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REACH Scholarship Program Expands to 153 School Systems

ATLANTA – The REACH Georgia program welcomed more than 600 new scholars during the 2019 REACH Signing Week, which ran from Oct. 21 - 25. Launched in 2012, the REACH Georgia Program is a needs-based mentorship and scholarship program designed to encourage students, starting in middle school, to persist in their educational pursuits. Students in the program are provided with the academic, social, and financial support needed to graduate from high school and earn a post-secondary education.

“The REACH Program provides students across the state with greater access to higher education while also preparing them for an academic journey that will culminate in personal and professional success,” said Gov. Brian P. Kemp. “This investment in the future of our state helps to improve educational outcomes for students and further strengthens our classroom-to-career pipeline. With the expansion of this critical program to 19 additional school systems, we are changing lives for the better and opening doors of opportunity for some of Georgia’s most promising young minds.”

As part of REACH Signing Week, each school system participating in the program sponsors a signing ceremony, during which new REACH scholars sign contracts to maintain a grade point average, uphold good attendance, and meet with academic coaches while remaining crime, drug, and behavior issue free. Parents and guardians also sign contracts signaling their support of their student’s endeavors.

With the addition of 19 new participating school systems this year, the REACH Program now serves more than 2,400 students in 153 systems across the state. New systems joining the REACH Program in the 2019-2020 school year include:

Berrien County
Bryan County
Dade County
Effingham County
Fayette County
Floyd County
Hancock County
Henry County
Montgomery County
Morgan County

Oconee County
Oglethorpe County
Pike County
Rome City
Thomaston-Upson County
Terrell County
Tift County
Troup County
Worth County

“We are very excited that 19 new school systems joined the REACH Program this year,” said Caylee Noggle, President of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). “Thanks to the continued support of our public and private partners, we are on track to meet our goal of having 3,000 students in the program by 2020.”

For the 2019-2020 school year, REACH has a total of 153 school systems participating in the program and more than 2,400 Scholars. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or would like to learn more about the REACH Program, please visit www.reachga.org.

About the REACH Georgia program

REACH Georgia is a program of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and its companion student finance entity, the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA). The REACH Georgia needs-based scholarship and mentorship program was designed to assist students who demonstrate true academic promise, but may not currently have the academic preparation or financial support needed to graduate high school and earn a postsecondary credential. Additional information about REACH is available at reachga.org or 800.505.GSFC (4732).