

**The HOPE Scholarship Eligibility
Determination and the Transcript
Exchange Process**

Helping Students Plan, Apply, and Pay for College

Why the HOPE GPA Calculation Method Was Changed



- Single Digit Revenue Growth – Double Digit Program Growth
- Joint Study Commission -- 2003
- HB 1325 -- 2004
- HOPE Changes: Fee Cap; Hour Cap; Spring Checkpoint; Triggers; New GPA Calculation Method

Statutory Change: §20-2-157

O.C.G.A. – What it Requires



- New Uniform Reporting System for HOPE -- Effective May 1, 2007
- Public and Private High Schools Must Submit Electronic Transcripts and Other Information as Determined by GSFC
- GSFC Will Use this Data to Determine Student Eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship
- GPA Will Include all Attempted Coursework in “Core Academic Areas” of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language

Statutory Change: §20-2-157

O.C.G.A. – What it Requires



- Reported Grades are Un-weighted – and, for Purposes of the HOPE GPA, only Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses will be Weighted
- A 4.0 Scale will be Used for the Grade Point Average Calculation – This Means that No Grade May be Greater than 4.0
- Numeric Grades will no Longer be Used to Determine HOPE Eligibility
- Scholarship Standards will be 3.0 for College Preparatory Students and 3.2 for Other Tracks – No Change in This

How the New Method Differs from the Old Method



HOPE GPA Calculation and Eligibility for Scholarship -- Current Method Versus 2007 Method

	Current Method	2007 Method*
High School Reports to GSFC	Student GPAs Only	A Complete Transcript with Course History
HOPE Grade Eligibility Determined By	Local High School	Georgia Student Finance Commission
Nominal Standard for Eligibility		
College Preparatory	3.0 on a 4.0 scale or 80 on a numerical scale	3.0 on a true 4.0 scale -- no numerical standard
Other Diploma Types	3.2 on a 4.0 scale or 85 on a numerical scale	3.2 on a true 4.0 scale -- no numerical standard
Academic Credits Counted in Calculation		
English	4 Highest Graded Credits	All Credits Attempted
Mathematics	4 Highest Graded Credits	All Credits Attempted
Science	3 Highest Graded Credits	All Credits Attempted
Social Studies	3 Highest Graded Credits	All Credits Attempted
Foreign Language (College Prep Only)	2 Highest Graded Credits	All Credits Attempted
Courses Weighted in GPA Calculation	Any May be Weighted (Local Discretion)	Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Only
Weighting Done By	Local High School or School System	Georgia Student Finance Commission
Value of Weights	Locally Determined	Uniform Across the State

*Applies to all Georgia High School Graduates who Begin Their College Careers on or After May 1, 2007, Regardless of Previous Eligibility Determinations
Those Enrolled and Attending a College Prior to May 1, 2007 are Subject to the Current High School Eligibility Standard

The Statute Governing this Process, §20-2-157 O.C.G.A., May be Viewed at: http://www.legis.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/gl_codes_detail.pl?code=20-2-157

