



## Key Messages: Why Do We Need the GDSM Project?

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) receives legislative mandates every year which requires legislation and program changes that affects our current Grant Delivery System (GDS). Because the GDS system was built on business rules and processes that were established in the 1980s and 1990s, the system experiences limitations in scalability, security, performance, flexibility, integration, and business value.

Unfortunately, these limitations also affect students' ability to receive and take full advantage of their grants. Due to internet browser and device incompatibility, manual processing, and outdated business rules, students are not receiving their awards on time or do not know if they are eligible for grants. Additionally, GDS does not offer "self-service" requests to provide quick answers

and address basic demands. As a result, students depending on these financial aid are affected by these delays.

CSAC desperately needs the Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) Project to meet the growing needs of students and to ensure that college education is financially accessible to all Californians.

As a student-centered agency, CSAC seeks to build a system that would be an easily accessible, one-stop shop. Through the Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) Project, CSAC hopes to develop a system that:

- ◆ exemplifies current architectural methods
- ◆ integrates multiple programs
- ◆ reduces processing from staff

- ◆ accommodates changing demands from legislative, regulatory, and operational requirements
- ◆ provides interfaces to current technologies

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### 4 Issues That the GDSM Project Will Resolve

**1. Paper processes** will be limited as GDSM becomes paperless and fully automated to improve processing status and influence fast turn around.

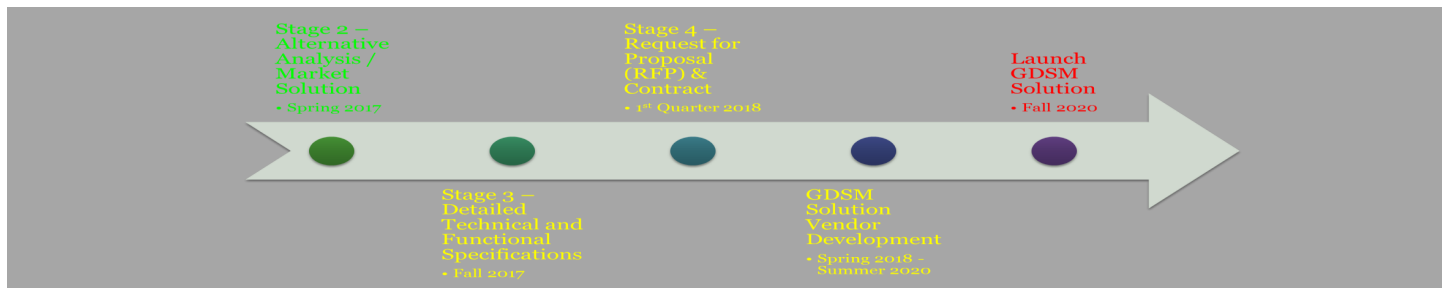
**2. Limited Data Security Risk** will change and become more reliable with role based security and history logging to trace account transactions.

**3. Obsolete and Disparate Systems** will be history as latest technologies are used to fully integrate business rules engine and process management.

**4. Responsibility and skills** will become more distinct and clear with specific user roles, responsibilities, and modern skill sets.

To inquire more information about the GDSM Project, visit the webpage: [http://www.csac.ca.gov/gdsm\\_project.htm](http://www.csac.ca.gov/gdsm_project.htm)

# Grant Delivery System Modernization Project Schedule



The Commission has completed and submitted Stage 2, Alternate Analysis/ Market Solution, to the Department of Technology (CDT) and the Department of Finance (DoF). Stage 2 was approved on May 23, 2017 and the project moves along towards Stage 3.

Staff and stakeholders are currently working on Stage 3 requirements for detailed, technical, and functional project requirements. Workshops for in June 2017,

and the Statement of Work (SOW), Request for Proposal (RFP), and Requirements will be submitted for approval.

Once the planning for Stage 3 has concluded, requirements will be submitted to CDT and DoF for review by November 10, 2017. After review and approval from CDT and DoF, the Commission can then submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) & Contract.

The GDSM Solution Vendor may take up to

24 months for configurations/development of the system. A planned pilot/trial run will be tested before the solution is fully launched in Fall 2020.

