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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
Tuition Award Charts
Invoicing and Extension Request Deadlines

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 and the deadline for term and year-end invoicing and extension requests.

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 postsecondary institutions as they administer state program requirements.

- 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.
- 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)
- 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.
- 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.
- Student Access Loan (SAL) revisions to give institutions authority to implement institutional policies to decline eligibility or reduce the approved loan amount in addition to program eligibility criteria.
- SAL revisions to cancel scheduled disbursements when Keep In Touch Payments are delinquent.
- REACH Regulations were expanded to include Eligible High Schools and Eligible Postsecondary Institutions responsibilities in their entirety for consistency with regulatory language.

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.”

FY 2018 (Upcoming Fiscal Year) Invoicing

The FY 2018 Invoicing and Extension Request deadline chart can be viewed [here](#).

FY 2017 Invoicing and Extension Request Deadlines

As in the past, the Program Regulations require that all invoices for a term be fully submitted, processed, and approved for payment by the invoicing term deadline. Spring term 2017 invoices are due June 8, 2017. A postsecondary institution needing an extension to process current fiscal year invoices beyond June 8 must submit a request for extension to GSFC by June 8. The FY 2017 Invoicing and Extension Request deadline chart can be viewed [here](#).

The request for extension must include the reason an extension is needed, program(s), number of invoices, and the approximate total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted. Extensions for the current fiscal year's invoices may be granted through June 22, 2017.

The Program Regulations require postsecondary institutions to complete a year-end reconciliation of each state program for which funds were received for the year, and submit a year-end reconciliation form by July 15.

Prior Year Invoices

Invoices for prior fiscal years will not be paid except under certain extraordinary and narrowly defined circumstances. The Program Regulations allow an invoice to be paid after the year-end invoicing only if failure to meet the deadline was due to the need for supplemental documentation including, but not limited to, information required for the student's college admission (e.g., proof of citizenship or

residency), late grades, grade changes or other adjustments made to the student's official academic transcript that result in a change in a student's eligibility. A postsecondary institution needing to submit a prior year's invoice(s) must email GSFC's Student Aid Services Department with the invoice, student information, and the reason for missing the deadline (e.g., the documentation that became available after the deadline, as noted above).

If a postsecondary institution needs to submit invoices or increase the award amount on existing invoices after the year-end reconciliation, the director of financial aid must submit a written request to GSFC's Student Aid Services Department including the following:

1. The reason for the prior year late invoice request
2. The number of invoices
3. The total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted

If the requests for the invoices to be paid after the year-end reconciliation total more than ½ percent of the total amount disbursed to the postsecondary institution for the corresponding program in the current fiscal year, the institution's president must submit a written request to GSFC including the following:

1. The reason for the prior year invoice request
2. The number of invoices
3. The total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted
4. A corrective action plan outlining measures that will be taken in the future to meet the published invoicing deadlines which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Staff and/or system changes implemented that ensure timely submission of invoices
 - b. Dates and content of training to prepare staff for timely submission of invoices
 - c. Supplemental documentation relating to delays

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

Sincerely,



Shawn Ryan
President