Our Problem: What the New Method Requires of GSFC



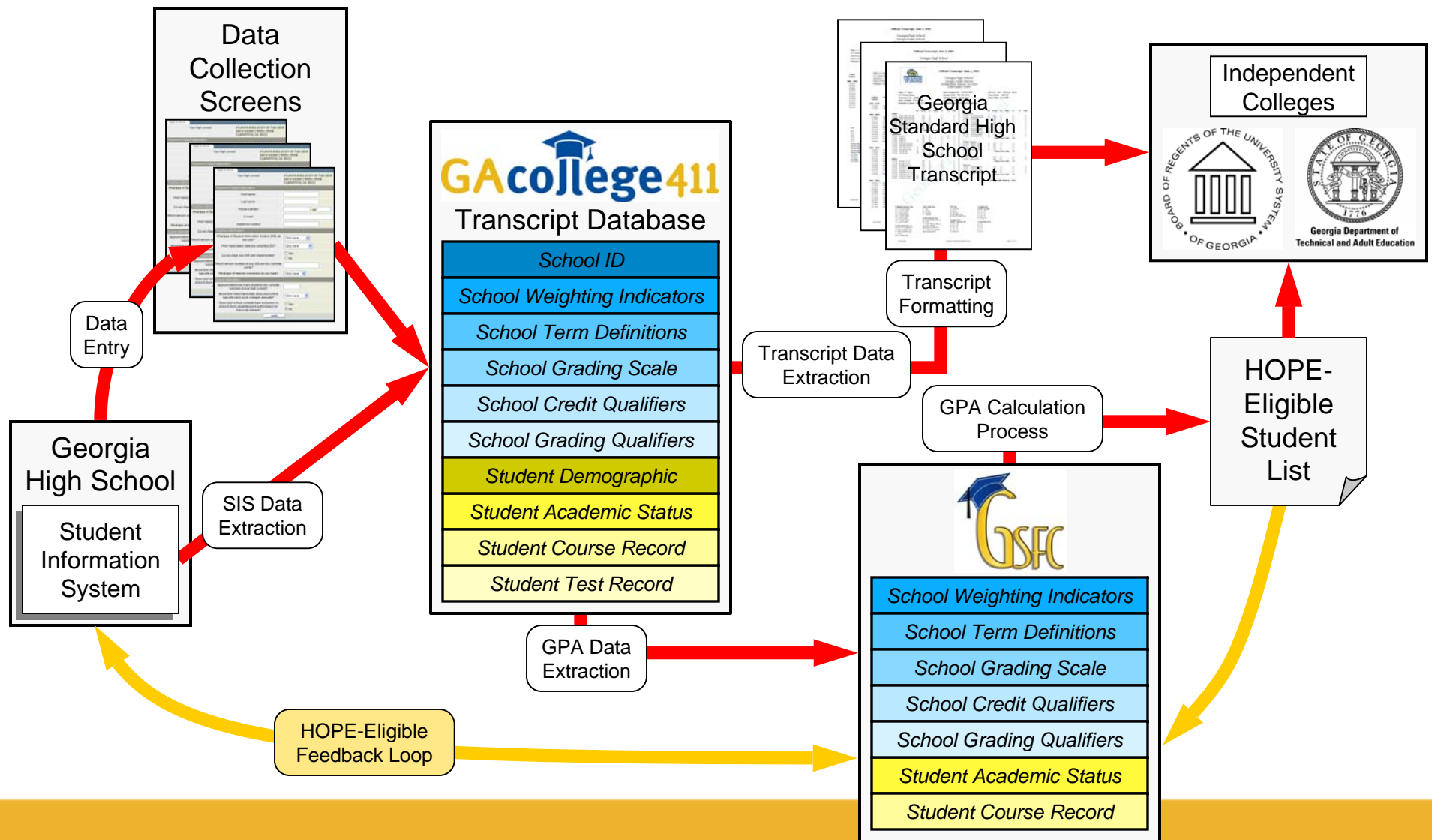
- GSFC No Longer Collects Summary GPAs – It Must Collect Raw Transcript Data and Grading Schemes
- GSFC Must Define and Standardize the Elements and the Process for Determining Eligibility
- Data Must be Collected Twice from all High Schools for HOPE -- in February for Initial HOPE Eligibility Determination and Again in the Summer When Coursework is Complete
- Between 500-600 High Schools must be Represented – Private Schools Plus High Schools in 180 Public School Systems

