NEW

Foster Care Scholarship Program

Regulations – 1100.

2026 - 2027 Award Year

Effective Date – July 1, 2026
Updated August 7, 2026

GSFC | Georgia Student Finance Commission

2082 East Exchange Place
Tucker, Georgia 30084

1100. Table of Contents.

Section Page

1100. Table of Contents. 2

1101. Program Overview. 4

1102. Definitions. (Electronic Link) 5

1103. General Eligibility Requirements. 5

1103.1. Citizenship. 5

1103.2. Georgia Residency. 5

1103.3. Satisfactory Academic Progress 6

1103.4. Selective Service Registration. 6

1103.5. Defaulted Loan or Refund Due. 7

1103.6. Georgia Drug-Free Act. 8

1103.7. Incarceration. 8

1104. Program Specific Eligibility Requirements. 9

1104.1. Enrollment Status. 9

1104.2. Qualifying Student Foster Care Status. 9

1104.3. Expiration of Eligibility Limits. 9

1104.4. Attempted-Hours Calculation. 10

1105. Eligible and Ineligible Coursework. 11

1105.1. Transient Coursework. 11

1105.2. Distance Learning Coursework. 11

1105.3. Study Away Coursework. 11

1105.4. Learning Support Coursework. 12

1105.5. Joint Enrollment and Dual Credit Enrollment Coursework. 12

1105.6. Coursework Exemptions. 12

1105.7. Continuing Education and Audit Coursework. 12

1105.8. Total Withdrawal from Coursework. 12

1106. Student Application Requirements. 13
1106.1. Application Forms. 13
1106.2. Application Deadline Date. 13
1107. Award Requirements. 14
1107.1. Award Amounts. 14
1107.2. Awards Per School Term. 14
1107.3. Student Notification of Award. 14
1108. Disbursement of Funds. 15
1108.1. Methods of Disbursement. 15
1108.2. Crediting of Student Accounts. 15
1109. Return of Funds Requirements. 16
1109.1. Calculation of Return of Funds due to Withdrawal. 16
1109.2. Emergency Military Duty. 16
1110. Reconciliation Requirements. 17
1110.1. Term Reconciliation. 17
1110.2. Fiscal Year End Reconciliation. 17
1111. Records Retention Requirements. 18
1111.1. Length of Retention. 18
1111.2. Documentation. 18
1111.3. Extended Retention. 19
1112. Administrative Reviews and Exceptions. 20
1112.1. Administrative Reviews. 20
1112.2. Requesting an Exception. 20
1113. Compliance Reviews 21
1113.1. Compliance Review Policy. 21
1113.2. Compliance Review Process 21
1113.3. Institutional Repayment. 21

1101. Program Overview.

The Georgia Foster Care Scholarship Program provides assistance with the cost of education to eligible students who were in foster care at the age of 14 under the supervision of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services.

An eligible student must be enrolled in an Eligible Postsecondary Institution and matriculated in an undergraduate program of study or major. Eligible students may receive a Georgia Foster Care Scholarship award up to Direct Costs. The maximum annual award amount is not to exceed $30,000 or the student's Direct Costs whichever is less.

The Georgia Student Finance Authority administers the Georgia Foster Care Scholarship Program. State revenues provide funding for this program in accordance with the Foster Care Scholarship Act, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) §20-3-670, et., seq. The total amount of funds appropriated for the program is established each year by the Georgia General Assembly during the prior legislative session and is subject to change during the Award Year.

(The remainder of this page is intentionally blank.)

1102. Definitions. (Electronic Link)

1103. General Eligibility Requirements.

1103.1. Citizenship.

1. A student must be a United States Citizen, born or naturalized, or an Eligible Non-Citizen according to the Federal Title IV Regulations, as of the first day of classes of the school term for which the Georgia Foster Care Scholarship is sought.

