



**REACH Georgia Application
2017-2018 Academic Year**

CONGRATULATIONS! You have been nominated! You have been given this application because someone believes in you and your potential. Being nominated is the first step towards becoming a REACH Scholar. The next step is to complete this application. Once completed, it will be submitted for review by a local selection committee.

REACH Georgia is a mentorship and scholarship program that provides scholars with the academic, social, and financial support needed to graduate from high school, gain access to college and achieve post-secondary success. Upon successful completion of the program, qualifying students earn a \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500/year for up to four years) towards your educational costs at a University System of Georgia or Technical College System of Georgia institution or an eligible private postsecondary institution.

To be eligible for the REACH Georgia Program, a student must:

- Currently be a rising 8th grader at a participating eligible Georgia middle school (**note: student begins as a REACH Scholar in the 8th grade**),
- Qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program by completing the Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals form or through Direct Certification.
- Have legal status in the United States (U.S. Citizen or legal resident),
- Have and agree to maintain above average attendance and behavior,
- Have grade reports reflecting at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in all core courses (English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language),
- Have and agree to maintain a crime and drug-free record,
- Have the support of a parent, legal guardian, or other caring adult.

To maintain the scholarship, a student must:

1. Maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in all core courses in middle and high school,
2. Meet with his/her mentor at least two times each month during the school year,
3. Meet with his/her academic coach a minimum of one time each month during the school year,
4. Participate in REACH Georgia activities,
5. Exhibit good behavior and attendance, and
6. Remain crime and drug-free.

If selected for participation, the REACH Scholar receives:

- Financial Support: **Scholarship** Award
 - Selected students who remain in good program standing through middle and high school will receive up to a \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500 per year for up to four years) to be used towards the cost of attendance (tuition, fees, books, room/board, etc.) at a University System of Georgia or Technical College System of Georgia institution or an eligible private postsecondary institution in which such student enrolls.
- Social Support: **Mentoring**
 - Scholars will be matched with a mentor who will meet with the student weekly to encourage Scholars to reach their full potential and achieve their goals.
- Academic Support: Academic **Coaching**
 - Scholars will have the opportunity to work with an academic coach once a month who will help Scholars develop personalized concrete college and career goals, provide academic support when needed, and offer additional social support.
- Increased student and parent engagement through REACH Georgia **activities**.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Before starting this application, make sure you meet all of the eligibility requirements listed on the first page of the application.
- Make sure every question has an answer. If any questions do not apply to your current situation, mark the question with "N/A," but do not leave any question unanswered. If you need more space, please feel free to attach additional pages to your application.
- Submit one (1) completed academic reference form and one (1) community reference form to be submitted on your behalf using the forms provided with this application.
- Return the entire application, with completed reference forms, to your guidance counselor by the due date indicated below.

If you have any questions in the process, please contact _____

Due Date: _____

***RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION TO YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR OTHER REACH REPRESENTATIVE AT YOUR SCHOOL NO LATER THAN THE SPECIFIED DUE DATE.**

INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

What is something that you have done that you are really proud of?

Tell us about a time you failed at something? What happened? What did you learn from it?

Who do you go to if you have a problem?

Who do you look up to? Why do you admire them?

List any activities in which you are involved at school or outside of school:

List any awards or honors you have received at school or outside of school:

Do you plan on attending a postsecondary institution?

- Yes No Unsure

If you answered **yes**, do you have an idea what you want to study when you enroll in a postsecondary institution?

What are your hopes for your future?

How would you benefit from being a REACH Georgia Scholar?

How could this program benefit your child's future? Why do you want this opportunity for your child? Please include any goals, dreams, or hopes you have for your child.

Release of Information, Consent and Certifications

Consent to Photograph, Film, or Videotape a Student for Non-Profit Use

I, _____ (Print Name of Parent/Guardian), hereby give permission to the school, the School System, Georgia Student Finance Authority, the Foundation affiliated with REACH Georgia, and other REACH Georgia affiliates to use photographs, video images, writing, voice recordings of my student and his or her immediate family in news reports, newsletters, REACH Georgia website content, program marketing materials, graduation programs, articles, and/or other media outlets.

I also grant the right to edit, use, and reuse said products for non-profit purposes including use in print, on the Internet, and all other forms of media. I hereby release the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program, Georgia Student Finance Authority, REACH Georgia Foundation, and the _____ School System and its agents and employees from all claims, demands, and liabilities whatsoever in connection with the above.

I give consent

I DO NOT give consent

Certifications

I, _____ (Print Name of Parent/Guardian) certify that all of the information provided on behalf of my student in this application and on any other document or writing completed by us in connection with the Application is true, correct and complete to the best of our knowledge. To the best of our knowledge, I/my student meet(s) the eligibility requirements detailed in the application.

I acknowledge and understand that any false or misleading information written in this application may result in the disqualification of my student from participation in the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

FERPA RELEASE FORM

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

In accordance with FERPA, it is the policy of the school system to withhold certain educational records unless the student or his or her guardian provides consent to disclose information. The purpose of this form is to provide the consent to the school system required by FERPA to allow Georgia Student Finance Authority, the REACH Georgia Foundation, Inc., and other REACH Georgia affiliates, and their employees, to access necessary educational records on all REACH Scholars.