The Solution: GAcollege411 and the Transcript Exchange Process

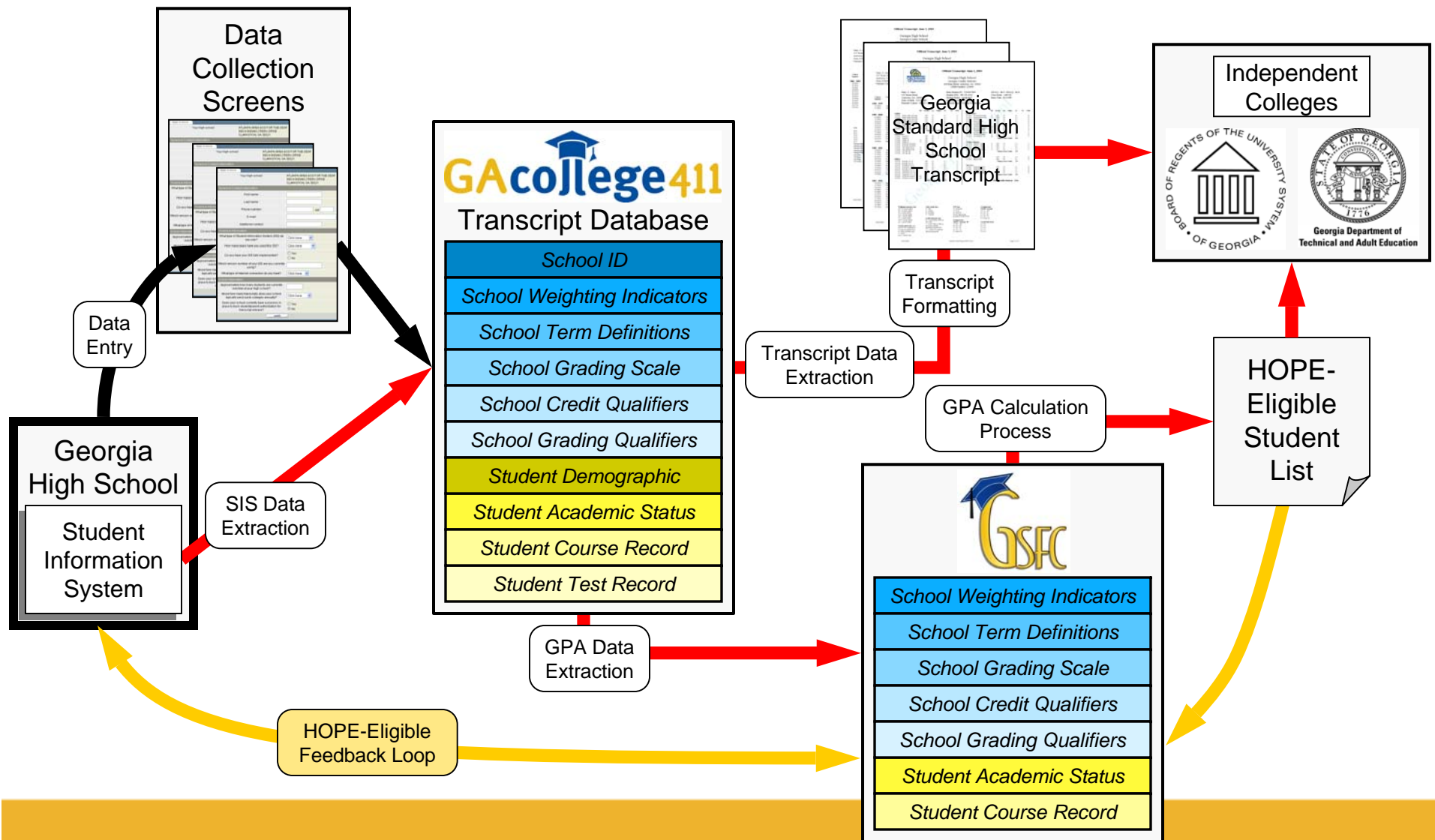


- The GSFC Mission is to Increase Postsecondary Participation for Georgians
- Providing College and Career Information has Always been a Vital Part of that Mission
- GAcollege411.org Provides that Information, as Well as Other Tools for Planning, Applying and Paying for College
- It also Provides a Mechanism for Sending High School Transcripts to Postsecondary Institutions, While at the Same Time Providing a Mechanism for Capturing the Data Needed for the HOPE GPA Calculation