1103.2. Georgia Residency.

1. A student attending a TCSG institution or USG institution meets the Georgia Residency requirements for purposes of Georgia Foster Care Scholarship, if he or she meets the requirements to be classified as a Georgia Resident according to the TCSG or USG In-State Tuition policy for 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the first day of classes of the school term for which funds are sought.

    a. If the TCSG or USG institution grants a Military Personnel Out-of-State Tuition Waiver for a Freshman student, and such student graduated from a high school located in Georgia, then the student meets the Georgia Residency requirements of the Georgia Foster Care Scholarship.

    b. No other Out-of-State Tuition Waiver granted by TCSG or USG institutions applies to students in the Georgia Foster Care Scholarship.

2. A student attending a private Eligible Postsecondary Institution meets the Georgia Residency requirements for purposes of Georgia Foster Care Scholarship eligibility if he or she meets the requirements to be classified as a Georgia Resident according to the *Georgia Residency Requirements for State Programs at Private Institutions Regulations for* 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the first day of classes of the school term for which funds are sought.

    a. A Freshman student with a Military Personnel Parent, who is not a resident of Georgia, meets the Georgia Residency requirements if such student graduated from a high school located in Georgia and his or her Military Personnel Parent was stationed in Georgia at the time of the student's high school graduation.

3. A student who was correctly determined to meet the Georgia Residency requirements for purposes of Georgia Foster Care Scholarship eligibility and began receiving Georgia Foster Care Scholarship payment, will continue to meet the Georgia Residency requirements for purposes of Georgia Foster Care Scholarship eligibility, unless he or she has a break in Enrollment of two or more consecutive semesters or quarters and resides outside of Georgia for 12 or more consecutive months.

a. If such student later returns to Georgia, he or she must re-establish Georgia Residency for 12 consecutive months before regaining eligibility.

b. A student who has a break in Enrollment of two or more consecutive semesters or quarters, and who resides outside Georgia for less than 12 consecutive months and returns to Georgia and Enrolls in an Eligible Postsecondary Institution within 12 consecutive months from his or her most recent date of Enrollment in an Eligible Postsecondary Institution, will continue to meet the Georgia Residency requirements for purposes of Georgia Foster Care Scholarship eligibility

1103.3. Satisfactory Academic Progress.

1. A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), as defined and certified by his or her Eligible Postsecondary Institution.

   a. For state aid programs, Eligible Postsecondary Institutions may establish an appeal process for students with hours attempted prior to high school graduation or home study completion, including dual enrollment, AP, IB, and/or other such coursework that fail to meet the quantitative standard (pace) for degree completion, generally identified as 150 percent of the published length of the program.

   b. The appeal should consider attempted hours toward the program in which the student is enrolled, satisfactory qualitative (grade-based) standards, and the student's satisfactory pace in pursuit of completing the program with and without the hours attempted prior to high school graduation or home study completion, including dual enrollment, AP, IB, and/or other such coursework. Eligible Postsecondary Institutions have sole discretion and responsibility for evaluation and approval of any such appeals.

1103.4. Selective Service Registration.

1. A student must be in compliance with Georgia state law requirements of having registered with the United States Selective Service System requirements, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-3-519.1(b).

2. Selective Service registration, by required males, should be completed prior to the program application deadline in order to be eligible for payment for such school term.

   a. A late disbursement is permitted if the student meets Selective Service requirements any time during the fiscal year.

3. GSFA will maintain Selective Service registration or exemption status information for state aid program applicants/recipients. The registration status will be available to the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled in order for the institution to determine program eligibility.

a. The Institution may collect documentation supporting a student's registration status and submit it to GSFA for consideration.

4. Male applicants required to register with the Selective Service System must have a registered or exemption status on file with GSFA to be eligible for state aid programs and for an invoice to be paid.

1103.5. Defaulted Loan or Refund Due.

1. A student must not be in default on a Federal Title IV or State of Georgia educational loan or owe a refund due to an over-award on a Federal Title IV or State of Georgia student financial aid program, or in any other way be in violation of Federal Title IV Programs Regulations or State of Georgia student financial aid program regulations. A student must meet the requirements of this section at the time funds are disbursed by GSFA on behalf of the student.

