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Subject: 2021-2022 State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations  
Tuition Award Charts  
Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines

Dear Colleague:

The following is information regarding the 2021-2022 (FY 2022) State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Program Regulations, program award charts, and term and year end invoice and reconciliation deadlines.

### **2021-2022 State Program Regulations**

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved the Program Regulations at their May 7, 2021 Board meeting. The Program Regulations are effective July 1, 2021 and awards are effective Fall Term 2021. The 2021-2022 Program Regulations and an executive summary will be posted at [gsfc.org](http://gsfc.org) by May 14, 2021. A link to the 2021-2022 Program Regulations can also be found at **GAfutures.org** under "Shortcuts."

In addition to the changes made to the Program Regulations for clarity, listed below is an overview of the regulatory changes made to effectuate legislation passed during the 2021 session of the Georgia General Assembly and as a result of suggestions.

- Definition of Eligible High School revised to add the Georgia Independent School Association to the list of K-12 accrediting agencies according to House Bill 606.
- HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Regulations include a new limited extension to the seven- or ten-year eligibility limit for eligible students that have a qualifying disability, as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, that prevents full time enrollment (12 hours or more) each term. The extension is based on Senate Bill 187. A request form and information will be available on GAfutures under the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship pages.
- Student Access Loan Regulations revised to allow for electronic signature options and eliminate paper submission.
- Georgia National Guard members and members of a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces assigned to a reserve unit located in Georgia shall be treated as a Georgia resident for purposes of meeting residency requirements for the University of North Georgia Military Scholarship Loan Program.
- Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship Loan Program Regulations were revised to increase the maximum number of awards to 4 terms per year, the annual maximum award amount does not change.

### **Temporary Regulations changes due to the COVID-19 Emergency for the graduating Class of 2021**

- Revised HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Emergency Regulation to Assist Affected Students, enacted per Executive Order 03.12.21.01. The Class of 2021 (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021) high school graduates and home study completers given the opportunity to receive and submit to GSFC qualifying ACT or SAT scores through June 30, 2022.
- Revised Student Access Loan Program Emergency Regulation to Assist Affected Students, enacted per Executive Order 03.12.21.01. The Class of 2021 (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021) with an eligible Zell Miller Scholarship GPA, without the required test score, may apply for a FY 2022 micro SAL totaling the difference between the HOPE Scholarship award and Zell Miller Scholarship award. If the student submits a Zell Miller Scholarship eligible ACT or SAT score by June 30, 2022, may have the SAL canceled. Additionally, SAL loan documents revised to allow for electronic signature option to eliminate paper submission

### **Award Charts**

State Program Award Charts for 2021-2022 for HOPE Scholarships – Public and Private Institutions, HOPE Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship, Zell Miller Grant, and Dual Enrollment, effective Fall Term 2021, will be posted no later than May 14, 2021. Printable award charts are available on [gsfc.org](http://gsfc.org) and searchable award charts are available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org) under “Trending.”

### **FY 2022 (Summer term 2021 – Spring term 2022) Invoicing**

The FY 2022 Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines chart is now available.

### **FY 2021 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 2021 invoices are due June 8, 2021. 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 2021 Invoicing and Extension Request deadline chart](#) is available for reference.

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 21, 2021.

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 Late Invoice Procedure**

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

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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. the invoice, student information, and the (e.g., the documentation that became available after the deadline, as noted above).

If a postsecondary institution needs to submit an invoice or increase the award amount on an existing invoice after the year-end reconciliation, the director of financial aid must submit a written request to Senior Manager, Originations and Disbursements, Wendel Brown at [wbrown@gsfc.org](mailto:wbrown@gsfc.org), including the following:

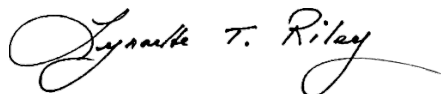
1. The reason for the prior year late invoice request
2. The individual invoice information
3. The total dollar amount of the invoices

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, Vice President, Financial Aid Operations, Benita Jorgensen at [benita@gsfc.org](mailto:benita@gsfc.org), 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

The 2021-2022 Program Regulations will be posted at [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org) by May 14, 2021. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at [www.GAfutures.org](http://www.GAfutures.org) under "Shortcuts." If you have any questions relating to the revisions of the Regulations or program information, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Program Administration, at 770.724.9014 or [pennies@gsfc.org](mailto:pennies@gsfc.org).

Sincerely,



Lynne Riley