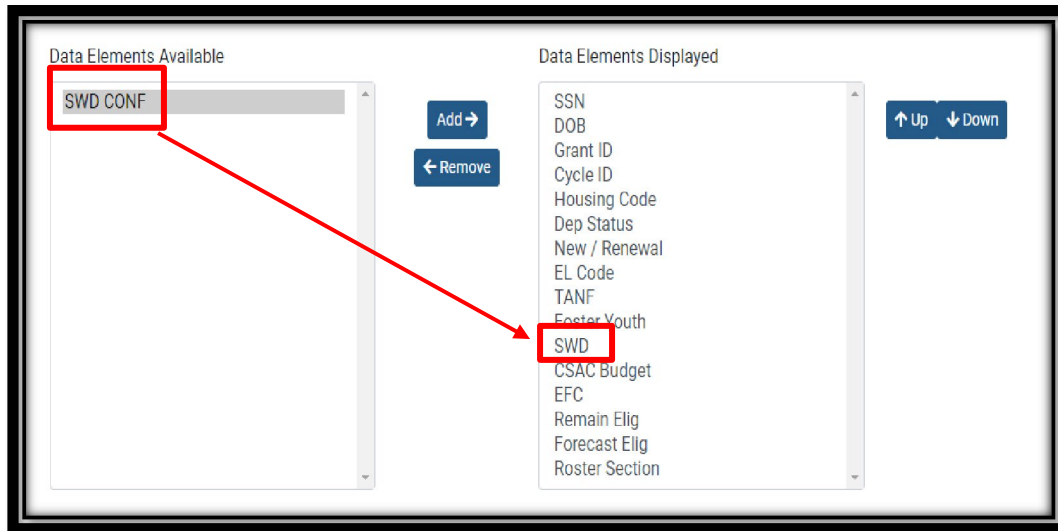
Students with Dependent Children (SWD) FAQs

Figure 4: Customize Roster – Updated Selection Criteria

To create a Custom Roster that only shows **SWD students who are still on hold** pending certification of their SWD eligibility, selecting 'Yes' checkbox from Student with Dependent and 'No' checkbox from Student with Dependent Confirmation fields respectively.

Student with Dependent	☑ Yes ☐ No
Student with Dependent Confirmation	☐ Yes ☑ No

To create a Custom Roster that only shows **SWD students who have certified** their SWD eligibility, select the 'Yes' checkbox from Student with Dependent and 'Yes' checkbox from Student with Dependent Confirmation fields respectively.

Student with Dependent	☑ Yes ☐ No
Student with Dependent Confirmation	☑ Yes ☐ No