2. A student's federal default status can be resolved in one of five ways:

   a. Completing an acceptable rehabilitation plan; or

   b. Having the loan repurchased by the original lender and the default status reversed; or

   c. Consolidating the loan out of a default status; or

   d. Receiving an approved Title IV debt settlement, to include a compromised settlement; or

   e. Making monthly payments over a specified period agreed upon with the lender of the student's federal loan; each payment must be on time and voluntary to be in a satisfactory repayment plan.

3. A student's State of Georgia refund due status can be resolved by:

   a. Paying the refund due to the Eligible Postsecondary Institution at which the over-award occurred. The Eligible Postsecondary Institution will then forward the payment to GSFC.

4. A student's default status on a State of Georgia loan can be resolved in one of two ways:

   a. Paying off the defaulted loan in full; or

   b. Completing an acceptable rehabilitation plan by making voluntary on time payments over a specified period agreed upon by GSFA.

5. If such student has repaid the defaulted loan or refund due in full, or resolved the default status, then he or she may be eligible to receive state scholarship, grant, or loan funds beginning with the school term in which repayment was made in full but not retroactively for previous school terms.

1103.6. Georgia Drug-Free Act.

1. A student convicted of committing certain felony offenses involving marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs, may be ineligible for Georgia Foster Care Scholarship payment from the date of conviction to the completion of the following school term, in accordance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990, O.C.G.A. § 20-1-20, et seq.

1103.7. Incarceration.

1. A student seeking a Degree from an Eligible Postsecondary Institution is ineligible for Georgia Foster Care Scholarship payment while Incarcerated.

1104. Program Specific Eligibility Requirements.

1104.1. Enrollment Status.

1. A student must be Enrolled for six or more hours at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution in a Matriculated status in an Undergraduate degree, certificate or diploma program of study or major.

1104.2. Qualifying Student Foster Care Status.

1. A qualifying student must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

    a. Is a former foster child who was in the custody of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services for at least six months after their fourteenth birthday.

    b. Currently in custody of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services.

    c. Currently participating in the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services independent living program in accordance to the applicable policies and procedures.

    d. Was adopted from the permanent legal custody of and placed for adoption by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services following the child's fourteenth birthday.

    e. The family is receiving or has previously received state funded adoption services through the Georgia Department of Human Services for the Foster Care Scholarship applicant.

1104.3. Expiration of Eligibility Limits.

1. An eligible student may continue to receive a Foster Care Scholarship until the first of these events occur:

    a. The student has earned a bachelor's degree.

    b. The student has attempted 127 semester or 190 quarter hours at any postsecondary institution. Includes all Diploma, Certificate. and Degree level attempted hours taken after high school graduation.

    c. Has reached twenty-six (26) years of age.

        i. A student who turns twenty-six (26) years of age during a postsecondary term of enrollment may receive the award for that term in which they are enrolled.

    d. The student has received the Foster Care Scholarship for 10 fiscal years.

1104.4. Attempted-Hours Calculation.

1. The following coursework is counted in the Attempted-Hours calculation:

    a. Degree credit hours, regardless of whether:

        i. The course was completed, the hours were earned, or a letter grade was recorded on the student's official academic transcript.

        ii. Those hours were taken at a postsecondary institution outside the State of Georgia or at a postsecondary institution in a foreign country.

        iii. Those hours were taken at an unaccredited postsecondary institution.

    b. Credit hours attempted as part of a Certificate or Diploma program of study.

    c. Courses that appear on a student's transcript with no credit hours, assign the credit hours listed in the postsecondary institution's official college catalog, if no credit hours are listed, assign three semester or five quarter credit hours.

