

## Reminder: Maintaining Eligibility for Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) and the California Promise Grant

*As the end of the semester approaches and students plan their next steps in post-secondary education programs, maintaining financial aid eligibility is critical. This fact sheet provides a reminder of recent changes in the law that can help students retain eligibility for the Education and Training Voucher-or ETV-and the California Promise Grant. Satisfactory Academic Progress-or SAP-is used to determine if a student is making acceptable progress toward a degree or certificate and is part of the eligibility criteria for ETV. SAP is generally the combination of GPA, credit completion, and pace at which the program is completed. SAP policies can create significant barriers to students maintaining financial aid and thus impact retention and success greatly.*

## California's SB 150 and How it Supports Student Success Through Maintaining ETV Eligibility

SB 150 made the following significant changes:

1. **Requirement to share information on campus-based support services:** California Community Colleges and California State Universities must now provide students with information about support services on campus and how to develop an educational plan when they receive their first ETV payment. John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) has created a [template](#) that campuses can use to share their campus and community specific resources as required by the law.
2. **Amendments to the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Requirement for ETV Eligibility:** SB 150 creates a new process for how failure to meet SAP is handled for ETV awards. The new law allows students to maintain ETV eligibility for a longer period of time while they address the challenges that are getting in the way of meeting SAP.
  - a. SB 150 allows students to maintain ETV after not meeting SAP for two semesters as long as they meet with an advisor to develop a student success plan for improvement. JBAY has created [a template](#) for a student success plan.
  - b. If the student fails to meet SAP in the third semester, they must update their plan to continue to receive ETV.
  - c. A student can lose ETV eligibility if they are not meeting SAP *and* they fail to update their plan or do not meet SAP for a fourth semester.
  - d. A student who loses eligibility based on SAP can appeal that determination. AB 150 requires that campuses have a policy in place so that students can appeal and that they inform students of this option. JBAY has created a [template appeal form](#) that campuses can use.
  - e. Campuses must reinstate ETV eligibility for a student if they meet one of the following criteria:
    - i. The student achieves a 2.0 GPA in the previous term or has a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
    - ii. The student demonstrates extenuating circumstances that were a barrier to success, but are now resolved.

- iii. The student is receiving supportive services to help with academic progress and success.
- f. If a student dis-enrolls after losing ETV eligibility due to not meeting SAP, they regain eligibility if they re-enroll.

### **Retaining Eligibility for the California Promise Grant**

The California Community Colleges Promise Grant (formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOG)) allows eligible students to waive enrollment fees at community colleges. The California Promise Grant has a requirement that youth maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) in order to continue receiving the waiver, however, youth with experience in foster care are exempted from this requirement. **Youth with experience in foster care can continue receiving the CA Promise Grant even if they do not meet SAP requirements.**

For the purposes of this exemption, foster youth is defined as youth who are under the age of 25 at the beginning of the academic year and who had a foster care placement order on or after their 13th birthday. This includes youth placed in foster care through the juvenile justice system. As long as a youth had a foster care placement order at some point after the age of 13, even if they later exited foster care, they are eligible for the waiver. *Note that this definition of foster youth is more expansive than the definition used for Chafee/ETV.*

If you work with eligible youth who have received notices about academic probation and/or who are concerned that they may not meet SAP requirements, make sure to let them know that they can continue to receive the CA Promise Grant. This will allow them to continue taking classes without paying enrollment fees, so that they can work towards regaining eligibility for other financial aid programs.