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### **Tough Cal Grant choices in budget plan position California as leader in college accountability**

The California Assembly and Senate are poised to vote on a budget plan ([AB 1476](#)) that prioritizes college affordability for low- and middle-income Californians by rejecting the most harmful proposals to cut the state's Cal Grant program. Cal Grants are a crucial lifeline for hundreds of thousands of California students who couldn't afford to attend or complete college without them.

While it is unfortunate that any cuts to Cal Grants are considered necessary, the Legislature has made tough choices with the right priorities at the fore: focusing resources on the public colleges where the vast majority of California students enroll, supporting attendance at colleges where students are more likely to succeed, and phasing in reductions at nonprofit and for-profit colleges. We applaud the Legislature for rejecting a proposal to require dramatically higher high school grades to get a Cal Grant, which would have [disproportionately harmed low-income African-American and Latino students](#). We also applaud them for leveraging the state's Cal Grant investment to increase completion rates and lower default rates, positioning California as a national leader in college accountability.

The Legislature's plan puts Cal Grants on a solid path forward, but the program's fate will remain in limbo until the votes are cast and the budget is signed. Until then, so will college plans for Cal Grant recipients who can't know for sure whether they'll get a grant this fall or how much it will be worth.

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*An independent, nonprofit organization, the Institute for College Access & Success works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. The Institute's Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see [www.projectonstudentdebt.org](#) and [www.ticas.org](#).*