



Publication Date: May 13, 2026
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Subject: 2026 - 2027 State Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Program Regulations
Award Charts
Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines

Dear Colleague,

This Dear Colleague Letter provides information regarding the 2026 - 2027 (FY 2027) State Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Program Regulations, including award charts and invoice and reconciliation deadlines for both term and year-end reporting.

2026 - 2027 State Program Regulations

- The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved the 2026 - 2027 Program Regulations on May 7, 2026. These regulations will take effect on July 1, 2026. The full regulations, a summary of changes, and award charts will be available on gsfc.georgia.gov by May 15, 2026.
- In addition to revisions for clarity, the following regulatory changes reflect legislation enacted during the 2026 session of the Georgia General Assembly:

New Programs

- Dedicating Resources to Educationally Advance More Students (DREAMS) Scholarship Program provides additional financial assistance to eligible students with outstanding financial need who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant and are enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an institution of the University System of Georgia or the Technical College System of Georgia. The maximum annual award amount is \$3,000. Students must complete online Financial Toolkit sessions and perform 60 work hours per term to qualify for the DREAMS Scholarship. An annual institution allocation formula will use a Pell Grant-based methodology.
- The Georgia Foster Care Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to eligible undergraduate students who were in the custody of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services at least six months after their 14th birthday and are enrolled at an eligible postsecondary institution. The scholarship helps cover remaining costs of attendance after other scholarships and grants are applied, not to exceed \$30,000 or the student's unmet cost of attendance, whichever is less.

Regulation Updates

- The Georgia College Completion Grant institutional allocation formula is revised to use a Pell Grant-based methodology.
- The calculated high school HOPE GPA for the HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship will include Advanced Fine Arts courses with a written end of course test as identified by the Georgia Department of Education. The new calculation will be effective with the Class of 2027.
- The Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Grant is expanded to allow IPSE programs at eligible private postsecondary institutions. At eligible private institutions, the IPSE Grant award amount is equivalent to the maximum HOPE Scholarship award for private institutions.
- The Tuition Equalization Grant is updated to allow proprietary postsecondary institutions to award TEG to students enrolled in a Bachelor of Nursing program, provided the institution meets all eligibility requirements and has a minimum four-year average NCLEX pass rate of 80 percent. The institutions are not eligible to participate in the HOPE Scholarship program.

Award Charts

- Award charts for the 2026 - 2027 academic year which include HOPE Scholarship and Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant, Dual Enrollment, and Accelerated Career Education Grant effective Fall term 2026 will be available by May 15, 2026.
 - Printable versions will be posted on gsfc.georgia.gov
 - Searchable versions will be available at GAfutures.org under the “Trending” section

FY 2027 Invoicing (Summer 2026 – Spring 2027)

- The FY 2027 Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines chart is now available in Postsecondary Functions (PSF) Resources.

FY 2026 Year-End Invoicing 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 is the time to resolve any scholarship and grant invoice changes needed for the current fiscal year.

The FY 2026 Year End Reconciliation for all scholarship, grant, and loan programs is due July 15, 2026. Any previously disbursed funds to the institution that need to be returned must be submitted to GSFC by August 15, 2026.

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, Scholarship & Grant 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 one-half 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

Final Notes

The 2026-2027 Program Regulations will be posted on gsfc.georgia.gov by May 15, 2026. 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

Fiscal Year 2027 Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines for Programs

Scholarship and Grant Programs

Terms	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer*
All State Scholarship and Grant Invoicing Deadlines	Oct. 22, 2026	Feb. 18, 2027	April 22, 2027	June 23, 2027	June 23, 2027
Year End Invoice Period	June 1-23				
Reconciliation Deadline	July 15				
Reconciliation of Funds Deadline	August 15				
*Summer Term for College Completion Grant only No FY 2027 Disbursements can be made after June 23, 2027					

Loan Programs

Terms	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer*
Loan Disbursement Period	July 15 – June 23				
Reconciliation Deadline	July 15				
Reconciliation of Funds Deadline	August 15				
No FY 2027 disbursements can be made after June 23, 2027					

Year End Invoicing Period

- During June 1 – 23 each year, PSIs can submit invoices for any term of the current fiscal year for the scholarship or grant programs.
- All invoices must be submitted by June 23 to be applied to the current fiscal year. After June 23, the fiscal year is closed.
- Invoices must be submitted through PSF > SURFER via INU file or onscreen entry.
- This process removes the need for PSIs to request an extension.

Year End Reconciliation Period

- Year End Reconciliation is done online through PSF > Reconciliation, must be completed and submitted for each fund program of the current fiscal year by July 15.
- Any unused credits must be returned by August 15.
- If July 15 or Aug 15 deadlines fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline is automatically the following Monday.
- State funds for the upcoming Fall term cannot be disbursed until Year End Reconciliation is complete.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the Term or Year End Reconciliation process, please contact: GSFC's Scholarship and Grant Funds Program Administration at: sgfunds@gsfc.org or 770.724.9183 or Senior Program Manager, Funds Program Administration Amber Sumner at asumner@gsfc.org or 770-724-9027.

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