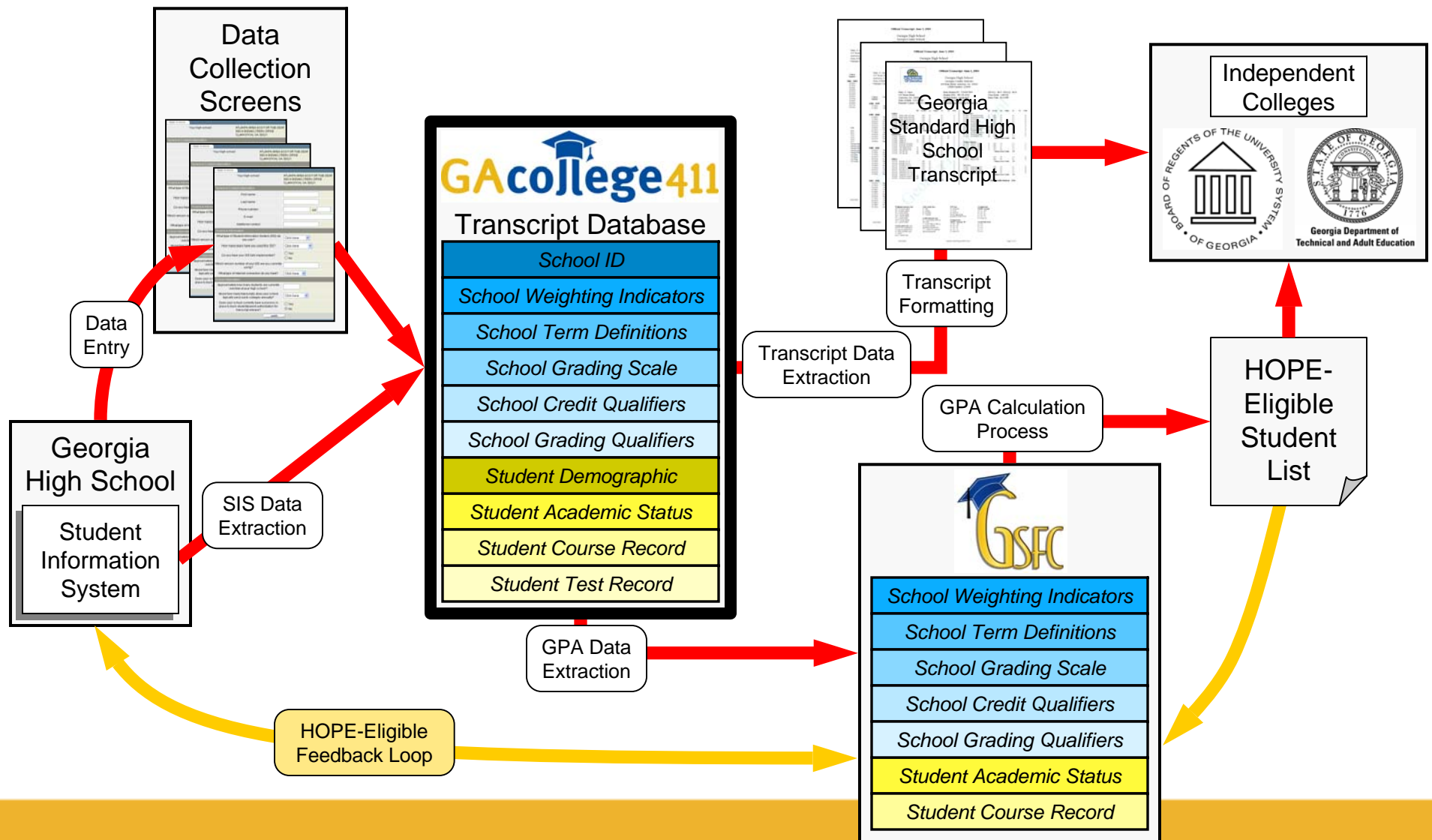
Overview: Transcript Exchange and HOPE GPA Calculation