2. The following postsecondary coursework is not counted in the Attempted-Hours calculation:

    a. Credit hours for any coursework attempted by a student prior to high school graduation, Home Study completion, or High School Equivalency diploma date;

    b. Continuing Education and Audit credit hours;

    c. Credit hours earned by examination or prior work experience;

    d. Credit hours earned as a result of military training or experience unless such hours were granted or accepted as Degree credit by any postsecondary institution that is separate and independent of the military;

1105. Eligible and Ineligible Coursework.

1105.1. Transient Coursework.

1. A Transient student is eligible to receive a Foster Care Scholarship payment if all other eligibility requirements are met. Both the Home Institution and the Host Institution must be Eligible Postsecondary Institutions.

2. The Host Institution awards Foster Care Scholarship funds to the Transient student based on certification of eligibility from the Home Institution.

    a. The Home Institution is responsible for verifying the eligibility of their Transient students. The Foster Care Scholarship award must be the amount the student would normally receive at the Host Institution if he or she was a regular student.

    b. The Host Institution must report Foster Care Scholarship payment for Transient students to GSFA in the same manner it reports Foster Care Scholarship payments for their regular students.

        i. Upon the student's return to the Home Institution, the Home Institution must receive from the Host Institution information necessary for the Home Institution to determine continued Foster Care Scholarship eligibility.

3. The Home Institution is liable for the return of funds the student receives at the Host Institution if the Home Institution erroneously certifies the student's eligibility to the Host Institution.

1105.2. Distance Learning Coursework.

1. A student participating in Distance Learning coursework is eligible to receive Foster Care Scholarship payment if all other eligibility requirements are met.

1105.3. Study Away Coursework.

1. A student Enrolled in a Matriculated status at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution may qualify for Foster Care Scholarship payment while participating in a Study Away program.

2. The Home Institution must have a written agreement with the institution (foreign or non-Eligible Postsecondary Institution) or a single written arrangement with a study-abroad organization to represent an agreement between the Home Institution and the institution at which a student is participating in a Study Away program.

3. The student's Home Institution must be an Eligible Postsecondary Institution and must approve the Study Away program for credit toward the student's program prior to the student's departure.

4. The Home Institution must maintain documentation of the student's actual charges for the Study Away program at the Host Institution.

5. At the time of disbursement, a current enrollment verification for the student from the Host Institution indicating the courses and number of hours must be on file with the Home Institution.

6. The Foster Care Scholarship payment must take place through the Home Institution.

7. The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must have on file the student's written or electronic permission to have any specific fees withheld from the Foster Care Scholarship disbursement.

8. The student is participating in a Study Away program via another Eligible Postsecondary Institution. In such situations, the process for Transient students must be followed (refer to *Section 1105.1*).

1105.4. Learning Support Coursework.

1. A student seeking a Degree, Diploma, or Certificate program, who Enrolls in Learning Support coursework, is eligible for Foster Care Scholarship payment for such coursework.

1105.5. Joint Enrollment and Dual Credit Enrollment Coursework.

1. A student is ineligible for Foster Care Scholarship payment for Degree coursework attempted while participating in Joint Enrollment or Dual Credit Enrollment.

1105.6. Coursework Exemptions.

1. A student is ineligible to receive Foster Care Scholarship payment for coursework that was exempted or given credit by examination, testing, training, or experience.

1105.7. Continuing Education and Audit Coursework.

1. A student is ineligible to receive Foster Care Scholarship payment for coursework classified by his or her Eligible Postsecondary Institution as Continuing Education or Audit coursework, and such coursework is not counted as Attempted-Hours.

1105.8. Total Withdrawal from Coursework.

1. A student is ineligible for Foster Care Scholarship payment for coursework from which he or she totally withdrew if, as a result, such coursework does not appear on the student's academic transcript as "W" or any other code or type of identification.

