

CHAPTER 2: The REACH Georgia Scholarship Program

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REACH

Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen

CONCEPT

Governor Nathan Deal launched Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH), the state's first needs-based mentorship and college scholarship program, as a key component of the state's Complete College Georgia initiative. By 2025, more than 60 percent of job openings in Georgia will require some form of postsecondary education. REACH Georgia focuses on increasing the number of students with access to higher education and ensuring that these students graduate with relevant postsecondary degrees in a timely manner.

MISSION

REACH Georgia provides Georgia's low-income, academically promising students with the academic, social, and financial support needed to graduate from high school, to access college, achieve post-secondary success and be prepared for the 21st Century workforce.

REACH'S COMMITMENT

REACH Georgia partners with eligible school systems to become a REACH participating school system. REACH school systems identify low-income, academically promising rising 8th graders who are then selected at the local level by community members and school personnel to become REACH Scholars. When a student is chosen as a REACH Scholar, the student is provided with a mentor and academic coach as well as given additional college-related support and the promise of a financial scholarship upon successful program completion. Through participation in REACH, school systems are encouraged to utilize existing community resources in order to provide comprehensive academic and social support for the Scholars.

REACH Coordinator Resources



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. Mentoring: The school system matches Scholars in the 8th grade with a mentor who meets with the student weekly and/or at a minimum of eight face to face sessions each semester. The Scholar continues to have a mentor throughout high school and additional advisement into his/her post-secondary studies.

2. Academic Coaching: The school system pairs Scholars with academic coaches who work with each Scholar to develop concrete college and career plans. Most school systems already have counselors monitoring their students; however academic coaches specifically monitor academic progress, attendance, and behavior throughout middle and high school to ensure the Scholar is maintaining REACH program requirements.

3. Financial Scholarship: Upon graduation from high school, Scholars are awarded up to a \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500 per year for up to four years) to be used at a University System of Georgia, Technical College System of Georgia, or eligible private postsecondary institution. Over 60 postsecondary institutions are matching or double matching the scholarship while most others are partnering with REACH to support students who wish to attend their institution.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

www.reachga.org

<http://gsfc.georgia.gov/reach-georgia>

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www.facebook.com/REACHGA

Twitter: @REACHGA

REACH Coordinator Resources



PROGRAM PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS

<< _____ >> is the local Program Coordinator of the REACH Georgia Program.

His/her official duties include, but are not limited to:

- Overall program coordination with the REACH Georgia Team, as they oversee the design and implementation of the mentoring program.
- Oversight on all aspects of program implementation, to include program design, student selection, recruiting, screening, training, matching, monitoring, trouble shooting, reporting and evaluation.

He/She can be reached by dialing << _____ >> or by email at << _____ >>.

Mentors are Volunteers. All Mentors are volunteers who have been thoroughly screened and trained.

Mentees are Volunteers. All Mentees are also volunteers, and their parents must sign permission forms that allow them to participate in the program.

Mentor Training. Mentors go through a minimum of two hours of initial training. The initial training includes an orientation to the school and program, describes the process of mentoring as well as program guidelines.

Ongoing Training. Mentors will participate in 1hour of ongoing training throughout the mentoring cycle as deemed necessary by the REACH Coordinator.

Mentee Orientation. Mentees will undergo a brief orientation that describes the benefits and responsibilities of the program. Mentees must sign a Mentee Participation Agreement that states that they will uphold program rules.

REACH Coordinator Resources



Parents' Orientation and Participation Agreement. The Mentees' parents will be given a brief orientation about the program. If they approve their son or daughter's entry into the program, they will sign a participation agreement as well as other consent forms.

The Monitoring Process. Mentors and Mentees are monitored throughout the match by the Program Coordinator. The main purpose of monitoring is to see that the match is meeting regularly and that Mentees and Mentors are relatively happy with how things are progressing. Monitoring process includes "logging" as well as monthly personal contact.

Mentor "Logging". By "logging" we mean the submission of a brief weekly report by the Mentor on what activities have happened and how the match is going. Your program coordinator will notify you of approved documentation and confirm the process for submitting it.