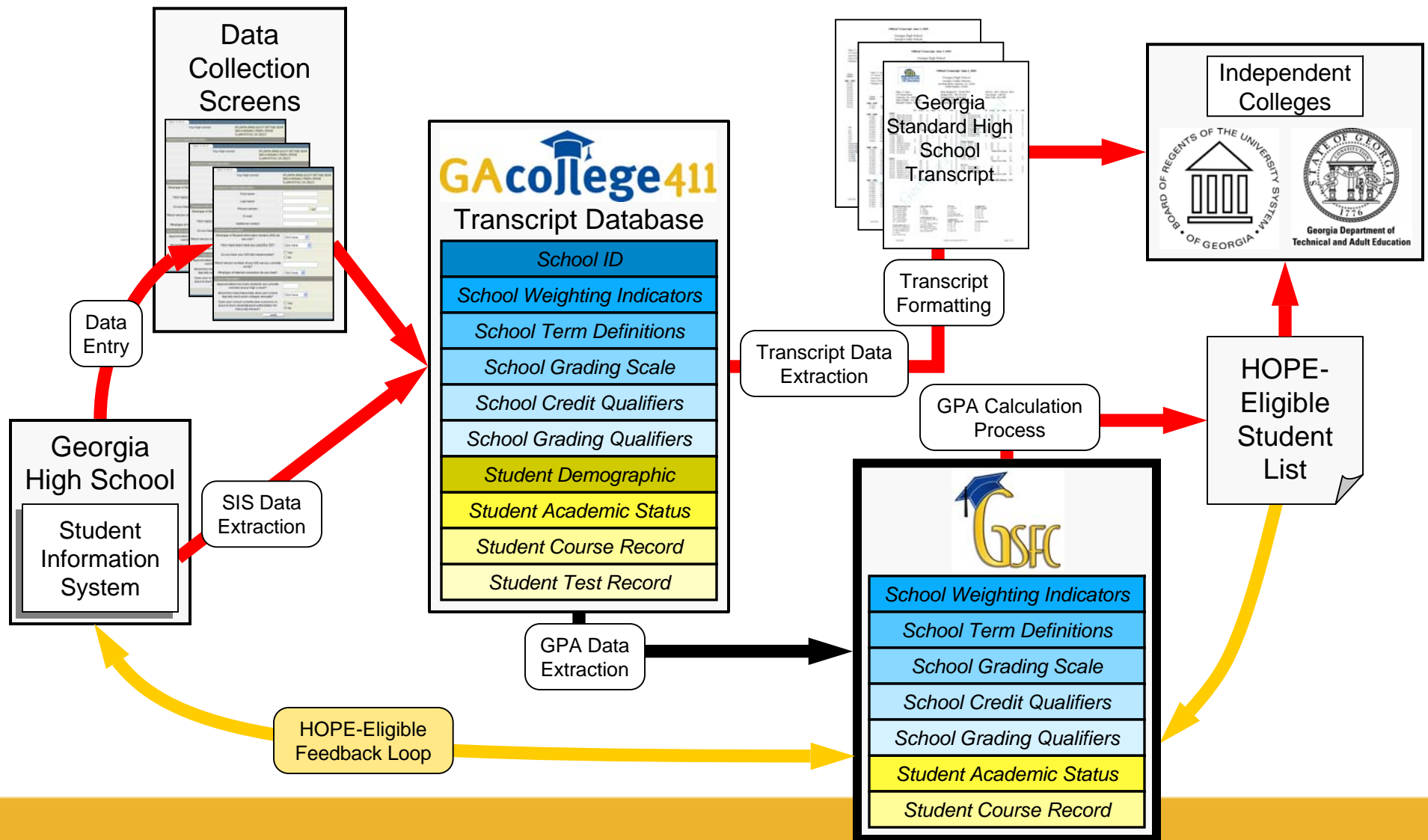
Overview: Transcript Exchange and HOPE GPA Calculation



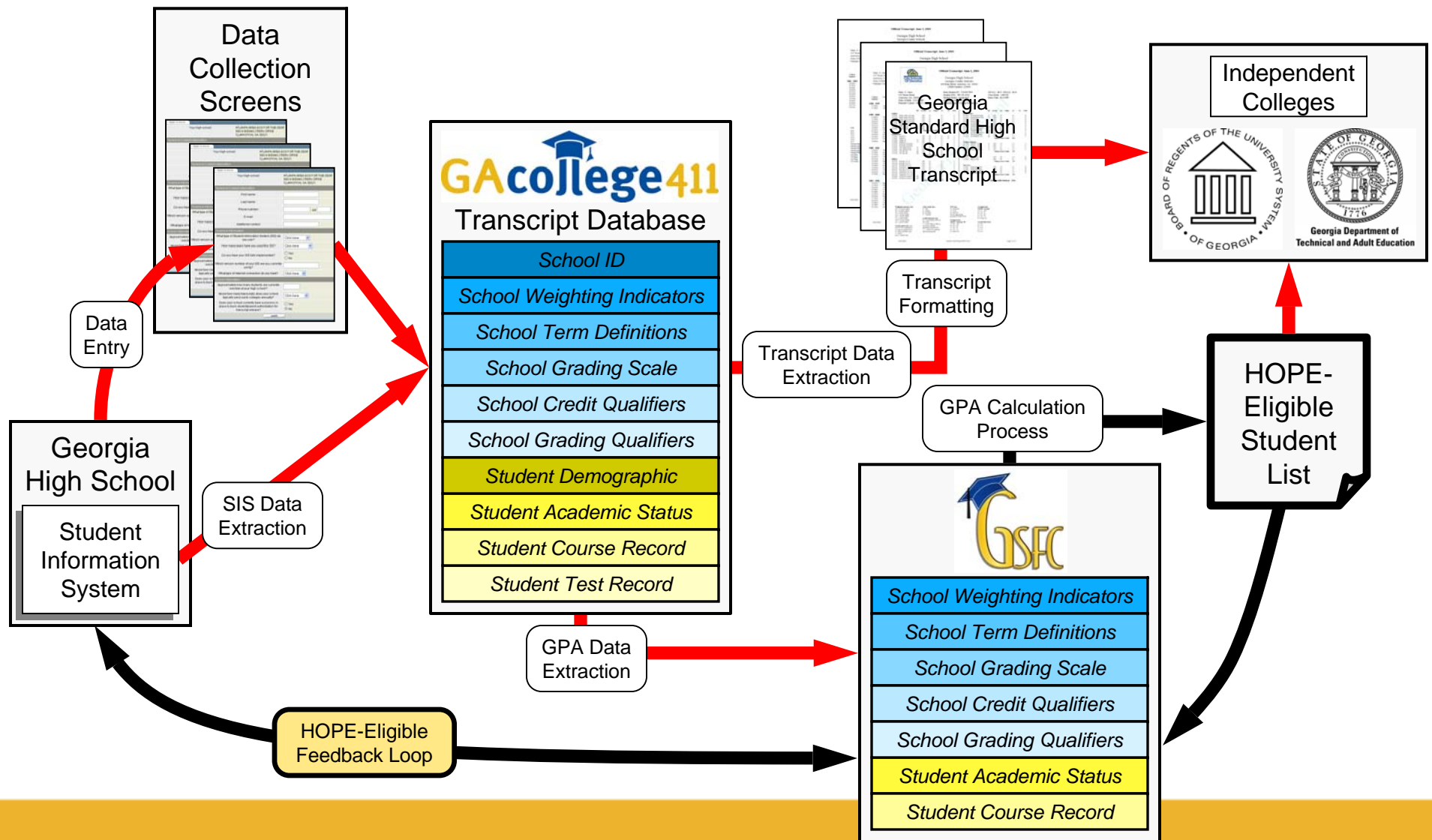
Overview: Transcript Exchange and HOPE GPA Calculation



