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Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GACollege411

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Publication Date: June 2, 2016
DCL ID: 2017 – 05

Subject: GAFutures Launch Information – K-12

Dear Colleague:

As we prepare to launch our new website – **GAFutures** – later this summer, we want to ensure that our customers have the information needed for a successful transition. For high schools, below are dates and guidelines we believe will be helpful.

Important Dates

- *Wednesday, July 20, 5 p.m. EST* – GACollege411.org will no longer be available. This includes BRIDGE/CCRPI activities and reporting functions. The functionalities and applications listed below will be down temporarily.
 - SURFER/STARS
 - Transcript Exchange
 - HOPE GPA reporting
 - GSFApps, Move On When Ready (MOWR) and other GSFC financial aid applications
 - College admissions applications
- *Wednesday, July 20, 5 p.m. EST through Monday, July 25* – GSFC will be transitioning to **GAFutures**.
- *Tuesday, July 26* – **GAFutures.org** will be online and the functionalities and applications listed above will be available through the **GAFutures** portal.

BRIDGE/CCRPI Reporting REMINDER

For schools currently using GACollege411 for their BRIDGE/CCRPI activities, it is time to compile your reports for the 2015 – 2016 school year. As a reminder, BRIDGE/CCRPI activities and reporting will be managed by GaDOE beginning with the 2016 – 2017 school year. As a result, it is recommended that individual schools save any reports or data associated with state requirements currently stored on GACollege411. This information will not be a part of GAFutures and will no longer be available once GACollege411 is retired on July 20 at 5 p.m. EST.

If you have questions or concerns about how to save your BRIDGE/CCRPI reports from GACollege411, please contact your outreach representative or call 770.724.9000. If you have questions regarding reporting for the 2016 – 2017 school year, contact Dr. Myrel Seigler at mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us or Maria Grovner at mgrovner@doe.k12.ga.us.

Transcript Exchange

With the launch of **GAFutures**, GSFC will manage the Transcript Exchange process. Beginning with the 2017 transcript/GPA processing cycle, the Transcript Exchange function will be accessed through STARS

from the **GAfutures** homepage. Please make note of the following dates regarding HOPE GPA calculations and transcript releases in preparation for the transition to **GAfutures**.

- Complete reviews and verifications of HOPE GPA calculations for high school seniors **before July 15**. GPA calculation processing will stop at this time then resume once **GAfutures** is live **July 26**.
- The final date for schools to release transcripts from GAcollge411 to a postsecondary institution for admissions processing will be **July 20 at 5 p.m. EST**. Beginning July 26, high schools will access STARS through **GAfutures** to release transcripts to postsecondary institutions for admissions processing.
- If you don't already have access to STARS, ask your school's super user to grant you access. For a quicker and easier transition, if possible, create any new STARS user accounts **before July 20**.

GSFC State Aid Program Applications

During the transition to **GAfutures**, all GSFC program applications will also be temporarily unavailable. This includes GSFAps and MOWR applications. Once **GAfutures** is online July 26, GSFC program applications can be accessed, completed and submitted through the new site.

GAfutures Links and Logos

With the launch of new websites, it is often necessary for users to update links and logos on their own websites and in publications.

- *Links* – Any GAcollge411 link included on your websites will automatically be redirected to the **GAfutures** homepage when it goes live on July 26. Specific links will need to be re-linked to the appropriate page on **GAfutures**, where applicable.
- *Logo* – The **GAfutures** logo and usage guidelines will be available on the website July 26. Visit the *About Us* tab, *Communications*, *GAfutures Logo Usage* and simply save the appropriate version of the logo to replace GAcollge411 on your website or in publications.

We understand the transition to **GAfutures** will be inconvenient for some of our customers. We apologize in advance and hope the information and guidelines above will minimize any disruptions. Additionally, messages will be posted on GAcollge411 and GSFC.org, and reminders will be sent leading up to the launch. If you have questions or need assistance, please email gafutures@gsfc.org or call us at 800.505.GSFC (4732) / 770.724.9000.

Sincerely,



Tricia P. Chastain