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GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAfutures.org

Caylee Noggle
INTERIM PRESIDENT

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Subject: CHECS (College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service) Agreement

Dear Colleague:

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) first announced a new project to develop a centralized postsecondary HOPE GPA calculation system on May 25, 2017 ([DCL 2018-02](#)) and updates were provided on October 31, 2017 ([DCL 2018-05](#)), April 18, 2018 ([DCL 2018-10](#)) and August 27, 2018 ([DCL 2019-02](#)). The release of the production version of the new system, CHECS (College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service), is underway.

A soft launch occurred on October 15, 2018 with institutional data and system setup on the GAfutures production website. The official launch is scheduled for November 13, 2018 with the first HOPE Eligible Institution submitting the first Fall term 2018 transcript data records for a CHECS calculation.

As stated in the Project Charter, CHECS is scheduled to go live at the end of Fall term 2018. From that point forward, all HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant academic eligibility determinations, including GPAs, checkpoints, and attempted hours, will be calculated by GSFC using CHECS, utilizing data provided by eligible postsecondary institutions. Participation is required for all institutions and future HOPE program disbursements are contingent upon timely and successful institutional participation.

Each HOPE Eligible Institution must sign and submit the CHECS Readiness Agreement form indicating the institution has completed testing, validated the CHECS calculations and is prepared to submit in a timely manner the required end of term transcript data starting with Fall term 2018.

To submit the following CHECS Readiness Agreement Form, an electronic signature and email submission is acceptable to checshelpdesk@gsfc.org. The form may also be mailed to GSFC, Pennie Strong, 2082 East Exchange Place, Tucker, GA 30084.

If you have questions relating to the CHECS project, email checshelpdesk@gsfc.org or contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or pennies@gsfc.org.

We are confident this project will result in numerous efficiencies and benefits to participating institutions and the students of Georgia. We appreciate your steadfast and continued efforts and partnership as we all work towards the successful launch of CHECS.

Sincerely,

Caylee Noggle

On May 25, 2017, the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) first announced the new project to develop a centralized postsecondary HOPE GPA calculation system (DCL 2018-2). The College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service (CHECS) system includes checkpoint determinations and HOPE calculated GPAs for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant programs for all eligible postsecondary institutions (PSIs).

CHECS participation is mandatory for all HOPE Eligible Postsecondary Institutions. Effective Winter Quarter 2019 and Spring Semester 2019, HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant disbursements are subject to the timely reporting of CHECS Fall term 2018 transcript data.

In an effort to ensure CHECS readiness, PSIs must successfully complete the following:

- Financial Aid, Academic Records and Information Technology personnel must have participated in the testing of the CHECS system on their respective campus.
- Testers submitted CHECS test files.
- Testers validated results of the CHECS test files by comparing institution data with CHECS data and by editing file data to confirm changes in CHECS accurately reflect the changes applied to student test records.
- The production version of student Historical Snapshot records through Summer term 2018 must have been submitted.

As a participating PSI, I certify that the named institution/system:

- Has validated the CHECS calculations through the testing process.
- Is prepared to go live and submit in a timely manner the required end of Fall term 2018 transcript data.
- Is prepared to use the CHECS calculations for academic eligibility determinations for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships and/or Grants for Winter/Spring term 2019 and going forward.
- Is prepared to adhere to Program Regulations.
- Understands that all HOPE program disbursements are contingent upon meeting the requirements of CHECS described herein.

Institution Name _____

President's Signature _____ **Date** _____