

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



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

Shawn Ryan
PRESIDENT

Publication Date: August 7, 2017

DCL ID: 2018-03

Subject: FY 2018 Program Regulations Revisions

Dear Colleague:

The following is information regarding revisions to the 2017-2018 (FY 2018) Program Regulations. The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved revisions to the Program Regulations at their August 4, 2017 Board meeting. The revisions are effective immediately (Fall Term 2018).

2017-2018 HOPE Scholarship (Public and Private) Program Regulations

Sections 105.5 and 205.5 have been revised to clarify the eligibility of the HOPE Scholarship at the first tier by testing in the 75th percentile. Students graduating from an eligible high school must qualify based on the GPA and academic rigor requirements.

2017-2018 HOPE GED Program Regulations

Sections 405.4 and 405.6 have been revised to clarify that a HOPE GED recipient can receive the \$500 HOPE GED award and receive the HOPE Scholarship at Tier 1, if the student meets all eligibility requirements.

2017-2018 Move On When Ready Program Regulations

Section 1605.2 has been clarified regarding MOWR high school students pursuing a documented Alternative Graduation Plan (SB2) that includes an extended enrollment beyond the typical four years. These students are eligible to request a MOWR *Length of Eligibility Extension Request form* and submit it to GSFC for review. Extensions will be approved on a case by case basis.

2017-2018 REACH Program Regulations

Sections 5204.5, 5205.4 and 5206.1 have been revised to allow for a REACH Scholar that transfers to a non-participating school system or a nonpublic Eligible High School located within the state of Georgia to remain a Scholar provided all eligibility requirements are met. Corresponding updates to the designation of funding have also been made.

The Award Amounts Section 5208.2 has been revised to state that the REACH Scholar may now receive funds during a summer term which is considered a header term for awards and disbursements. The REACH Scholarship award annual and per term maximums remain; however, the student can receive the term awards any terms available until the annual maximum is reached.

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2017-2018 HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant Program Regulations

The Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant (SIWDG) program has been renamed HOPE Career Grant. The HOPE and Zell Miller Grant Regulations have been updated to incorporate that change.

The revised Program Regulations will be posted at www.gsfc.org by August 11, 2017. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at www.GAfutures.org under "Shortcuts."

If you have any questions relating to the revisions of the Regulations, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or 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