

**Executive Summary of Substantive Changes**  
FY 2017 State Program Regulations

**All Regulation Sections**  
FY 2017 Regulations  
Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights changes made to all Regulations and Definitions for FY 2017.

- Revised the “Defaulted Loan or Refund Due” sections of each regulation to distinguish between the resolution of a default status for Federal loans and Georgia loans. Further defined the process for resolving Georgia loan defaults.
- Revised the definition of “Immediate Family” to include a student’s “Legal Guardian” and provided a definition for legal guardians. This enables a student to qualify for an exception in the event of their legal guardian’s death or serious illness.
- Added a definition for “Attempted-Hours Checkpoint” to be consistent with the other checkpoints, which were already defined.
- Defined “Default” and “Delinquency,” which had been used throughout the regulations without being previously defined.
- Defined “Post Baccalaureate Coursework” to clarify classes for which students are ineligible to receive funds in certain programs.

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**All HOPE/Zell Programs**  
FY 2017 Regulations  
Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the regulations for all HOPE Programs, including Hope Scholarship at Public & Private Institutions, the Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant, and the Zell Miller Grant, for FY 2017.

- Clarified that students who graduate from high school pursuant to a petition to the school board are not eligible to receive retroactive payment for postsecondary coursework taken prior to the student’s petition date.
- Added certain advanced computer science classes selected by the Department of Education to the list of coursework accepted for purposes of Academic Rigor. (HB 801).

**HOPE Scholarship Program at Public & Private Institutions**

FY 2017 Regulations

Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the HOPE Scholarship Program at Public and Private Institutions Program Regulations for FY 2017.

- Changed the eligibility requirements for home study students and those graduating from a high school that is not an eligible high school who apply for HOPE scholarship as a freshman by reducing the required percentile test score on the ACT or SAT from 80<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup>. (HB 798).
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**Zell Miller Scholarship Program at Public and Private Institutions**

FY 2017 Regulations

Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the Zell Miller Scholarship Program at Public and Private Institutions Regulations for FY 2017.

- Extended incoming freshman eligibility for the Zell Miller Scholarship to students graduating from a home study program or a high school that is not an eligible high school who score in the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile on the ACT/SAT. (HB 798).
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**Public Safety Memorial Grant Program**

FY 2017 Regulations

Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the Public Safety Memorial Grant Program Regulations for FY 2017.

- Expanded the definition of eligible “Public Safety Officers” to include “Highway Emergency Response Operators of the Department of Transportation” and “Paramedics.” (HB 54).
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**Student Access Loans (SAL)**

FY 2017 Regulations

Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the Student Access Loan Program Regulations for FY 2017.

- Revised Keep-In-Touch (KIT) payments to allow students the option of prepaying KIT payments up front to cover KIT obligations for an entire term. Under the revised language, students can now make a single KIT payment of \$50 at the start of a five-month term instead of making five monthly payments of \$10.
- Modified the requirements for discharge of a SAL loan due to permanent disability to more closely mirror the federal requirements.

**Move On When Ready**  
FY 2017 Regulations  
Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the Move On When Ready (MOWR) Program Regulations for FY 2017.

- Revised application deadline for efficiency and clarity.

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**Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan**  
FY 2017 Regulations  
Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan Program (GNG SCL) Regulations for FY 2017.

- Reorganized and reworded program section in its entirety for consistency with regulatory organization and language in other code sections that evolved while GNG SCL was inactive.
- Eliminated the language that prohibited GNG SCL recipients from concurrently receiving HOPE Scholarship or HOPE Grant funds. (HB 1072).
- Clarified that the SCL may be cancelable immediately upon completion of service obligation by a student before the student graduates from a participating postsecondary institution, so long as the student maintains a postsecondary GPA of at least 2.0 for each award term. GNG SCL is distinguished from other service cancelable loan programs by the ability of GNG recipients to simultaneously fulfill the service obligations of their loans while enrolled in school, as opposed to an obligation to be fulfilled at some point after graduation.

**Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen Scholarship  
Program**  
FY 2017 Regulations  
Executive Summary of Substantive Changes

The list below highlights the changes to the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen Scholarship Program (REACH) Regulations for FY 2017.

- Created REACH Connections Scholars:
  - REACH Students chose in coordination with the Division of Family and Children Services.

- All funds are paid by GSFA and/or REACH Foundation GA, there is no local fundraising requirement.
- REACH Connections Scholars do not lose eligibility if they move to a school system which does not participate in REACH.
- Mentoring standards, adapted from national standards focusing on mentor screening, training, matching, and monitoring, have been identified and participating school systems will be required to comply with these standards.
- Attendance requirements:
  - A REACH Scholar will be placed on probation if he/she has 5 excused/unexcused absences in any one term. While on probation, the Scholar may be removed from the program if he/she has an additional unexcused absence or more than 3 excused absences.
- Discipline/behavior requirements:
  - A REACH Scholar will be placed on probation if he/she receives more than one in-school suspension and immediately upon any out of school suspension. While on probation, the Scholar may be removed from the program if he/she has an additional suspension (either in-school or out of school).
- Academic requirements:
  - A REACH Scholar will be placed on probation if his/her grade point average falls below a 2.5 GPA. While on probation, the Scholar will be subject to additional academic coaching and may be removed from the program if he/she is unable to increase his/her grade point average to a 2.5 GPA.