



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
[GAcollege411](http://GAcollege411.com)

Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

January 7, 2013

Dear President:

Under provisions of O.C.G.A § 50-36-1, the Secure and Verifiable Identity Document Act (House Bill 87 from the 2011 Session) the Georgia Student Finance Commission (the Commission) is required to ensure that all persons applying for a public benefit are first deemed eligible by virtue of citizenship or foreign national legal status prior to the receipt of such benefit. In order for the Commission to comply with the law in a manner that is the most administratively efficient for all parties (the Commission, students and postsecondary institutions), we have worked with the Department of Law as well as legal counsel at both the University System Central Office and the Technical College System of Georgia to craft the attached document, **Public Postsecondary Institutional Participation Agreement for State Programs and Verification of Lawful Presence within the United States** (the Participation Agreement). This document will replace the existing participation agreement between your institution and the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

The effective date of the new agreement is March 1, 2013. I request that you sign and return this document as soon as possible prior to that date to ensure there is no break in our ability to pay student financial aid invoices to your school. After March 1, 2013, we will suspend all payments to schools that have not returned an executed Participation Agreement.

If you have any questions about the Participation Agreement, you may certainly contact me directly at 770-724-9001. If your legal counsel has any questions, please have them contact Ms. Marissa Key, our General Counsel, at 770-724-9204. Please return the signed agreement to Marissa Key, Legal Counsel, Georgia Student Finance Commission, 2082 East Exchange Place, Tucker, Georgia 30084.

I thank you for your prompt response to this request and I look forward to our continued relationship in the pursuit of a better educated Georgia.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Connell
Attachment