

Brian P. Kemp GOVERNOR Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAfutures.org

Lynne Riley
PRESIDENT

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School Update ID: 2021-05

Subject: Zell Miller Scholarship Eligibility Extension for Class of 2021

On March 12, 2021, Governor Brian P. Kemp signed <u>Executive Order 03.12.21.01</u>, extending current COVID-19 restrictions. The new Executive Order also contained additional deadline extensions for the Class of 2021 for Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility.

The GSFC Board of Commissioners will consider State Program Regulation changes necessary to implement the Executive Order's provisions relating to standardized testing on May 7, 2021. A Dear Colleague Letter will be provided the following week with the release of the FY 2022 (2021-2022) State Program Regulations and updates.

Class of 2021 Updates are on GAfutures.

Zell Miller Scholarship

Eligible high school graduates and accredited home study completers with a graduation or completion date from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 unable to sit for the ACT or SAT due to the cancellation of test dates may submit a qualifying SAT score or ACT score until June 30, 2022 to GSFC. Students with a qualifying GPA and rigor credits may be awarded HOPE Scholarship initially. Upon earning a qualifying test score, a student may be retroactively awarded Zell Miller Scholarship.

Unaccredited home study completers and graduates of non-eligible high schools with a completion or graduation date from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 unable to sit for the ACT or SAT due to the cancellation of test dates may submit a qualifying test score until June 30, 2022 to GSFC. Upon earning a qualifying SAT or ACT score of the 75th Percentile or 93rd Percentile, a student may be retroactively awarded the HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship, respectively.

Student Access Loan (SAL)

The eligible high school graduates and accredited home study completers with an eligible Zell Miller Scholarship GPA and rigor credits, but without the required test score, may apply for a micro-SAL (subject to available funding) for the Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring 2022 terms in the amount totaling only the difference between the HOPE Scholarship award and Zell Miller Scholarship award at their postsecondary institution. If the student submits a Zell Miller Scholarship eligible ACT or SAT test score by June 30, 2022, the SAL may be cancelled.

If you have questions related to your Class of 2021 college preparation, please contact your GSFC Outreach Representative at outreach@gsfc.org

If you have questions relating to regulations, deadlines, or eligibility, please contact Pennie Strong, Vice President of Program Administration, by email: pennies@gsfc.org or phone: 770-724-9014.

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Thanks for your continued support of Georgia students.