How to Interpret the WinSCP FAFSA/CADAA Data Match

The instructions below are for County Offices of Education and Local Education Agencies that utilize the WinSCP secure file transfer system to verify financial aid application completion for foster and homeless students. The examples are intended to help users interpret the data match from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), troubleshoot issues, and ensure that students have successfully completed their applications. If you have questions about the examples provided or your data match, please contact Sarah Pauter at sarah@jbay.org.

Cal Grant Information

The Cal Grant is a California-specific financial aid grant that does not need to be paid back. Students must apply using the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) by the March 2nd deadline if planning on attending a four-year university or by September 2nd if planning on attending a California community college. Students must also meet additional eligibility requirements, including at least a 2.0 GPA, unless enrolled in a qualified Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Grants are for students attending Universities of California, California State Universities, California Community Colleges, or qualifying independent and career colleges or technical schools in California. For more information visit www.csac.ca.gov/cal-grants.

Example 1: GPA Submitted and Matched, Complete Application, Name and Date of Birth (DOB) Match, Cal Grant awarded.

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	Y	Yes	Y	Y	N

Action Needed: Follow up to ensure student creates a WebGrants for Students account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov and completes any pending items for the Cal Grant award.

Example 2: GPA Submitted and Matched, Complete Application, Cal Grant NOT awarded.

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	Y	Yes	N	Y	N

If a student has a complete financial aid application with a matched GPA, there are a few reasons why they could not be awarded a Cal Grant. For example, their income could be above the income/asset ceiling, or for Cal Grant A or B, their GPA could be too low. The minimum high school GPA for a Cal Grant A is 3.0, and the minimum high school GPA for a Cal Grant B is 2.0. There is no GPA requirement for Cal Grant C, which is for occupational or technical programs.

Action Needed: None

If a student with a GPA below the minimum requirements is applying for an occupational or technical program that does not have a GPA requirement but they do not list it correctly on their FAFSA or CADAA educational goals, then the student may need to submit an appeal to be reprocessed. The student should update their answer to the educational goal question on their application and then work with their school's financial aid office to be reprocessed.

Example 3: GPA Submitted and Matched, Complete Application, No Name and Date of Birth (DOB) Match, Cal Grant NOT awarded.

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	Y	Yes	N	N	N

FN_LN_DOB Match not found. FN_LN_DOB Match field is a secondary check that verifies the data sent by the counties and the GPA data submitted by the high schools. This mismatch can happen when the last name, first name or DOB do not match exactly. The match was still made using the SSID.

If a student has a complete financial aid application with a matched GPA, there are a few reasons why they could not be awarded Cal Grant. For example, their income could be above the income/asset ceiling, or for Cal Grant A or B, their GPA could be too low. The minimum high school GPA for a Cal Grant A is 3.0, and the minimum high school GPA for a Cal Grant B is 2.0. There is no GPA requirement for Cal Grant C, which is for occupational or technical programs.

Action Needed: No action is needed because a match was made with the GPA and the financial aid application.

If a student with a GPA below the minimum requirements is applying for an occupational or technical program that does not have a GPA requirement but they do not list it correctly on their FAFSA or CADAA educational goals, then the student may need to submit an appeal to be reprocessed. The student should update their answer to the educational goal question on their application and then work with their school's financial aid office to be reprocessed.

Example 4: GPA Submitted and Matched, Application Not Complete, Cal Grant NOT awarded.

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	Y	No SAI	N	Y	N

Action Needed: Instruct student to log in to their FAFSA (studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) or CADAA (dream.csac.ca.gov), check for an error message, and resolve.

After errors are resolved, follow up to ensure the student creates a WebGrants for Students account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov and completes any pending items if awarded the Cal Grant.

Example 5: GPA Submitted but Not Matched, Application Not Found, Cal Grant NOT awarded.

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	N	None	N	Y	N

Action Needed: Reach out to student to submit a FAFSA or CADAA.

FAFSA: studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

CADAA: dream.csac.ca.gov

Example 6: GPA Submitted but Not Matched, Application Found, FN_LN_DOB did not Match

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	N	Yes	N	N	N

In this case, either the first name, last name, or DOB did not match. There are cases when an application is not matching to the GPA, but the GPA is not on hold. This usually happens when an application was incorrectly matched to a GPA and then unmatched by a CSAC user. The GPA remains unmatched until it is manually matched to the correct application. GPA and FAFSA/CADAA can be manually matched by people with WebGrants user access, or a CSAC Institutional Support person can help.

Action Needed: If you are using this report and have WebGrants user access, you can manually match the student's GPA and financial aid application through WebGrants. You need to have a valid school district email address to have WebGrants user access. You can watch this video to learn more about the matching process:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX0AbTj22yM&list=PLiQxoyvl6vrRDrbJ4yOYl8t1mbiA1DEkr&index=6&t=10s

If you do not have WebGrants user access and have a valid school district email address, you can request access from your campus WebGrants System Administrator and assist with the GPA matching process.

If you are unable to have WebGrants user access, you can reach out to the campus or district WebGrants system administrator and request they match this student's GPA to their financial aid application or call CSAC Institutional Support at (888) 294-0153.

Example 7: GPA Submitted but Not Matched, Application Found, FN_LN_DOB did not Match and GPA on Hold

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	N	Yes	N	N	Y

In this case either the first name, last name or DOB did not match. The GPA is on hold because the first name, last name, or DOB did not match during the first match attempt, and CSAC Institutional Support will need to verify and clear the hold.

