



Publication Date: October 12, 2021
DCL ID: 2022-05

Subject: New initiative for Georgia's high school students

Dear Colleague:

The Georgia Student Finance Commission believes every Georgia high school graduate should have the opportunity to attend college. For this reason, we are excited to announce our new initiative for Georgia's high school students:

Plan&Pay4 CollegeGA

With this initiative, GSFC is developing an academic and financial aid profile for high school students to share important information regarding planning for college and aid available to assist with paying for college.

This multi-year project will include a grade-specific letter to students, explaining that college is possible in Georgia and GSFC has resources to help. The letter will include estimates of state and federal financial aid that may be available to them. It will also include students' potential HOPE Scholarship/Grant and Zell Miller Scholarship/Grant academic eligibility through their junior year of high school.

For 12th graders, the letter will also include Cost of Attendance data based on the first 4 HOPE eligible colleges they select on their FAFSA. If no Georgia colleges are selected, the letter will display averages for USG, TCSG, and eligible private institutions.

For Phase 1 of the initiative, we are starting with the 12th grade letter for students participating in the REACH Georgia Scholarship program as our pilot group. Next year, we will expand the project to provide letters to all 12th graders. The following year, we intend to send grade-level appropriate letters to students for each year of high school. As the project continues to develop, we will replace the physical letter with a GAfutures module online that will allow the student to perform what-if scenarios based on the colleges they select.

High School Professionals

REACH Coordinators - Please encourage students in the program to complete the FAFSA. All REACH students who complete the FAFSA by November 1st will have more complete information on their letter (including Pell eligibility). Letters will be mailed by November 15th, so tell your students to be on the lookout for them. Lastly, encourage your students to follow the next steps on the letter.

All High School Professionals - As you work with your seniors and their parents to complete the 2022/23 FAFSA (opened October 1st), please know that the GSFC Outreach representatives are available to help students complete the FAFSA. If you have not done so already, you can [request a FAFSA night](#) at your school where GSFC will attend and assist with FAFSA completions.

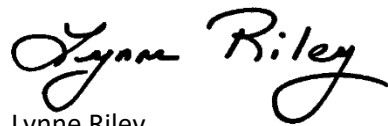
Our state-wide outreach team members are also able to meet with students and parents individually. You can assist any senior to set up an appointment by accessing our team's calendars to schedule an appointment. The following link, <https://www.gafutures.org/about-us/outreach/gsfcc-outreach/>, will take you to the state map. Click on your county to access your outreach representative's personal page and select **Schedule an Appointment**.

Postsecondary Professionals

The Cost of Attendance data provided on the letter are based on data provided by your institution through GAfutures | Postsecondary Functions. Additionally, the letter informs students that the amounts are estimates based on current data available. Students should submit required documentation to the financial aid office so that the college can determine eligibility and award amounts.

If you have any questions relating to the Plan & Pay 4 College GA Initiative, please contact Dr. Melissa Cruz, Vice President, Customer Communications, at 770.724.9078 or melissac@gafc.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "R".

Lynne Riley