



Publication Date: May 17, 2024
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Subject: 2024-2025 State Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Program Regulations
Tuition Award Charts
Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines

Dear Colleague:

The following contains information regarding the 2024-2025 (FY 2025) State Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Program Regulations, program award charts, and term and year end invoice and reconciliation deadlines.

2024-2025 State Program Regulations

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Boards approved the Program Regulations on May 9-10, 2024. The Program Regulations are effective July 1, 2024. The 2024-2025 Program Regulations, a summary of changes, and award charts will be posted at gsfc.georgia.gov by May 17, 2024.

In addition to the changes made to the Program Regulations for clarity, listed below is an overview of the regulatory changes made to effectuate legislation passed during the 2024 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

- Accelerated Career Education (ACE) Grant – Provides Georgia public high school students pursuing an Accelerated Career Diploma (ACD) a grant that covers standard tuition for courses leading to an Associate of Applied Science Degree, a Diploma, or two (2) Technical Certificates in a High Demand Career Field at a TCSG Postsecondary Institution. The TCSG Postsecondary Institution must accept the ACE Grant as full payment for tuition, fees, and books.
- Peace Officers Loan Repayment Program – Provides Peace Officers who began working in Georgia on or after January 1, 2024 and have a bachelor's degree and previous student debt may qualify for a student loan payment. Peace Officers in Georgia currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice may qualify for a student loan payment. The annual maximum payment is \$4,000 with an aggregate limit of \$20,000 over five years with five years of qualifying employment.
- Tuition Equalization Grant award amount increases to \$550 per semester or \$366 per quarter starting fall term 2024.
- IPSE Grant Program – Effective Fall 2024 (FY 2025), the annual maximum IPSE Grant award per eligible institution is based on available funds. The award chart will be provided to the eligible institutions and on GAfutures' IPSE Grant page.

- REACH Scholarship Program
 - The proportionate share is now \$1,000 per each selected REACH Scholar for all Participating School Systems. The available number of slots annually will be determined based on available funding.
 - Participating School Systems must utilize any unfilled slots during the 2024-2025 selection or forfeit the slots.
 - REACH Scholars' academic eligibility when enrolled at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution will utilize the HOPE calculation of GPA and Checkpoints. REACH Scholars must have 2.0 calculated HOPE GPA at each Checkpoint.
 - REACH Scholars who lose eligibility at a Checkpoint can regain their eligibility with a 2.0 calculated HOPE GPA at the end of the next attempted/paid hours Checkpoint.
 - REACH Scholars now have 10 years from high school graduation to use their REACH Scholarship.

Award Charts

State Program Award Charts for 2024-2025 for HOPE Scholarship and Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant, Dual Enrollment, and Accelerated Career Education Grant, effective Fall Term 2024, will be posted no later than May 17, 2024. Printable award charts are available on gsfc.georgia.gov and searchable award charts are available on GAfutures.org under "Trending."

FY 2025 (Summer term 2024 – Spring term 2025) Invoicing

The FY 2025 Invoice and Reconciliation Deadlines chart is now available.

FY 2024 Fiscal Year-End Invoice Period and Reconciliation

Eligible postsecondary institutions are to review their state scholarship and grant awards, disbursements, and invoices for the current year and submit invoices for any term considered part of the fiscal year for the particular program. **The Year-End Invoice Period** is the time to resolve any scholarship and grant invoice changes needed for the current fiscal year.

The FY 2024 Year End Reconciliation for all scholarship, grant, and loan programs is due July 15, 2024. Any previously disbursed funds to the institution that need to be returned must be submitted to GSFC by August 15, 2024.

Prior Year Late Invoice Procedure

Scholarship and grant invoices for a prior fiscal year will not be paid except under certain extraordinary and narrowly-defined circumstances. The Program Regulations allow an invoice to be paid after the fiscal year has closed only if failure to meet the deadline was due to the need for supplemental documentation including, but not limited to, information required for the student's eligibility (e.g., proof of citizenship or residency), late grades, grade changes, or other adjustments made to the student's official academic transcript that result in a change in a student's eligibility.

If a postsecondary institution needs to submit an invoice or increase the award amount on an existing invoice after the year-end reconciliation, the Director of Financial Aid must submit a written request to Amber Sumner, Senior Manager, Scholarship & Grant Funds at asumner@gsfc.org, that includes the following:

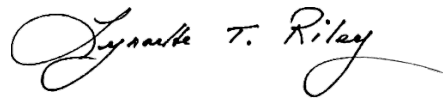
1. The reason for the prior year late invoice request
2. The individual invoice information
3. The total dollar amount of the invoices

If the requests for the invoices to be paid after the year-end reconciliation total more than ½ percent of the total amount disbursed to the postsecondary institution for the corresponding program in the current fiscal year, the institution's president must submit a written request to Pennie Strong, Executive Vice President, Program Administration, at pennies@gsfc.org, and include the following:

1. The reason for the prior year invoice request
2. The number of invoices
3. The total dollar amount of the invoices to be submitted
4. A corrective action plan outlining measures that will be taken in the future to meet the published invoicing deadlines which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Staff and/or system changes implemented that ensure timely submission of invoices
 - b. Dates and content of training to prepare staff for timely submission of invoices
 - c. Supplemental documentation relating to delays

The 2024-2025 Program Regulations will be posted at gsfc.georgia.gov by May 17, 2024. A link to the Program Regulations can also be found at GAfutures.org under "Trending." If you have any questions regarding the revisions of Regulations or program information, please contact Pennie Strong, Executive Vice President, Program Administration, at 770.724.9014 or pennies@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,



Lynne Riley