SSBG FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Can you please verify if providing snacks for students would be an allowable use of SSBG funds?

Answer:

Both the FY25-26 SSBG legislation (AB123 Sec. 27), and the FY26-27 legislation (AB167, Sec. 17) indicate expenditures in support of students can include food assistance. "*The funds appropriated pursuant to this section may be expended for any student support program purpose, including, but not limited to, all of the following... Assistance to students with food...*" (AB167 Sec. 17, Sec. 27(c)). Ultimately this question must be answered at the local level.

QUESTION: What is the history and what are the basics of SSBG?

Answer:

Student Support Block Grants (SSBG) are not annual or ongoing funding. Twice the legislature has created special, one-time SSBG allotment.

Assembly Bill 123 Sec. 27 established the expenditure and reporting rules for SSBG for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

1. Expenditures must be within an existing (not new) student support system.
2. Expenditures may support one or more of the following:
    a. Assistance to students with food, housing, transportation, and other basic needs.
    b. Childcare subsidies or other assistance for student parents.
    c. Financial aid advising or academic counseling.
    d. Legal and other support services.
    e. Mental health services.
    f. Job placement, work-based learning, or reemployment support.

Assembly Bill 167 established the expenditure and reporting rules for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. It expands the use of funds to support any student support programs, not only the six categories listed above. Reporting rules are unchanged.

QUESTION: *Can I expend allocation on _____?*

Answer:

The Chancellor's Office is unable to answer specific allocation questions, because expenditure decision are always made locally. It is always a good idea to document decision making rationale when making these types of decisions.

QUESTION: *Can SSBG allocation be used to pay the salaries of students who are not eligible for financial aid*?

Answer:

We are unaware of any preclusion from expending allocation in this manner.

QUESTION: *Can SSBG allocation be used to pay costs of a basic needs center, such as salaries and staffing?*

Answer:

We are unaware of any preclusion from expending allocation in this manner.

QUESTION: *When will FY2627 SSBG allocation distribution begin?*

Answer:

Allocation was calculated and submitted 48 hours after Assembly Bill 167 was published on September 21, 2026. The State Controller's Office (SCO) initially reserved $147,208,000, which will be distributed according to the payment schedule of the Chancellor's Office College Finance & Facilities division. When SCO raises the reserve to include the missing $325,000, payments will be adjusted.

QUESTION: *Does the use of SSBG to provide emergency aid have an impact upon a student's financial aid unmet need?*

Answer:

Using SSBG allocation to provide emergency aid to a student does not impact the student's financial aid unmet need. This is established in federal law 20 U.S.C., Chj. 28 § 1087vv(i)(5),[1]where it says, "emergency financial assistance... shall not be treated as other financial assistance".

United States Code, Title 20 (Education), Chapter 28, §1087vv(i)(5)

[1] 20 U.S.C. § 1087kk is the equation for unmet need: FAN = COA - SA - OFA where

FAN	=	financial aid needed, aka unmet need
COA	=	cost of attendance
SA	=	amount of student aid received
OFA	=	other financial assistance

Notwithstanding paragraph (1), emergency financial assistance provided to the student for unexpected expenses that are a component of the student's cost of attendance, and not otherwise considered when the determination of the student's need is made, shall not be treated as other financial assistance for purposes of section 1087kk(a)(3) 1 of this title.

QUESTION: *Can SSBG allocation be directed through our financial aid disbursement process to students in need or who have an emergency?*

Answer:

How SSBG funds are routed to a student in order to provide emergency assistance is a local decision.

QUESTION: *What is the allocation formula?*

Answer:

Assembly Bill 167 continues the allocation calculation method established in Assembly Bill 123.

1. Base allocation: $150,000 per college within each district.
2. The remaining funds will be distributed from equal weighting of the following two measures, for the most recent fiscal year in which the data is considered final (2024-2025):
    a. Student headcount
    b. Combined count of students receiving
        - California College Promise Grant fee waiver (Ed. Code § 76300).
        - Exemptions from nonresident tuition (Ed. Code § 68130.5).

QUESTION: *When are required to expend SSBG allocation?*

Answer:

The deadline to expend FY2526 SSBG allocation is June 30, 2029 AB123 Sec. 27(e). The deadline to expend FY2627 allocation is June 30, 2030 SB135 Sec. 17 / Sec. 35 Subsec. 27(e).

QUESTION: *What content is required in the annual SSBG report submitted by colleges?*

Both AB123 Sec. 27(f) and AB123 Sec. 27(f) establish the same report content requirements:

1. Summarize how funds were used.

2. Summarize types of services provided.
3. Summarize outcomes.
4. Provide a count of students receiving each type of service.
5. Provide available data on the academic outcomes of students who benefitted from the expenditure of SSBG funds.

To prepare to complete the SSBG survey, its items are available for download here. The survey is completed online here.

QUESTION: *How will annual college SSBG reports be submitted?*

Answer:

To prepare to complete the SSBG survey, its items are available for download here. The survey is completed online here.

QUESTION: *Can you provide the SSBG annual report survey items in advance, so we can begin to prepare our report?*

Answer:

The SSBG survey items are available for download here. The survey is ready for completion here.

QUESTION: *What is the deadline for annual college SSBG reporting?*

Reporting Deadline	Activity Period
Dec. 31, 2026	July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
Dec. 31, 2027	July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
Dec. 31, 2028	July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028
Dec. 31, 2029	July 1, 2028 through June 30, 2029
Dec. 31, 2030	July 1, 2029 through June 30, 2030