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Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GCollege411

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PRESIDENT

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Subject: GAFutures Launch Information – Financial Aid Offices

Dear Colleague:

As we prepare to launch our new website – **GAFutures** – later this summer, we want to ensure that our customers have the information needed for a successful transition. For financial aid offices, below are dates and guidelines we believe will be helpful. We have communicated similar information to Admissions Directors and Registrars in DCL ID 2017-03.

Important Dates

- *Wednesday, July 20, 5 p.m. EST* – GCollege411.org will no longer be available. All associated functionalities and systems will be down temporarily. This includes:
 - SURFER/STARS
 - Transcript Exchange
 - HOPE GPA reporting
 - GSFApps and other GSFC financial aid applications
 - College admissions applications
- *Wednesday, July 20, 5 p.m. EST through Monday, July 25* – GSFC will be transitioning to **GAFutures**.
- *Tuesday, July 26* – **GAFutures.org** will be online and the functionalities and applications listed above will be available through the **GAFutures** portal.

GSFC State Aid Program Applications and SURFER

During the transition to **GAFutures**, all GSFC program applications will be temporarily unavailable. This includes GSFApps, Move On When Ready (MOWR), the Student Access Loan (SAL) program applications and other program specific applications. Once GAFutures is online July 26, any incomplete GSFC program applications can be accessed, completed and submitted.

- SURFER will not be available from Wednesday July 20, 5 p.m. through Monday, July 25.
- The weekly updated HOPE GPA file will be available each Monday through July 18 then begin again on August 1.

Transcript Exchange

With the launch of **GAFutures**, GSFC will manage the Transcript Exchange process. Beginning with the 2017 transcript/GPA processing cycle, the Transcript Exchange function will be accessed through SURFER. Admissions and/or Registrars Offices may need to be granted access to SURFER.

- *By Wednesday, July 20, 5 p.m. EST* – Be sure to download all transcripts for your college from the Control Center. They will be unavailable after this date.
- *July 26* – Access to transcripts released to your college is now through SURFER.

- Admissions and Registrars Offices may need access to SURFER if they do not have it already. Your institution's super user may need to grant you access.

Admissions Applications

If your institution's admissions application is currently processed through GAcademy411, this functionality will continue with the launch of **GAfutures**.

- Admissions applications will be unavailable during the transition to **GAfutures** – Tuesday, July 20 at 5 p.m. EST through Monday, July 25.
- Students should be encouraged to complete any admissions applications before July 20. Incomplete applications will not migrate to **GAfutures**. Students will need to complete and submit a new application once **GAfutures** is launched if they did not fully submit their application prior to July 20 at 5 p.m. EST.
- A message to applicants will be posted on the online application form beginning May 27 stating the following:
ALERT: The admissions application will be unavailable July 20 through July 25. If you are in the process of completing an application, you must submit it by 5 p.m. on July 20. Otherwise, you will need to complete and submit a new one beginning July 26.
- Students will be able to access your application through your website or through their **GAfutures'** account beginning July 26.
- Admissions offices will continue to access submitted applications through the XAP Control Center which will be available through **GAfutures**.

GAfutures Links and Logos

With the launch of new websites, it is often necessary for users to update links and logos on their own websites and in publications.

- *Links* – Any GAcademy411 link included on your websites will automatically be redirected to the **GAfutures** homepage when it goes live on July 26. Specific links will need to be re-linked to the appropriate page on GAfutures, where applicable.
- *Logo* – The **GAfutures** logo and usage guidelines will be available on the website July 26. Visit the *About Us* tab, *Communications*, *GAfutures Logo Usage* and simply save the appropriate version of the logo to replace the GAcademy411 logo on your website or include in publications.

We understand the transition to GAfutures will be inconvenient for some of our customers, particularly those at our eligible postsecondary institutions. We apologize in advance and hope the information and guidelines above will minimize any disruptions. Additionally, messages will be posted on GAcademy411 and GSFC.org, and reminders will be sent leading up to the launch. If you have questions or need assistance, please email gafutures@gsfc.org or call us at 800.505.GSFC (4732) / 770.724.9000.

Sincerely,



Tricia P. Chastain