

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAfutures.org

Shawn Ryan
PRESIDENT

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Subject: 2017-2018 State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations and Tuition Award Charts

Dear Colleague:

The following is information regarding the 2017-2018 (FY 2018) State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations (Program Regulations) and the HOPE, Zell Miller and Move On When Ready (MOWR) Award Charts.

2017-2018 State Program Regulations

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved the Program Regulations at their May 5, 2017 Board meeting. The Program Regulations are effective July 1, 2017 and awards are effective Fall Term 2017. The Program Regulations and an executive chart of summary will be posted at gsfc.org by May 12, 2017. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at GAfutures.org under "Shortcuts."

In addition to the Program Regulations changes made for clarity, other changes were made to effectuate legislation passed during the 2017 session of the Georgia General Assembly and as a result of suggestions. Listed below are several regulatory changes that affect high schools as they administer state program requirements.

- Public and private Eligible High Schools must upload the annual underclass (9th, 10th and 11th grade) transcript data to GSFC for the previous Academic Year by September 30. Failure to upload and report underclass transcript data can affect participation eligibility and access to online MOWR student applications for the following year.
- High school graduates that received a high school diploma by earning a technical diploma or two approved technical certificates (the alternative graduation option provided for in Senate Bill 2 in 2016) may qualify to receive the HOPE Grant for the first 30 semester hours of an associate degree at a Technical College System of Georgia institution. (SB 186)
- A MOWR revision allows for the standard four years of eligibility to be extended for students that are on a documented Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan that includes an extended enrollment in high school and dual enrollment coursework. A MOWR Eligibility Extension Request form will be available on GAfutures.org and in STARS. Students and a high school official must complete the form and submit to GSFC for approval.

- A MOWR revision allows for the standard four years of eligibility to be extended for students that have declared an Alternative Graduation Plan through SB2 by or before the eleventh grade. A MOWR Eligibility Extension Request form will be available on GAfutures.org and in STARS. Students and a high school official must complete the form and submit to GSFC for approval.
- A three percent increase was approved for HOPE Scholarship – Public and Private Institutions, HOPE Grant, and Zell Miller Scholarship – Private Institutions. The Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) award was increased to \$950 per academic year. MOWR will remain the same for FY 2018.
- Zell Miller Scholarship Regulations are clarified to indicate that the selected valedictorian and salutatorian of each Eligible High School must meet all HOPE eligibility requirements, including the minimum 3.00 HOPE GPA.
- REACH Program Regulations were expanded to include Eligible High School responsibilities including reporting a midyear (February 15) and end of year (June 30) checkpoint of students' performance. The checkpoint reporting must be completed through STARS.

Award Charts

State Program Award Charts for 2017-2018 for HOPE Scholarships – Public and Private Institutions, HOPE Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship, Zell Miller Grant, and Move On When Ready, effective Fall Term 2017, will be posted no later than May 12, 2017, and can be found at GAfutures.org under “Trending.”

If you have questions relating to regulations, deadlines, or eligibility extensions, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or email at pennies@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Ryan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shawn Ryan
President