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GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAcollege411

Tricia P. Chastain
PRESIDENT

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Subject: 11th Grade Progress GPA Released to Postsecondary Institutions

Dear Colleague:

Recently, the U.S. Federal Student Aid office (FSA) announced that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, will be available earlier each year for students to complete. Students will now be able to complete the FAFSA beginning October 1 of their senior year. Completing the application sooner will potentially allow students to learn of their financial aid options earlier in their college decision-making process. Colleges are being encouraged to issue preliminary financial aid estimates and packages earlier than ever.

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) has received requests from several postsecondary institutions in Georgia seeking access to HOPE Scholarship eligibility information sooner, so that those financial aid estimates may include a student's potential HOPE awards. While a student's final HOPE Scholarship eligibility is not determined until he or she graduates from high school, the Underclass GPA Progress Report process may give colleges enough information to preliminarily estimate a student's eligibility.

Accordingly, beginning in September 2016, GSFC will make available to HOPE-eligible postsecondary institutions the 11th grade GPAs calculated by GSFC as part of the Underclass GPA Progress Report process. We encourage all high schools to submit underclass transcript data to GSFC, so that all 11th graders have information viewable by the HOPE-eligible postsecondary institutions.

Since the FAFSA will be available earlier this year, GSFC will also begin hosting our annual College Goal Georgia (CGG) FAFSA Completion workshops in October. Dates and locations will be available on collegegoalga.com later this summer. If you are interested in hosting an event or have questions about CGG, email fafsa@gsfc.org.

If you have questions about submitting your Underclass GPA Progress Reports, contact Transcript Exchange Support, trex@gsfc.org or 800.505.GSFC (4732) ext. 3507.

We hope these changes will benefit the students of Georgia and assist them in getting the information they need to decide which college is the right fit for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tricia P. Chastain".

Tricia P. Chastain