1106. Student Application Requirements.

1106.1. Application Forms.

1. The student must complete annually the current year FAFSA. The annual FAFSA must be on file with GSFA.

2. The student must complete and submit the one-time Foster Care Scholarship Application to GSFA.

   a. The student must submit documentation to GSFA verifying foster care status, which may be issued either by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services or by a nonprofit agency supporting foster youth.

   b. Any supporting documentation required must be submitted to GSFA. The completed application and supporting documentation will be reviewed to determine the student's eligibility. GSFA will notify the student and the Eligible Postsecondary Institution of the determination.

REVISED 8/7/2026

3. The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must complete the Enrollment Certification confirming the student's enrollment and Foster Care Scholarship award amount for each academic term of enrollment for the academic year.

1106.2. Application Deadline Date.

1. A student must have the current year FAFSA and the Foster Care Scholarship Application on file with GSFA on or before the last day of the school term (semester or quarter) or the student's withdrawal date, whichever occurs first, in order to be paid for that school term.

   a. The last day of the school term is the last day of classes or exams for the Eligible Postsecondary Institution, whichever occurs later. Supplemental documentation required by GSFA to support or verify a student's application information may be submitted after the deadline without jeopardizing the student's eligibility.

1107. Award Requirements.

1107.1. Award Amounts.

REVISED 8/7/2026

1. The Foster Care Scholarship annual award maximum is $30,000 not to exceed the student's Direct Costs.

2. A student may receive payment for three semesters or four quarters for the Award Year.

1107.2. Awards Per School Term.

1. The Foster Care Scholarship is available to students for the standard school terms of Summer, Fall, and Spring semesters or Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters.

   a. An Eligible Postsecondary Institution may combine mini-terms or modules to form the equivalent of a standard semester or quarter.

   b. An Eligible Postsecondary Institution may offer Non-Standard Terms or Non-Terms, in which courses or modules are taken consecutively to form the equivalent of a standard semester or quarter. Regardless of the structure of an Eligible Postsecondary Institution's school terms, a student may be awarded Foster Care Scholarship funds for a maximum of three semesters or four quarters per Award Year.

2. The Foster Care Scholarship award amounts per semester or quarter are subject to change during the Award Year.

1107.3. Student Notification of Award.

1. An Eligible Postsecondary Institution must notify each Foster Care Scholarship recipient of the amount of Foster Care Scholarship he or she is awarded for the Award Year and identify such funds as a Foster Care Scholarship award.

1108. Disbursement of Funds.

1108.1. Methods of Disbursement.

1. Foster Care Scholarship funds are paid to Eligible Postsecondary Institutions by electronic transfer of funds on behalf of eligible students each school term based on the enrollment certification information submitted to GSFA.

1108.2. Crediting of Student Accounts.

REVISED 8/7/2026

1. Upon receipt of Foster Care Scholarship payments from GSFA, the Eligible Postsecondary Institution must credit the student's account towards the Direct Costs.

(The remainder of this page is intentionally blank).

1109. Return of Funds Requirements.

1109.1. Calculation of Return of Funds due to Withdrawal.

1. If the student officially withdraws, drops out, drops hours, is expelled, or otherwise fails to complete a period of Enrollment, and is entitled to a refund, a portion of such refund may need to be returned to the GSFA.

    a. A student is ineligible for the Foster Care Scholarship for coursework from which he or she totally withdrew if, as a result, such coursework does not appear on the student's academic transcript as a "W" or any other code or identification for such a withdrawal.

2. To determine any changes in the Foster Care Scholarship award, the Eligible Postsecondary Institution must apply the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's refund policy. If the Foster Care Scholarship award exceeds the student's adjusted Direct Costs, the Foster Care Scholarship amount that exceeds Direct Costs must be returned to GSFA.

REVISED 8/7/2026

3. Once the Eligible Postsecondary Institution determines the amount of the Foster Care Scholarship that exceeds the adjusted Direct Costs, the eligible Postsecondary Institution must return the funds to GSFA within forty-five (45) calendar days of the determination.

