



REACH GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

“Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen”

**Scholar Transition from High School to
Postsecondary Education**



GSFC | Georgia Student
Finance Commission

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 from your high school transcripts and only include core classes
- HOPE GPAs are usually a lower number than the cumulative GPA you might see on your report card
- Your HOPE GPA *cannot* be “rounded up”

Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

FAFSA

- The [“Free Application for Federal Student Aid”](#) must be completed annually to access federal or state financial aid (including REACH)
- Your college/university may select you for [FAFSA verification](#). If so, the required documentation must be submitted to them before you can access REACH
- Find your [Outreach Rep](#) at Gafutures. They will meet with you to assist your completing the FAFSA!

Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

GAfutures

It is essential that students in the state of Georgia create a student account at GAfutures.org, and maintain it with your most updated contact info

This site will help with:

- **Checking your HOPE-calculated GPA**
- [Quick Guides](#) for [College Planning](#)
- [Student Resources](#) and [FAQs](#)

Accessing REACH Scholarship funds

Important to Note:

- REACH Scholarship funds can be used for (but not exceed) the cost of attendance, not just tuition. “Cost of attendance” is defined differently by each institution
- These funds can *only* be used toward the completion of an undergraduate degree, certificate, or diploma
- 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 their REACH Scholarship eligibility will expire entirely going forward!

Don't wait until the last minute to create a plan to enroll at a HOPE-eligible institution! The clock is ticking...

Length of REACH Eligibility: 2024 Grads

1st Term - FALL 2024:
First term, post HS Graduation

4th Term - SPRING 2026:
Must have a plan to
enroll and receive REACH
funds by June 30th!



**2nd Term -
Spring 2025**

**3rd Term -
Fall 2025**

Length of REACH Eligibility

After Initial Access of Funds

- Once a REACH Scholar begins receiving their funds, eligibility will expire *five years* from the year they began receiving REACH scholarship funds
- For instance: students graduating Spring 2024 who begin accessing REACH funds that Fall will have a REACH Scholarship expiration date of June 2029

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)

**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

- Your college/university will not be receiving a check
- The financial aid or bursar office *must invoice* GSFC for REACH funds very similar to how they invoice for HOPE & ZELL (except they'll use the code "RS")
- Only then can REACH funds be electronically transferred from GSFC to your college/university and applied to your cost of attendance in your student account

REACH Awards & Disbursement

Additional Financial Assistance

- [Some Postsecondary Institutions in Georgia](#) may have agreed to match the REACH Scholarship or offer additional financial assistance. Please contact the college/university for more information.
- Additional financial support is authorized by the individual college or university; authorized financial assistance may be limited and the amount or existence of additional financial support may change without notice.

REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

Academic Requirements

- Although a 2.5 HOPE GPA is required at high school graduation in order to begin accessing REACH at your college or university ...
- Afterward, a 2.00 HOPE GPA will be required to maintain your REACH eligibility once you enroll at your postsecondary institution

REACH Eligibility in Postsecondary

Academic Requirements

- Failing to maintain a HOPE-Calculated GPA of 2.00+ at their college or university will result in losing REACH eligibility until the student can post a 2.00+ HOPE GPA
- Scholars who lose REACH once due to academics can regain it again, but losing it twice will result in permanent REACH ineligibility

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 Award Letter

- At the end of this summer, all REACH students who graduate high school with a 2.5+ HOPE GPA and have remained Scholarship eligible will receive an “award letter” via email from Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). Check your spam folders too!
- The award letter will provide helpful information about accessing your REACH Scholarship funds:
 - First page: Information directed toward you as the student
 - Second page: Information you can present to your financial aid counselor and/or bursar office to help assist REACH scholars with accessing their REACH funds

Contacts for REACH Scholars

Military Enlistment

- REACH Scholars who serve on active duty in the United States Armed Forces within two years immediately following the date of their high school graduation must submit a request to Program Administration at GSFA to have their length of REACH eligibility extended.
- A GSFA approved military service extension allows their REACH length of eligibility to extend up to a total of seven years from a Scholar's high school graduation date, based on active duty service.

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 contacts once you've graduated high school!

Contacts for REACH Scholars

Student Support

- You may be the first REACH Scholar at your Institution, but that's okay! Don't hesitate to remind your financial aid, bursar, and/or student support offices that you are a REACH Scholar if you experience challenges
- If you run into any difficulty accessing REACH funds, please contact the REACH Georgia office so we can address your issue as soon as possible

REACH Georgia Scholarship Program

- For REACH GA Program questions, please:
Email us at REACH@gsfc.org
- To read REACH [Program Regulations](#) and Dear Colleague Letters, you may access the latest versions at www.gsfc.org