

**Executive Summary of Substantive Changes**  
FY 2018 State Program Regulations

The below summarizes substantive changes to each program regulation and is not indicative of minor edits for consistent regulatory language and regulation formatting.

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**All Program Regulations**

Below highlights changes made to all Program Regulations.

- Removed requirement of a student being a Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen for “12 consecutive months” prior to receiving state aid. The removal of the 12 consecutive months reference is aligned with Federal Title IV Regulations and 12 months of Georgia Residency requirement remains.
  - New option for borrowers to resolve defaulted loan or refund due on a State of Georgia loan by completing a rehabilitation plan by making nine voluntary on time payments over a specified period agreed upon by GSFC.
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**HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship at Private Institutions**

Below highlights the changes to the HOPE Scholarship at Private Institutions and Zell Miller Scholarship at Private Institutions regulations.

- Revised to reflect the 3% increase to tuition awards effective beginning fall term 2018 (FY18).
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**Tuition Equalization Grant Program**

Below highlights the changes to the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Program Regulations.

- Increase of annual award amount from \$900 to \$950
    - Semester award increase from \$450 to \$475 per semester
    - Quarter award increase from \$300 to \$317 per quarter
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**HOPE Grant**

Below highlights the changes to the HOPE Grant Program Regulations.

- New, Alternative Graduation Option - eligibility of HOPE Grant, up to 30 semester hours, while enrolled at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution in a Matriculated status in a program leading

to an Associate's Degree for a student who received a high school diploma through completion of O.C.G.A. §20-2-149.2 (SB2), and received a technical Diploma or two (2) technical Certificates as identified by TCSG

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### **Student Access Loans (SAL)**

Below highlights the changes to the Student Access Loan Program Regulations.

- New language to allow Postsecondary Institutions, through school certification, to implement institutional polices to decline eligibility of a SAL or reduce the requested loan amount for, but not limited to, previous academic history including poor academic performance, unusual enrollment history (UEH), total amount of previous debt, or direct costs such as tuition, fees, books, etc.
  - New language to notify borrower that any scheduled disbursements for a current year loan will be canceled if the borrower is delinquent on KIT payments for a current or previous year SAL.
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### **Move On When Ready**

Below highlights the changes to the Move On When Ready (MOWR) Program Regulations.

- New language to allow extended Length of Eligibility in the MOWR program beyond the typical four (4) year high school enrollment for a student pursuing a documented Alternative Graduation Option (SB2), if such student began on the plan on or before beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - New language to allow extended Length of Eligibility for students on documented Individual Education Plans or 504 Plans that extends high school enrollment. Student and parent must submit a MOWR Length of Eligibility Extension Request Form during 12<sup>th</sup> grade year. A copy of the IEP or 504 Plan may be requested by GSFC.
  - New language of Eligible High School Responsibility to submit the annual underclass (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade) transcript data, of the previous academic year, to GSFC, no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> each year.
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### **Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen Scholarship**

Below highlights the changes to the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship Program Regulations.

- Updated and expanded Eligible High School and Eligible Postsecondary Institution

responsibilities program sections in its entirety for consistency with regulatory language.

- New language to notify School Systems of Reporting Requirements by mid-year (Feb 15<sup>th</sup>) and end of year (June 30<sup>th</sup>) of the Scholars' academic, attendance and behavioral performance using STARS.
- Clarified Award Amounts to indicate a REACH Scholar may receive a maximum lifetime award of \$10,000; \$2,500 per award year - \$1,250 per semester or \$833 per quarter. A Scholar awarded less than the maximum amount per semester or quarter may receive the remaining funds for Summer term, not to exceed \$1,250 or \$833 maximums.
- New language to notify Eligible Postsecondary Institutions upon determination that REACH funds are due back to the REACH Program the institution must return the funds within forty-five (45) calendar days of the refund determination.

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### **State of Georgia Programs Definitions**

Below highlights the changes to the State of Georgia Programs Definitions Regulations.

- Revised the definition of "First Professional Degrees" to remove Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

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### **All Service Cancelable Programs**

Below highlights the changes to: Scholarship for Engineering Education, Scholarship for Engineering Education for Minorities, Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan, Georgia Military College Scholarship Loan, and the University of North Georgia Scholarship Loan.

- Clarified requirement that when a borrower enters Service Cancellation, and for each year of service the borrower must submit a verification of status (VOS) form to GSFA.