4. The remainder of the award amount is retained by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution to cover the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's cost for the portion of the school term that the student was Enrolled.

1109.2. Emergency Military Duty.

1. A student who is a member of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or Military Reserve Forces receiving funds from the Foster Care Scholarship Program who is called to emergency military duty during a school term that is already in progress should not have his or her Foster Care Scholarship eligibility negatively impacted.

2. If the Eligible Postsecondary Institution the student attends allows the student to totally withdraw and receive a grade such as "WM" for "military withdrawal" or the Eligible Postsecondary Institution totally removes all grades for that term and corresponding credit hours from the student's records, the Eligible Postsecondary Institution should return the full amount of the Foster Care Scholarship award.

3. This regulation may also be applied to students who are not members of the military but are otherwise unusually and detrimentally affected by the emergency activation of members of the United States Armed Forces, as determined by the President of the Eligible Postsecondary Institution that such student is attending.

1110. Reconciliation Requirements.

1110.1. Term Reconciliation.

1. Eligible Postsecondary Institutions must conduct a Term Reconciliation by the end of each term. A Term Reconciliation consists of an official acknowledgement by an authorized school official, through Postsecondary Functions that the number of students submitted for payment, total invoiced, the number of invoices paid and total disbursed by GSFA to the Eligible Postsecondary Institution, according to Postsecondary Functions, is accurate on that date.

   a. GSFA will not issue any state scholarship or grant funds for the following term until the Term Reconciliation is complete.

   b. Funds are not returned to GSFA as part of the Term Reconciliation process.

1110.2. Fiscal Year End Reconciliation.

1. Eligible Postsecondary Institutions must conduct the Fiscal Year End Reconciliation consisting of an official acknowledgement by an authorized school official, through Postsecondary Functions verifying, student by student, the accuracy of each invoice submitted by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution with respect to the student's Enrolled-Hours, Paid-Hours, Learning Support, academic eligibility status as determined by the CHECS calculations, and program of study information, when applicable to the program.

   a. Any pending rejected or academically ineligible invoices must be fully resolved prior to Fiscal Year End Reconciliation.

   b. Reconciliation certification forms must be completed and submitted electronically, through Postsecondary Functions by July 15, immediately following the completion of the Fiscal Year for each State Program.

   c. Return to GSFA any funds not utilized according to the Fiscal Year End Reconciliation by August 15 after the beginning of the new Fiscal Year.

   d. GSFA will not issue any state scholarship or grant funds for the Fall term until the previous Fiscal Year Reconciliation process is complete.

   e. The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must have a procedure in place to ensure that the state scholarship and grant funds do not go to an unintended third party (i.e., state, postsecondary institution).

1111. Records Retention Requirements.

1111.1. Length of Retention.

1. An Eligible Postsecondary Institution shall maintain accurate records, books, documents and other evidence concerning the Foster Care Scholarship Program, including, but not limited to, individual student files for whichever is longer:

    a. Three years after the Award Year in which the aid was awarded; or

    b. For such other period as required by an applicable statute, rule, or regulation; or

    c. Such other time as requested in writing by GSFA.

1111.2. Documentation.

1. Documentation contained within an individual student file or record, which supports the original determination of a student's eligibility, must be retained by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution and available for review by GSFA on the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's campus, in Georgia, for at least three calendar years after the most recent Award Year for which the student received Foster Care Scholarship funds (refer to *Section 1111*.1).

2. Eligible Postsecondary Institutions are permitted to maintain these documents in an imaged media format. The imaged media format must be capable of reproducing an accurate, legible, and complete copy of the original document.

    a. Such documentation may include, but is not limited to, copies of permanent resident alien cards, Georgia state income tax returns, student financial aid applications and academic transcripts from previous institutions.

    b. Documentation regarding a student's eligibility is not limited to files, records, and other information received and maintained by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's Student Financial Aid Office.

    c. Documentation supporting a student's eligibility that is received and maintained by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's admissions office, registrar's office, business office, and other administrative operations must be available to GSFA for the purpose of Compliance Reviews.

