



Publication Date: May 15, 2025
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Subject: 2025-2026 State Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Program Regulations
Program Award Charts
Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines

Dear Colleague:

The following contains information regarding the 2025-2026 (FY 2026) State Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Program Regulations, program award charts, and invoice and reconciliation deadlines.

2025-2026 State Program Regulations

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved the Program Regulations on May 8, 2025. The Program Regulations are effective July 1, 2025. The 2025-2026 Program Regulations, a summary of changes, and award charts will be posted at gsfc.georgia.gov by May 16, 2025.

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 2025 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

HOPE Scholarship at Eligible Private Postsecondary Institutions

- The award rate increases effective Fall term 2025 (FY 2026)
- Institutions on the semester system will have a full time rate of \$2,985 and half time rate of \$1,493
- Institutions on the quarter system will have a full time rate of \$2,034 and half time rate of \$1,017

Georgia College Completion Grant Program

- Effective Fall term 2025, students enrolled in a two year program must complete a minimum of 45% of required credits and students enrolled in a four year program must complete a minimum of 70% of required credits of their major or program of study before qualifying for the grant.
- Program is scheduled to sunset in FY 2029

Public Service Memorial Grant Program

- Name changed from Public Safety Memorial Grant
- In addition to Georgia Public Safety Officers, the program includes Georgia Public School Employees killed or permanently disabled due to a willful act of violence while on duty
 - Permanently disabled for Public School Employees must be loss of both eyes or blindness in both eyes, loss (or use) of both hands or legs, confinement to a wheelchair, or a traumatic brain injury

- Spouses (at the time of the event) of Public Safety Officers and Public School Employees are eligible
- Eligible postsecondary institution enrollment may be full-time or part-time
- Award may be applied to the cost of attendance minus other financial aid
- Maximum annual award is \$18,000 and aggregate award is \$72,000
- Expiration of eligibility for children is 10 years from high school graduation date and for spouses it is 10 years from the qualifying event

REACH Scholarship Program

- A REACH Scholar who graduates by completing the Accelerated Career Diploma (ACD) pathway and was unable to receive a Calculated HOPE GPA, must have a minimum final high school GPA of 2.50 as calculated by the Participating School System

High School Equivalency Examination Grant Program

- Increase maximum award amount from \$200 to \$210

Calculation of Return of Funds section

- All program regulations eliminate refund due and mention of the Title IV return of funds policy when calculating return of funds

Program Award Charts

State Program Award Charts for 2025-2026 for HOPE Scholarship and Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant, Dual Enrollment, and Accelerated Career Education Grant, effective Fall term 2025, will be posted no later than May 23, 2025 on GAfutures.org under "Trending."

FY 2026 (Summer term 2025 – Spring term 2026) Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines

FY 2026 Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines chart is now available.

FY 2025 Fiscal Year End Invoice Period and Reconciliation

Eligible postsecondary institutions are to review their state scholarship and grant awards, disbursements, and invoices for the current year and submit invoices for any term considered part of the fiscal year for the particular program. The Year End Invoice Period, June 01 - 23, is the time to resolve any scholarship and grant invoice changes needed for the current fiscal year.

The FY 2025 Year End Reconciliation for all scholarship, grant, and loan programs is due July 15, 2025. Any previously disbursed funds to the institution that need to be returned must be submitted to GSFC by August 15, 2025.

Prior Year Late Invoice Procedure

Scholarship and grant invoices for a prior fiscal year will not be paid except under certain extraordinary and narrowly defined circumstances. The Program Regulations allow an invoice to be paid after the fiscal year has closed 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 eligibility (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.

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 Amber Sumner, Senior Manager of Funds at asumner@gsfc.org, that includes the following:

1. Reason for the prior year late invoice request
2. Individual invoice information
3. 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 Pennie Strong, Executive Vice President, Program Administration, at pennies@gsfc.org, and include 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 2025-2026 Program Regulations will be posted on gsfc.georgia.gov by May 16, 2025. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at GAfutures.org under "Trending." If you have any questions regarding the revisions of Regulations or program information, please contact Pennie Strong, Executive Vice President, Program Administration, at 770.724.9014 or pennies@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,



Christopher Green