

REACH Signing Day

During the fall of the school year, **REACH Georgia** is given statewide recognition through press releases, social media and occasionally live media coverage as new scholars are inducted into the program. During this weeklong event, Gov. Nathan Deal, First Lady Sandra Deal, President Shawn Ryan, and the REACH Georgia staff will travel the state to welcome new students to the REACH Scholarship program by attending as many REACH signing ceremonies as possible.

During the REACH signing ceremony, students and their families commit to satisfying the program requirements, graduating from high school, and enrolling and completing college. They sign contracts during this ceremonial occasion agreeing to uphold program requirements much like athletic signing day ceremonies. Additionally, the REACH Signing Day ceremony held at your school is the perfect opportunity to engage community stakeholders and supporters. Consider inviting your elected officials, local Chamber of Commerce representatives, potential donors, your local Technical and USG College, your scholar selection committee, mentors, etc. to share in welcoming our future college graduates, Georgia workforce and community leaders to REACH Georgia!

While REACH signing ceremonies vary from system to system, below is a sample agenda that can serve as a general guide for your event. We look forward to supporting your school system during this event and welcoming your next cohort of scholars.

Sample REACH Signing Day Ceremony Agenda

- I. Welcome and Occasion (5 min) – *Superintendent or designee*
 - REACH Program Background Information
 - Play video of Governor and First Lady
- II. Recognition of Board, Distinguished Guests, Elected Officials (5 min) – *Superintendent or designee*
- III. Remarks by Guest Speaker (5-7 min) – *typically school systems ask an elected official to speak*
- IV. Signing Ceremony (10-15 min) – *Superintendent or designee*
 - REACH Program Signing Ceremony Instructions (*See below.*)
 - Students are called by name; student signs student commitment form; parent/guardian signs parent commitment form
- V. Closing (2 min) – *Superintendent or designee*
- VI. Photo opportunities for families and community members

Note: This sample agenda is intended to serve as guide; please feel free to adapt for your school system's event.

REACH Program Signing Ceremony Detailed Instructions

Typically, this segment is led by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent opens by stating:

- At this time, we will induct the REACH Class of _____.
- REACH Scholars, I would like to walk you through your obligations and responsibilities.
- The contract that you are about to sign requires that you:
 - Keep an overall 2.5 (“C”) grade point average
 - Have good attendance
 - Have good behavior and remain drug and crime free
 - Meet with your assigned mentor weekly
 - Meet with your assigned academic coach at least once each month
 - Attend REACH events, meetings and programs
 - Engage in activities to prepare for college
 - Graduate from high school with a diploma
 - Enroll in and graduate from Georgia HOPE-eligible post-secondary institution
- **REACH Scholars**, before we sign, please signify “I will” as I administer the following charges:
- Will you commit to keeping good grades, attendance and behavior, meeting with your mentor and academic coach, graduating from high school and college?
- [pause for response]
- **REACH parents and guardians**, will you commit to supporting your students as they progress through the program. Will you also commit to attending REACH events, meetings and programs, contacting your student’s academic coach or counselor if there are issues you believe should be addressed?
- [pause for response]
- **Community members**, it is incumbent on us, individually and as a community, to affirm our willingness to support these REACH Scholars in their journey to adulthood. Will you commit to supporting these REACH Scholars with your time, talent and treasure as they progress through the REACH program and into college and careers?
- [pause for response]
- It is now time for you to sign your contracts.
- **Congratulations, REACH Scholars, Parents and Guardians!**