3. It is the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's responsibility to resolve any inconsistencies or conflicting information within a student's records, prior to awarding or disbursing Foster Care Scholarship funds to the student.

1111.3. Extended Retention.

1. An Eligible Postsecondary Institution may be required to retain student records involved in a Compliance Review, Audit, or investigation for more than the three-year retention period set forth in *Section 1111.1*. If the three-year retention period expires before the issue in question is resolved, the Eligible Postsecondary Institution must continue to retain all associated records until a resolution is reached.

(The remainder of this page is intentionally blank.)

1112. Administrative Reviews and Exceptions.

1112.1. Administrative Reviews.

1. The Foster Care Scholarship Program Regulations are applied to each student considered for Foster Care Scholarship funds by appropriate officials of Eligible Postsecondary Institutions and by the administrative staff of GSFA.

2. If a student believes a Foster Care Scholarship Program rule or regulation was incorrectly applied in his or her case, the student has the right to file a request for an Administrative Review with GSFA.

3. In order for an Administrative Review to be considered, the student must submit a written request for an Administrative Review to GSFA's office within 45 calendar days of receiving notice of denial. If additional information is requested from the student, it must be provided within the time frame specified by GSFA.

    a. GSFA will review the case and determine whether the rule or regulation was applied correctly and notify the student and Eligible Postsecondary Institution of the determination.

    b. GSFA decides a case based only on documentation provided by the student, rather than a personal presentation.

1112.2. Requesting an Exception.

1. Requests for Exceptions to the Foster Care Scholarship Program Regulations will not be considered, reviewed, or granted under any circumstances.

1113. Compliance Reviews.

1113.1. Compliance Review Policy.

1. GSFA shall conduct Compliance Reviews of Eligible Postsecondary Institutions participating in the Foster Care Scholarship Program in order to assess institutional administration of the program and compliance with the program's regulations. Such Compliance Reviews shall be conducted no less frequently than once every three years in accordance with GSFA's *Compliance Review Process and Procedures* document, which is available at gsfc.georgia.gov, under *Information for School Compliance*.

1113.2. Compliance Review Process.

1. GSFA selects a sampling of the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's Foster Care Scholarship recipients, for the Award Year under review, and the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's files and records for the sample are examined to assure compliance. Records which document and support a student's eligibility must be available for review at the Georgia campus of the Eligible Postsecondary Institution.

1113.3. Institutional Repayment.

1. In the event it is determined that an Eligible Postsecondary Institution knowingly or through error certified an ineligible student to be eligible for Foster Care Scholarship, the amount of such scholarship shall be refunded by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution to GSFA.

2. GSFA may suspend an Eligible Postsecondary Institution from receiving Foster Care Scholarship payments if it fails to timely refund any monies deemed due based on the Compliance Review.

3. Any person who knowingly makes or furnishes any false statement or misrepresentation, or who accepts such statement or misrepresentation knowing it to be false, for the purpose of enabling an ineligible student to wrongfully obtain a Foster Care Scholarship award shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

4. If evidence, not available at the time of awarding, indicates that a student should not have received the Foster Care Scholarship payment, then all future Foster Care Scholarship awards for that student must be canceled.

    a. The Eligible Postsecondary Institution is held harmless by GSFA, if the student's file is adequately documented with available evidence and it is determined by GSFA that the Eligible Postsecondary Institution was not at fault.

    b. Evidence is considered unavailable at the time of awarding if it is not available in the student's institutional files (i.e., financial aid, admissions, registrar, etc.).

5. The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must notify the student and GSFA of a refund due to GSFA.

6. The student will be ineligible to receive additional state aid from GSFA until the repayment is paid in full.

7. If GSFA determines the student's file is not adequately documented, the Eligible Postsecondary Institution may be solely responsible for the repayment.