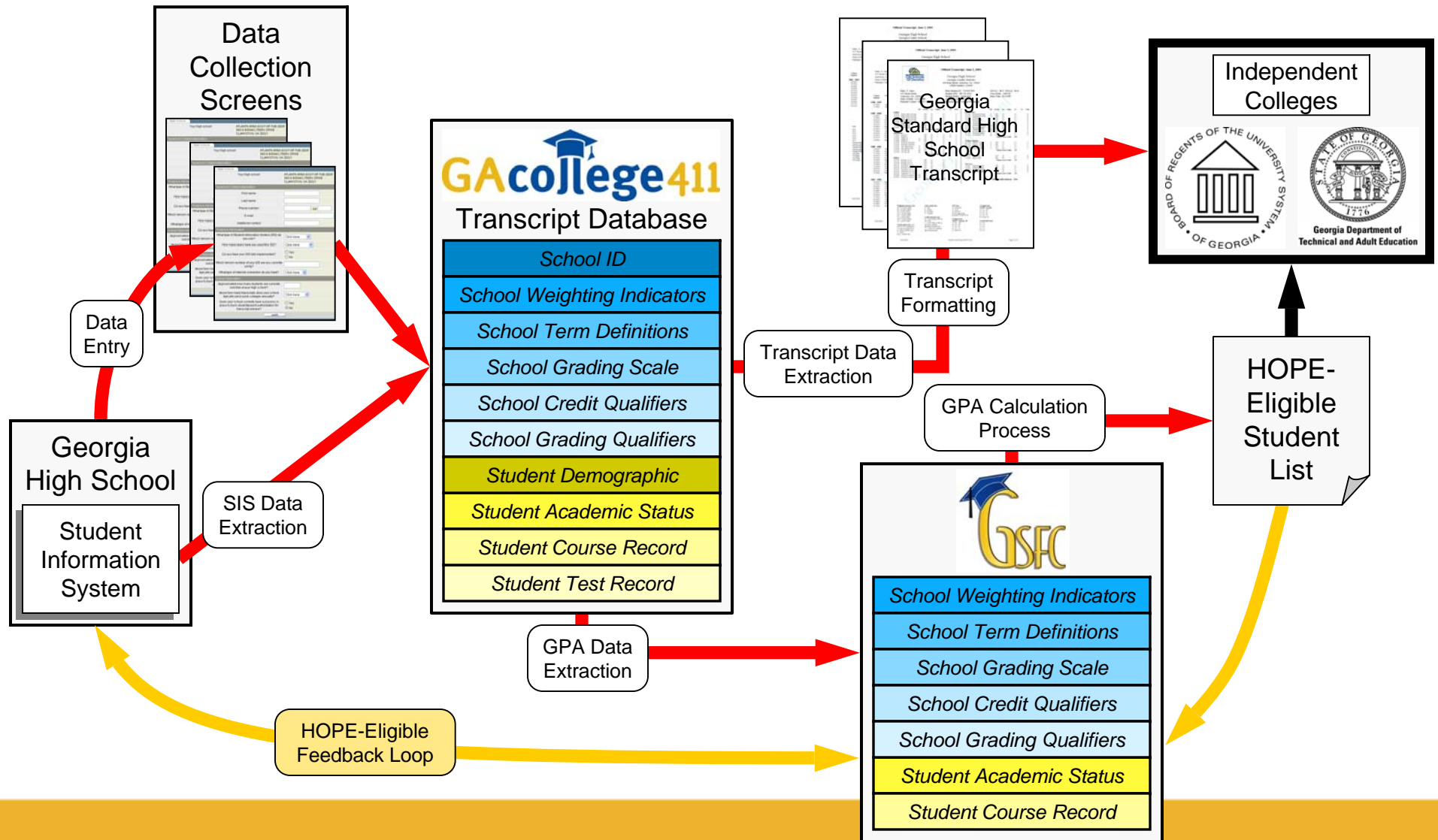
Overview: Transcript Exchange and HOPE GPA Calculation



