



# REACH GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*“Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen”*

## Scholar transition from High School to Postsecondary Education



**GSFC** | Georgia Student  
Finance Commission

# The effect of COVID-19 on REACH GA

After carefully weighing the benefits and risks related to Chick-fil-A hosting our REACH Senior Day, we made the difficult decision to cancel the event planned for Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. The cancellation of the event was tough on everyone. Chick-fil-A loves to help support our program and this is a high point each year for our small staff. With the current information we have, it looks like it would be difficult to reschedule the event during the remainder of the year. Frankly, our school systems do not know at this time when students will be able to return to school. We do know that it's exacting a heavy toll on high school and college seniors, and we will continue finding ways to mitigate this time for you.

~The REACH Team (Brad, Justin, & Sara)

*Please Note: The following slides represent an articulation of the regulations with no temporary relief due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Please remember that each scholar's situation is unique. These slides are a general guide. **In the case of an individual scholar, a primary source, such as state law or GSFC regulations, is controlling.** Our number one goal is to ensure student success; to that end, we will monitor the steps that USDOE, GADOE, USG and TCSG are taking to support students, providing reinforcement of those efforts to help our scholars.*

# REACH Scholarship Eligibility in HS

Throughout their high school career, REACH Scholars must graduate from high school in the state of Georgia after having met the program's general requirements for:

- **Mentoring/Academic-Coaching sessions**
- **Discipline**
- **Attendance**
- **And ...**

# REACH Scholarship Eligibility in HS

## Academics!

- Scholars must graduate high school with a final, HOPE-Calculated GPA of 2.5 or greater
- The HOPE GPA is calculated by GSFC after a senior's complete high school transcripts are uploaded to STARS and the school verifies the calculation
- This process must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> following a senior student's graduation

# REACH Scholarship Eligibility in HS

## Academics

- The HOPE-Calculated GPA is different from a school's cumulative GPA, and it *cannot* be “rounded up”
- Students who had previously used a “999” (school-assigned) number should provide their SSN to the school system so that their final transcript uploads match their financial aid application

# Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

## FAFSA

- The “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” must be completed by each Scholar in order to access *any* federal or state supported financial assistance (including the REACH Scholarship)
- This application must be completed annually in order to access REACH Scholarship funds

# Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

## FAFSA

- Visit the [GAFutures website](#) for more information on getting the FAFSA started
- If you would like help with the FAFSA application, visit [this link](#) to contact our GSFC Outreach Representatives

# Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

## Selective Service

- Males who are required to register with the Selective Service at any time must have done so in order to receive federal student aid
- Registration can be completed at the [Selective Service System website](#)

# Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

## Additional Grants/Scholarships

- The REACH Scholarship can be accessed in addition to other scholarships and grants
- Many REACH Scholars also qualify for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships, which are applied separately for tuition
- Do not have to qualify for the Pell Grant to be eligible for REACH funds

# Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

## Important to Note:

- REACH Scholarship funds can be used for the cost of attendance, not just tuition
- These funds can only be used toward the completion of an undergraduate program
- REACH can only be accessed during terms where the Scholar is enrolled *full-time* at a [HOPE-Eligible college or university](#) within the state of Georgia

# Length of REACH Eligibility

## After High School Graduation

REACH Scholars must begin *receiving* REACH funds within *two years* of high school graduation, or they will lose REACH Scholarship entirely going forward!

Please: Don't wait more than one year to decide to enroll in a college or university – the clock is ticking! ...