I, _____, (Print Name of Parent/Guardian), hereby authorize _____ (Print Name of School) school to release and/or discuss my child's educational records with Georgia Student Finance Authority, the REACH Georgia Foundation, Inc., and other REACH Georgia affiliates, and their employees, for the purpose of benefiting my child, the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program, the School System and any research benefitting the State of Georgia's educational programs or initiatives.

Further, I authorize Georgia Student Finance Authority, the REACH Georgia Foundation, Inc., and other REACH Georgia affiliates, and their employees, to use photographs, video images, writing, voice recordings, name, grade level, dates of attendance, awards received, and other academic achievements of my child named above, in news reports, newsletters, REACH Georgia website content, program marketing materials, graduation programs, articles, and/or other media outlets. I also hereby provide express permission for the release by the school or district to the media, postsecondary institutions and governmental entities involved of my child's name, grade, school name, mailing address, email, honors my child has received, and academic progress (grade, attendance, and behavior reports).

Applicant GTID Number: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



**Academic Reference Form
REACH Georgia Application – Part 3
2017-2018 Academic Year**

Note to the Student Applicant:

This reference form is to be completed by a counselor, principal, teacher or other school administrator who knows you well. This person cannot be related to you. Be sure to give your reference sufficient time to complete the form before the application due date.

Complete your information below before sending this form to your reference.

Student Applicant Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE to the Student’s Academic Reference:

This student has been nominated to apply to participate in the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia Program. REACH Georgia is a mentorship and scholarship program that begins in the 8th grade and provides REACH Scholars with the academic, social and financial support needed to graduate from high school, gain access to college and achieve post-secondary success. Upon graduation from high school, Scholars are awarded up to \$10,000 (\$2,500 per year for up to four years) towards the cost of attendance at a Georgia HOPE-eligible public or private two or four-year college.

The student applicant is asking you to provide information that will help the REACH Scholar selection committee identify the students who will most benefit from the REACH Georgia Program. You cannot be related to the student.

Please provide your thoughtful and honest responses and return this form in a sealed envelope to:

REACH Coordinator Name: _____

Due Date: _____



Academic Reference Form

Circle the appropriate response based on your knowledge of the nominated student:

The applicant is motivated to succeed academically.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant has not had difficulty adjusting academically and socially to middle school.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant is involved in school activities.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant is respectful of himself/herself.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant cares about the well-being of others (students, teachers, etc.).

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant shows good follow-through and finishes tasks on time.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant demonstrates drive, dedication, and determination.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree



Academic Reference Form

1. How long have you known the student applicant?

2. How do you know the applicant?

3. What are some of the applicant's best qualities?

4. How do you believe the opportunity to participate in the REACH Georgia Program will help the applicant succeed?

5. What are some ways the applicant may have difficulty in the program (behavior, attendance, grades, consistency, interacting with adults, etc.)?

6. What are some weaknesses/areas of potential the applicant can work on to be even more successful?

7. Is there anything else you can tell us about the applicant?

Reference Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



Community Reference Form
REACH Georgia Application – Part 4
2017-2018 Academic Year

Note to the Student Applicant:

This reference form is to be completed by a person in your community who knows you well (e.g., a pastor, coach, friend or neighbor). **This person cannot be related to you.** Be sure to give your reference sufficient time to complete the form before the application due date.

Complete your information below before sending this form to your reference.

Student Applicant Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE to the Student’s Academic Reference:

This student has been nominated to apply to participate in the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia Program. REACH Georgia is a mentorship and scholarship program that begins in the 8th grade and provides REACH Scholars with the academic, social and financial support needed to graduate from high school, gain access to college and achieve post-secondary success. Upon graduation from high school, Scholars are awarded up to \$10,000 (\$2,500 per year for up to four years) towards the cost of attendance at a Georgia HOPE-eligible public or private two or four-year college.

The student applicant is asking you to provide information that will help the REACH Scholar selection committee identify the students who will most benefit from the REACH Georgia Program. You cannot be related to the student.

Please provide your thoughtful and honest responses and return this form in a sealed envelope to:

REACH Coordinator Name: _____

Due Date: _____



Community Reference Form

Circle the appropriate response based on your knowledge of the nominated student:

The applicant is helpful and courteous to people around him/her.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant is trustworthy.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant is reliable and can be counted on to complete tasks.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant is respectful of himself/herself.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant cares about the well-being of others.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant shows leadership potential.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

The applicant demonstrates drive, dedication, and determination.

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree



Community Reference Form

1. How long have you known the student applicant?

2. How do you know the applicant?

3. What are some of the applicant's best qualities?

4. How do you believe the opportunity to participate in the REACH Georgia Program will help the applicant succeed?

5. What are some ways the applicant may have difficulty in the program (behavior, attendance, grades, consistency, interacting with adults, etc.)?

6. What are some weaknesses/areas of potential the applicant can work on to be even more successful?

7. Is there anything else you can tell us about the applicant?

Reference Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____