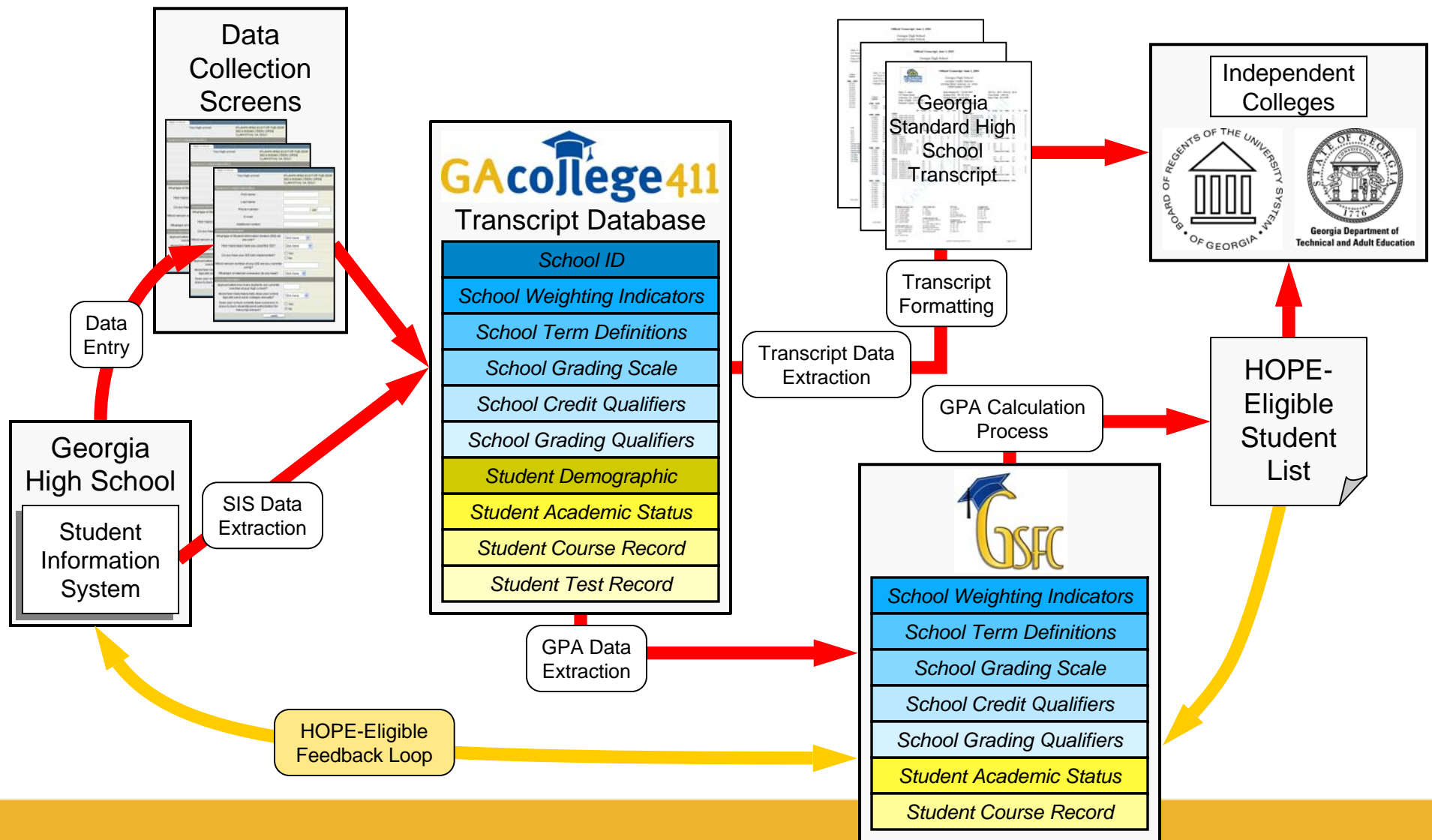
Overview: Transcript Exchange and HOPE GPA Calculation