# Length of REACH Eligibility: 2020 Grads

**1<sup>st</sup> Term - FALL 2020:**  
First term, post HS Graduation

**4<sup>th</sup> Term - SPRING 2022:**  
Scholar must have  
enrolled and begun  
receiving funds!



**2<sup>nd</sup> Term -  
Spring 2021**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Term -  
Fall 2021**

# Length of REACH Eligibility

## After Initial Access of Funds

- Once a REACH Scholar begins receiving their funds, their eligibility to receive the award expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, *five years* from the date the student began receiving REACH scholarship funds
- For instance, if a Spring 2020 HS graduate begins receiving funds in Fall 2020, their REACH eligibility will expire June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. If the same scholar began in Spring 2022, REACH eligibility expires June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

# REACH Awards & Disbursement

## Award Amounts

- **\$10,000**: total lifetime award for REACH Scholars
- **\$2,500**: maximum award that can be disbursed per academic year.\*
- **\$1,250**: maximum award that can be disbursed per semester (\$833/quarter)
- If awarded less than the maximum amount per term, scholars may receive available funds that remain within the academic year toward another full-time term within that academic year (including full-time summer terms)

*\*An “Academic Year” is a time during which a Full-Time student is expected to complete the equivalent of 2 semesters (or 3 quarters) of postsecondary coursework*

# REACH Awards & Disbursement

## Disbursement

- For a scholar to receive REACH funds, the HOPE-eligible Postsecondary Institution's financial aid office must invoice GSFC
- REACH funds are then electronically transferred from GSFC to the Postsecondary Institution to be applied to the scholar's undergraduate cost of attendance

# REACH Awards & Disbursement

## Disbursement

- Each individual PS Institution determines the amount of funds necessary to cover their “cost of attendance”
- Other scholarships and grants are applied before REACH funds are accessed
- REACH award amounts must not exceed the scholar’s cost of attendance

# REACH Awards & Disbursement

## Additional Financial Assistance

- Some Postsecondary Institutions in Georgia have agreed to match the REACH Scholarship or offer additional financial assistance to a number of REACH Scholars for a set period of time
- Any financial support in addition to REACH is authorized by the individual college/university; the amount of financial assistance available may be limited and the amount may change without notice. Contact your PSI financial aid office for agreement details.

# REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

## Academic Requirements

- Must maintain “Satisfactory Academic Progress”. “SAP” is defined and certified according to each individual Postsecondary Institution
- Must maintain a minimum HOPE-Calculated GPA of 2.00 – each scholar will have their HOPE-Calculated GPA checked at the end of Spring term

# REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

## Academic Requirements

- Failing to maintain a HOPE-Calculated GPA of 2.00 or above at their college or university will result in ineligibility to continue receiving REACH funds, but scholars may regain eligibility after reporting a 2.00 or greater HOPE GPA for the term immediately following
- Scholars who lose academic eligibility twice will be permanently ineligible for REACH funds

# REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

## Discipline Requirements

- Scholars who are convicted of committing a drug-related felony will no longer be eligible for REACH awards
- REACH funding will cease at any time a Scholar is incarcerated, and the student will be immediately ineligible to further participate in the REACH program

# REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

## Military Duty and Study Abroad

Please contact REACH Georgia for more information regarding your REACH eligibility if you believe you will be affected by any of the following:

- Military Duty
- Distance Learning
- Learning Support
- Transient Study
- Study Away

# Contacts for REACH Scholars

## Student Support

- You may be the first REACH Scholar at your Institution, but that's okay! Don't be afraid to remind your financial aid offices and student support offices that you are a REACH Scholar!
- We at the REACH Georgia office are happy to contact financial aid officers directly in order to explain program details

# Contacts for REACH Scholars

## Student Support

- Scholars will need to contact REACH Georgia to notify them of all transfers and changes to your enrollment location throughout your postsecondary career
- We encourage staying connected with your high school mentors and coordinators, but your postsecondary financial aid and student support offices along with REACH Georgia are your best avenues for REACH-related inquiries once you've graduated high school!

# REACH Georgia Scholarship Program



**Senior Class of 2020**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**&**

**Good luck!**

# REACH Georgia Scholarship Program

- For REACH GA Program questions, please:
  - Email us at [reach@gsfc.org](mailto:reach@gsfc.org) or
  - Call us at (770) 724-9250
- To read REACH [Program Regulations](#) and Dear Colleague Letters, you may access the latest versions at [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org)



## **OUR MISSION**

To promote and increase access to education beyond high school for Georgians.

## **OUR VISION**

To be the premier provider of student financial aid and educational services for Georgians.