

Summary of Substantive Changes

FY 2026 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.

HOPE Scholarship Private Program

- Per semester full-time increase from \$2,496 to \$2,985
- Per semester half-time increase from \$1,248 to \$1,493
- Per quarter full-time increase from \$1,664 to \$2,034
- Per quarter half-time increase from \$832 to \$1,017

Georgia College Completion Grant Program

- Eligible students enrolled in a two-year program must have completed a minimum of 45% of required credit hours
- Eligible students enrolled in a four-year program must have completed a minimum of 70% of required credit hours
- Program is scheduled to sunset in FY 2029

Public Service Memorial Grant Program

- Name changed from Public Safety Memorial Grant
- In addition to Public Safety Officers, the program includes Public School Employees killed or permanently disabled due to a willful act of violence while on duty
 - Permanently disabled for Public School Employees must be loss of both eyes or blindness in both eyes, loss or loss of uses in both hands or legs, confinement to a wheelchair, or a traumatic brain injury
- Spouses (at the time of the event) of public safety officers and public school employees are eligible
- Eligible postsecondary institution enrollment may be full time or less than full time for eligible spouses and children.
- Annual Award is a maximum of \$18,000 and not exceeding the cost of attendance minus other aid.
- Aggregate maximum award \$72,000
- Expiration of eligibility: For children - 10 years from high school graduation date, for spouses - 10 years from the qualifying event

State of Georgia Programs Definitions

- **New** – Act of Violence means any intentional behavior that causes or attempts to cause physical harm or injury to another person or group of people
- **New** – Public School Employee means an individual who is employed by a Georgia public school for which compensation is provided

REACH Scholarship Program

- A REACH Scholar who graduates by completing the Accelerated Career Diploma (ACD) pathway must have a minimum Participating School System calculated final high school GPA of 2.50

High School Equivalency Examination Grant Program

- Increase maximum award amount from \$200 to \$210

Revised Calculation of Return of Funds

- If tuition is reduced per the institution's refund policy, the program award must be reduced by the same percentage or amount as tuition and returned to GSFC
 - HOPE Scholarship
 - Zell Miller Scholarship
 - HOPE Grant
 - Zell Miller Grant
 - Dual Enrollment Funding
 - Accelerated Career Grant
- If the Cost of Attendance is reduced per the institution's refund policy, the program award amount that exceeds Cost of Attendance minus other aid must be returned to GSFC
 - Georgia College Completion Grant
 - Helping Educate Reservists & Their Offspring, HERO, Scholarship
 - Inclusive Postsecondary Education Grant
 - Public Service Memorial Grant
 - Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen, REACH, Scholarship
 - Tuition Equalization Grant
 - University of North Georgia ROTC & Future Officers Grants
- If the Cost of Attendance is reduced per the institution's refund policy, the program loan amount that exceeds the Cost of Attendance minus other aid must be returned to GSFA
 - Behavioral Health Professionals Service Cancelable Loan
 - Georgia Military College State Service Cancelable Loan
 - Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan
 - Scholarship for Engineering Education, SEE, Service Cancelable Loan
 - University of North Georgia Military Service Cancelable Loan