This schedule is a tentative timeline for the project delivery. The Commission will actively work on meeting all stage deadlines. To keep you informed with the most recent updates, please subscribe to the [GDSM List Serv.](#)

## Top Benefits of GDSM

- ◆ Step-by-step guides will support students during the financial aid application and renewal process.
- ◆ Early enrollment of FAFSA and State Financial Aid Programs gives families and students more time to choose a college based on costs and aid available.
- ◆ Students will be able to interact with system to understand which programs are beneficial and what next steps to take based on their specific situation.
- ◆ Tools such as calculators, loans, and scholarships will be available to help students determine college funds.
- ◆ There will be various ways of contacting the commission through webchat, text, phone, etc.
- ◆ The consolidation of all CSAC systems into one will result in better tracking, data management, and work flow efficiency.
- ◆ Better system will increase take rate of awards.
- ◆ System will efficiently generate metric reports that evaluate the project activities and facilitate campus' administration program.

*\*The list above contains planned benefits of GDSM.*

## GRANT DELIVERY SYSTEM 101

### Who operates the Grant Delivery System?

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is charged with the responsibility of ensuring effective and efficient administration of federal and state authorized financial aid programs. Since its creation by the Legislature as the State Scholarship Commission in 1955, the primary purpose CSAC has been to make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. The Program and Administrative Services Division (PASD) is the operational entity within CSAC that is responsible for implementing the grant programs as detailed in statute and regulated by the Commission.

### What is the purpose of the Grant Delivery System?

The Grant Delivery System (GDS) receives and processes the following information in order to determine student's financial aid program eligibility:

- ◆ Student academic grade point average (GPA)
- ◆ Financial information from the Free Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADA).

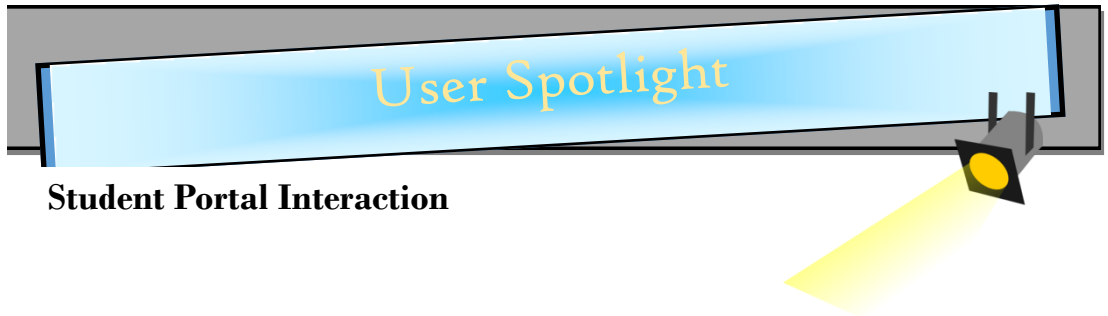
### How are students notified and awarded if they are eligible for a grant?

Based upon eligibility findings, a response is sent to the applicant with either an acknowledgement of an award or a rejection notice. If a student is awarded a grant:

- ◆ Notification of a student's payment eligibility is sent to the planned school of attendance.
- ◆ Schools are responsible for issuing payment & notifying CSAC.
- ◆ Students must submit a FAFSA or CADA every year and meet financial aid performance criteria in order to renew their grant.



CA Student Aid Commission



## Student Portal Interaction



**Name:** Austin

**Program:** Cal Grant A Recipient

**Education Level & Major:** incoming 4th year, Public Policy Major

**Favorite Part of College:** I enjoy the variety of classes I take. It's very empowering when I meet new people and hear different ideas and stories.

**Hobbies:** Swimming, eating, sleeping, hanging out with family and friends

**Challenges with WebGrants 4 Students:** When I have issues with my Cal Grant, it's hard for me to log in to my account because I need to use a specific laptop and web browser. This makes it hard for me and some of my friends who don't have access to these specific requirements.

**Improvements You Hope to See:** I just wish there is a way where students can use different smartphones, tablets, computers, and laptops to access WebGrants 4 Students. As students, we are always busy and trying to access things "on the go," so being able to use the website from our phones would be very helpful.

## Future Student Portal Interaction



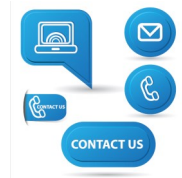
### Student Profile

Profiles will provide basic student information, school of attendance, education level, FAFSA/CADAA application status, financial aid, and etc.



### Application & Appeals

Portals will have direct links to Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act website and other sites to file appeals.



### Customer Service

Students will be able to automatically communicate with a live representative via webchat, text, social media, email, or phone.



### College Cost

Links/tools will be available for students to estimate cost of attendance for colleges.

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