



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAcollege411

Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

July 29, 2009

Re: Change in HOPE Scholarship Grade Point Average Calculation

Dear High School Colleagues:

As you know, on September 13, 2007 the State Board of Education adopted new graduation requirements effective with the incoming ninth grade class in 2008. The change to a single diploma type necessitates changes in the way the HOPE Scholarship Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated.

House Bill 313, enacted into law this past legislative session, addresses the statutory changes needed so that the HOPE Scholarship GPA can be calculated according to these new graduation requirements. In addition to those changes, the new basis for calculating the HOPE Scholarship GPA also includes coursework that is not required for graduation.

The HOPE Scholarship GPA will now be calculated as follows:

For students otherwise qualified and enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time during the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter, the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section by equating each grade for a student in attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language during the student's ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade year O.C.G.A. § 20-2-157 (2009)

Please note that while foreign language courses are no longer required for high school graduation, should a student enroll in those classes they will count towards the student's calculated HOPE Scholarship GPA. The entire text of the bill can be found at http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2009_10/fulltext/hb313.htm.

We are asking that you share this information with your students and parents so that they are aware that foreign language classes will be included in the HOPE Scholarship GPA calculation. We are including this information in our HOPE Program brochure that is distributed each year, as well as including it on the GAcollege411 website in the HOPE information section.

If you have any questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact our Program Administration Department at ProgramAdmin@gsfc.org or by calling 1-800-414-3080.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Connell