Action Needed: Call CSAC Institutional Support at (888) 294-0153.

Example 8: No GPA or Application Submitted or match found.

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
N	N	None	N	N	N

Action Needed: Reach out to the student to submit a financial aid application. In addition, students planning to attend a 4-year university need a GPA uploaded by their high school by the March 2nd deadline. If it is after the March 2nd deadline, the student can submit a GPA Verification Form and explain the reason why the GPA is late in the Late Submission Appeals section.

Students planning on attending a community college have until September 2nd to make sure a GPA is submitted either by their high school or with the GPA Verification Form. See link for more Cal Grant GPA Information: www.csac.ca.gov/post/cal-grant-gpa-verification-form

Example 9: No GPA, No GPA Match, Complete Application

Cal Grant Information					
GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
N	N	Yes	N	N	N

Action Needed: Students planning on attending a 4-year university need their GPA uploaded by the school by the March 2nd deadline. If the date is after the March 2nd deadline, the student can submit a GPA Verification Form and explain the reason why the GPA is late in the Late Submission Appeals section.

Students planning on attending a community college have until September 2nd to make sure a GPA is submitted either by their high school or with the GPA Verification Form. See link for more Cal Grant GPA Information: www.csac.ca.gov/post/cal-grant-gpa-verification-form

Example 10: Two GPAs submitted

GPA	GPA Match	FAFSA/CADAA App	Cal Grant Award	High School Code	High School Name	FN_LN_DOB Match	GPA Hold
Y	Y	Yes	Y	05262200	EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL	Y	N
Y	N	None	N	05243700	SERRANO HIGH SCHOOL	N	N

Two GPAs submitted. In this example, the GPA from Eisenhower HS has been matched to the student's FAFSA or CADAA. The second GPA is listed for Counties to see when another GPA has been submitted for students.

Action Needed: Typically, none. Displaying the second GPA is for informational purposes only.

In rare instances, action is needed if the other GPA will give the student a better chance at getting awarded (GPA goes from below 2.0 to above 2.0 or below 3.0 to above 3.0). If the student has already been processed for an award, the process of changing the GPA is more involved. Counties should not request a change unless there is an increase in the GPA and it will benefit the student. A change can be requested by contacting CSAC Institutional Support at (888) 294-0153.

Chafee Grant Information

The California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth (Chafee Grant) awards up to $5,000 a year to eligible foster youth. The Chafee Grant may be used at any eligible California college or university, or career or technical school. Students attending schools in other states may also qualify. A student's receipt of a Chafee Grant award shall not exceed five years (whether or not consecutive).

To qualify for the Chafee Grant, students must be a current or former foster youth and not have reached 26 years of age as of July 1st of the award year. The court must have established dependency between the ages of 16 and 18. KinGap youth, adopted youth, guardian placement, and voluntary placement may not be eligible for the Chafee Grant, unless court dependence was established, at any time, between the ages of 16 and 18. Youth in Family Maintenance will not qualify for the Chafee Grant unless there were in out-of-home care for at least one day between the ages of 16-18. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will verify foster youth eligibility status through an automated match.

For a student to be considered for a Chafee Grant, they will need to submit a Chafee Grant Application, have a CDSS matched record, and a match to a FAFSA or CADAA.

In cases where a student is missing multiple components, follow the action needed below.

Example 11: Chafee App Submitted, Matched to FAFSA/CADAA, and Awarded

Chafee Information			
Chafee App	**CDSS Match**	**FAFSA/CADAA Match**	**Chafee Award**
Y	Y	Y	Y

In this example, the student has all the components and has been awarded a Chafee Grant.

Action Needed: Follow up to ensure the student creates a WebGrants for Students account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov and completes any pending items for the Chafee Grant award.

Example 12: FAFSA/CADAA Application Submitted, Foster Youth Status Verified, and No Chafee App.

Chafee Information			
Chafee App	**CDSS Match**	**FAFSA/CADAA Match**	**Chafee Award**
N	Y	Y	N

In this example, the student is missing the Chafee Application.

Action Needed: The student needs to submit the Chafee Grant Application: chafee.csac.ca.gov

Example 13: Chafee App Submitted, Matched to FAFSA/CADAA but no Match with CDSS

Chafee Information			
Chafee App	**CDSS Match**	**FAFSA/CADAA Match**	**Chafee Award**
Y	N	Y	N

In this example, the student is missing the CDSS Match to verify foster youth status.

Action Needed: Contact CSAC (chafee@csac.ca.gov) to verify the student's CDSS foster youth eligibility status. Note: the match with CDSS only occurs on a monthly basis and will not show immediately after a student applies.

Example 14: Chafee App Submitted, Matched with CDSS but Missing FAFSA/CADAA Application Match

Chafee Information			
Chafee App	**CDSS Match**	**FAFSA/CADAA Match**	**Chafee Award**
Y	Y	N	N

In this example, the student is missing the FAFSA/CADAA Match.

Action Needed: Reach out to the student to submit a FAFSA or CADAA. If the student did submit a FAFSA or CADAA, then the student can contact CSAC at chafee@csac.ca.gov to check why the match has not been made.

FAFSA: studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

CADAA: dream.csac.ca.gov