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GOVERNOR



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New REACH School Systems Approved for 2015-2016 School Year

Atlanta, GA (March 13, 2015) - Today, Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia announced an additional 19 Georgia school systems that will be participating in the program in the 2015-2016 school year. Georgia school systems had the opportunity to apply to participate in REACH Georgia during the application process that was open from December 1 through February 25.

“The REACH program is a premier example of how we are working to expand access to higher education to students who otherwise would not be able to afford it,” said Governor Nathan Deal. “Through REACH, Georgia’s most promising students can turn their dream of attending college and making a better life for themselves and their families into a reality. This program continues to expand across Georgia because it promotes student achievement from the ground up, rewarding students for self-accountability, involving parents and providing motivation and support. With this combination, I have no doubt that the hard-working students in the 19 additional school systems will find that a college education can finally be in their reach.”

Governor Deal launched REACH in 2012 as a key initiative of Complete College Georgia. School systems partner with REACH and identify academically promising, low income eighth grade students to serve as REACH Scholars. These Scholars are paired with a mentor and an academic coach through high school. Upon graduation from high school, Scholars are awarded up to a \$10,000 scholarship to be used at a Georgia HOPE-eligible two or four-year college.

“We are pleased with the program’s growth over the past two years,” stated Tricia Chastain, President, Georgia Student Finance Commission. “The program started small with five school systems and 23 Scholars participating in the first two years. With the selection of these additional school systems, REACH will have a total of 42 school systems and over 340 Scholars participating next school year,” added Chastain.

“Our goal is to have 2000 REACH Scholars by 2020,” stated Brad Bryant, Executive Director, REACH. “With continued public and private support for REACH Scholarships, we will meet this goal,” added Bryant.

The new REACH school systems for the 2015-2016 school year include:

Baldwin County	Lamar County
Barrow County	Liberty County
Burke County	Newton County
Butts County	Richmond County
Carrollton City	Savannah-Chatham County
Coweta County	Sumter County
Decatur County	Taylor County
Dawson County	Wilcox County
Early County	Wilkinson County
Fannin County	

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

REACH Georgia is administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA), a companion student finance entity of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). GSFC is the state agency that administers the HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program as well as other state- and lottery- funded financial aid programs. GSFC also manages the career and college preparation website, GAcollge411.org and provides educational services such as free financial aid consultation, default management and financial literacy to elementary, middle and high schools, and postsecondary institutions across the state. Additional information about GSFC products and services is available at www.gsfc.org or www.GAcollge411.org or 800.505.GSFC (4732).