



TO: Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Equity Deans and Coordinators

FROM: Rhonda Mohr
Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Support

RE: AB 943 - Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program Funds

On October 4, 2019, Governor Newsom signed AB 943 into law effective immediately. This legislation authorizes the use of funding for the Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program for the provision of emergency student financial assistance to eligible students to overcome unforeseen financial challenges that would directly impact a student's ability to persist in the student's course of study.

There are no additional SEA funds allocated for this purpose. It is up to each college to determine the amount of SEA funding it will designate for emergency student financial assistance, if any.

Colleges may wish to establish an emergency aid program if they do not already have one in place. AB 943 encourages colleges to consider their unique student population and needs before determining the amount and type of assistance, and the process for requesting and approving assistance. You may refer to the attached Emergency Aid Program Promising Practices document if desired. Please note that cross-departmental planning and communication is critical. And receipt of emergency funds must be reported to the Financial Aid Office for inclusion in financial aid packages.

Per Education Code §78220 (e)(3)(A), "Eligible student" means a student who has experienced an unforeseen financial challenge, who is making satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the college the student attends, and who is at risk of not persisting in the student's course of study due to the unforeseen financial challenge."

In order to use SEA Program funds for emergency student financial assistance, colleges must update their plan for interventions to students – see Education Code §78220 (e)(2). The Chancellor's Office is developing Title 5 regulations to help clarify what is meant by "plan for interventions to students." A college may use its Student Equity Plan for this purpose.

If your college chooses to use its Student Equity Plan to document using SEA program funds for emergency student financial assistance, please update the executive summary. This change should be included during the next update cycle of the NOVA Student Equity Plan – in June 2022. In addition, colleges should update any current policies and procedures that are related to an emergency aid program.

Educational Services

February 26, 2020

Each college is encouraged to monitor and evaluate its emergency financial assistance process during the 2020-21 academic year, and to make adjustments as needed in order to best serve its student population.

If you have any questions concerning this memo or the Promising Practices document, please contact Barbara Lezon, Specialist - Educational Services and Support, blezon@cccoco.edu or 916-323-5275.