



REACH Georgia Program

Application for School System Participation in the 2017-2018 School Year

Application Instructions:

- REACH Georgia is currently accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year.
- REACH Program Regulations governing this program and referenced in this application can be found at: <http://gsfc.georgia.gov/sites/gsfcc.georgia.gov/files/2017-REACH.pdf>.
- All questions require a response in the space provided prior to submitting the application.
- Additional information about REACH Georgia can be found at www.REACHGA.org.
- Questions relating to the preparation of the application should be directed to: REACH Georgia at REACH@gsfc.org or 770.724.9250.

REACH Georgia Program Overview:

REACH (Reaching Educational Achievement Can Happen) is a needs-based mentorship and scholarship program designed to encourage students to persist in their educational pursuits. Part of the state's Complete College Georgia initiative, REACH school systems identify low income rising eighth grade students who display academic promise and provide them with the academic, social, and financial support they will need to graduate from high school, attend and complete college and achieve success in the workforce.

REACH Scholars sign a contract agreeing to maintain good grades, uphold good behavior and attendance, meet with their assigned mentor at least twice a month, their academic coach once a month, and attend REACH activities throughout each school year until their completion of high school. Their parents or guardians also sign a contract to support their Scholar's educational pursuits. REACH Scholars who complete program requirements receive up to a \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500/year) for up to four (4) years at any HOPE-eligible Georgia two- or four-year postsecondary institution.

REACH is Georgia's first public-private needs-based scholarship opportunity. It is locally owned and operated allowing community members to have a stake in student success. Participating schools systems are responsible for designating a REACH coordinator as well as a mentor and academic coach for each of their system's Scholars. These designees support the REACH Scholars and ensure that they are upholding the commitments they made in their signed contract which include maintaining good grades, attendance, and behavior. The school system is also responsible for gaining community supporters who are willing to assist the student academically as well as willing to financially help support the program.

REACH Georgia Application Part 1:

School System: _____

Superintendent: _____

Superintendent's Phone: _____

Superintendent's Email: _____

School System Address: _____

Superintendent Assistant's Name: _____

Superintendent Assistant's Phone: _____

Superintendent Assistant's Email: _____

REACH Georgia Application Part 2:

1. How many REACH Scholars are you requesting? _____

Applicants should request Scholars depending on the categories below with the maximum number of REACH Scholars per school system being the following:

(Note: School systems may opt for fewer than the maximum)

- School systems with fewer than five high schools – 5 REACH Scholars
- School systems with five or more high schools – 8 REACH Scholars

2. The **REACH Coordinator** is a critical role for the success of the program in your school system. The Coordinator ensures program fidelity and is the point of contact for REACH Georgia staff. The Coordinator should have the ability to work with the mentors, academic coaches, school personnel, members of the community, volunteers and REACH staff to ensure program requirements are met. Please provide the name, email address and phone number of the individual who will serve in this role.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

3. REACH Scholars are encouraged to meet with a qualified and appropriate mentor one (1) time per week with a minimum of eight (8) times per semester. Please share your plans for satisfying this requirement by providing the information requested below regarding your school's current status. If you do not currently have a mentoring program in place or are in the process of developing one, please provide us with as much information as possible. (Note: The REACH Georgia staff assists in mentoring efforts to help you build your mentoring program in order for your REACH Scholars to receive high quality mentoring)

What type of Mentoring Program do you currently have or plan to use? *(Check One)*

- System-wide Community Based Communities in Schools
 Teachers as Advisors No program exists Other _____

In an effort to ensure that REACH scholars receive high quality mentoring, all mentoring programs are required to adhere to REACH mentoring program standards. Regarding your mentoring program, please tell us the following:

Name of Program: _____

Program Contact Name: _____

Program Contact Phone: _____

Program Contact Email: _____

How are mentors recruited? _____

How are mentors screened? _____

How are mentors trained? _____

How are mentors matched with mentees? _____

How is the mentoring pair monitored and supported? _____

If no mentoring program exists, please describe plans, including a timeline, to establish a program and/or recruit mentors.

4. The **Academic Coach** is typically a faculty member who has access to the REACH Scholar's academic, attendance and behavior information typically serves as the assigned academic coach for the REACH Scholar. How will REACH Scholars' academic coach(es) be selected, trained and monitored?

5. What activities or events do you anticipate planning for REACH Scholars and their families during the school year? These activities or events should prepare Scholars for transition into high school, college and careers.

6. The transition from middle to high school is very difficult for some students. How do you plan on preparing REACH Scholars to be successful when they enter high school?

7. The school system is responsible for raising funds for a portion of each \$10,000 REACH Scholarship per Scholar for the second year of participation and thereafter (second cohort of Scholars). There is no financial obligation for your first cohort of Scholars. REACH provides the funds for each Scholar's \$10,000 Scholarship. The school system's contribution to the \$10,000 scholarship is determined by the relative wealth of the county in which the school system is located. Based on the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Job Tax Credit county designations, a school system's contribution is as follows:*

- Tier 1 counties = \$1,500 per REACH Scholar
- Tier 2 counties = \$2,500 per REACH Scholar
- Tier 3 counties = \$3,500 per REACH Scholar
- Tier 4 counties = \$5,000 per REACH Scholar

*The DCA Job Tax Credit counties by economic tier can be found at:

<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/economic/taxcredits/programs/documents/jobtax2016.pdf>

Describe plans to raise these funds for multiple years. (Note: The REACH Georgia staff assists in local fundraising efforts to help you build on your plans to raise these funds)

8. Teachers and counselors typically nominate students to apply for participation as REACH Scholars. Participating REACH school systems have found value in creating a committee comprised of civic, corporate, and community representatives to select REACH Scholars from the applications submitted. In addition, these members can serve as mentors to the Scholars and provide college and career advice and opportunities. Please list organizations or groups that you anticipate tapping for representation on the selection committee. If you do not anticipate representation in these categories, please respond, "No representatives."

Civic Representative(s)

- _____
- _____
- _____

Corporate Representative(s)

- _____
- _____
- _____

Community Representative(s)

- _____
- _____
- _____

9. How could participation in the REACH Georgia Program impact the vision or mission of your school system and benefit your students and community?

REACH Georgia Program Assurances:

Please check the box relating to each of the policies and procedures:

Yes No

The school system understands that 100% of the funds raised for REACH will be used to support REACH scholarships.

The school system understands that the REACH Program is locally owned and operated.

The school system understands that the REACH Program is governed by the REACH Program Regulations and agrees to comply with these regulations.

The school system will provide REACH staff at the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) data relating to Scholars' grades, attendance and behavior as well as academic coaching and mentoring meetings to show student and school system progress in the REACH Georgia Program.

For the second school year of participation in REACH, and each school year thereafter, the school system will transfer its share of the scholarship funds in accordance with the REACH Program Regulations. Any funds raised must be transferred to GSFA, or its designee, **within 10 days of receipt of such funds**

Signature

School Superintendent **Date**

President, Georgia Student Finance Authority **Date**

By checking this box and clicking "submit," I certify that the information reported above in connection with this Application is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that I have read and understand the REACH Program Regulations.