

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAcollege411

Tracy Ireland
INTERIM PRESIDENT

April 25, 2013

UPDATE to communication sent January 22, 2013
RE: Change in Student Application Method for State and Lottery Funded Programs

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to provide an update about an important change to the method by which students can apply for any state or lottery funded student aid program administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC).

As a result of legislation passed during the 2013 Legislative Session (House Bill 324), and signed by the Governor, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will **NOT** be required as part of the application for those students seeking state financial aid. However, a FAFSA will remain an acceptable application for state financial aid and can be submitted if the student desires. If a student chooses not to submit a FAFSA, the GSFAPPS application can continue to be used to apply for state grants, scholarships and loan programs administered by GSFC. A FAFSA is required for students seeking the Student Access Loan (SAL).

The following is information to consider regarding this latest development:

- Communications are being prepared for financial aid offices, admissions offices, high schools, other administrators and current recipients of state program funds.
- A message will be added to the "What's New" section of GAcollege411.org.
- Invoicing logic will remain the same.
- All existing GSFAPPS applications will **NOT** expire on June 9, 2013 and the GSFAPPS process will continue to be available for students to apply for state financial aid programs.

We are making every attempt to provide all stakeholders with as much advance notice as possible. To reinforce our efforts, we respectfully ask that you also notify your students of this recent development.

Hopefully, this legislation will allay any potential hardship and inconvenience students and their families may have had with completing a FAFSA. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan Stroble at jonathans@gsfc.org or (770) 724-9022.

Sincerely,



Tracy A. Ireland