Overview: Transcript Exchange and HOPE GPA Calculation



Overview: Transcript Exchange and HOPE GPA Calculation



Strategy for Data Collection from SIS – Extracts Plus a “Generic” Solution



- SASIxp is Currently Used in 101 Systems
- PowerSchool is Currently Used in 36 Systems
- SchoolMax is Currently Used in 24 Systems
- XAP Corporation is Currently Working With Vendors to Create “Extracts” that will Map Data Resident in Types of SIS Software and Prepare it for Export to GAcollege411
- In Addition, a Generic Data File Will be Specified that Will Satisfy Reporting Needs if it can be Produced
- Some Data Elements, However, do not Reside as Elements in SIS Software, and These Must be Collected in Another Way

Data Collection Screens for the Transcript Exchange Process



- Grading Scales, Weighting Indicators, and Other Related Elements May not be Stored as Data Elements in a Student Information System Because they Relate to School Rules, Not Student-Related Elements
- These “School Rule” Elements are Necessary to Interpret Course Records
- We are Building a Series of Eight Screens to Collect School Weighting Indicators, Term Definitions, Grading Scales, Credit Qualifiers and Grading Qualifiers
- These Will be Available Through GAcollege411 – And High School Personnel Must Complete them Each Year

How Will the GPA be Calculated?

An Eight Step Process



1. Identify Grading Scales
2. Identify Courses in Core Areas
3. Exclude Certain Credits
4. Exclude Certain Grades
5. Use Weighting Indicators to Generate Un-weighted Grades
6. Convert Grades to 4.0 Scale
7. Identify AP/IB Courses and Weight Them
8. Average Grades Factoring in Credits Attempted to Obtain the HOPE GPA – Apply Appropriate Standard (3.0 or 3.2)

Step One: Identify the Grading Scales Used in the Transcript



- Georgia Public High Schools Use Different Grading Scales
 - The Only Requirement is that 70 Numerical = Lowest Passing Score
- Our Method Uses the School's Own Grading Scale to Convert Numeric Grades to Grades on a Uniform 4.0 Scale
- Multiple Grading Scales Might Have been Used During the Period Covered by the Transcript – In this Step Elements will be Used to Identify the Scale Used for Each Transcript Grade
- These Elements are in the “School Grading Scale” Class

Step Two: Identify Courses in Core Areas



- Grades in the Course Record Will be Identified by the State's Uniform Course Numbering System
- These Course Numbers Should be in Every Public School Student Information System, but Private High Schools Must Equate their Course Offerings to Numbers on the State Course List
- Courses in the Core Areas Outlined in Statute will be Identified by Number: 23.x = English; 27.x = Mathematics; 26.x and 40.x = Science; 45.x = Social Studies; and 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64.x = Foreign Language.
- These will be Counted in Calculating the HOPE GPA

Step Three: Exclude Credit Qualifiers



- Some Credits on the Transcript will be for Courses which Should not be Counted in the Student's High School Grade Point Average
- These May Include Middle School Courses for Which High School Credit was Given or the Like – These will be Defined by the Local School and will not be Included in the GPA Calculation
- These Elements are Called “School Credit Qualifiers”

Step Four: Eliminate Grading Qualifiers



- Similarly, Some Grades for Courses in Core Areas May be Excluded from the Grade Point Average Calculation.
- These May Include: Pass/Fail Grades; Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grades; Grades that Indicate the Course was Audited; etc.
- Similarly, Courses that are “in Progress” are not Counted Toward the Grade Point Average Calculation
- These Elements are Called “School Grading Qualifiers”

Step Five: Use Weighting Indicators to Produce Un-weighted Grades



- The Statute Requires that the HOPE GPA will be Calculated Using Un-weighted Grades
- Unfortunately, Most Schools only Store Weighted Grades
- Therefore, GSFC will Collect Weighted Grades but will also Collect the Weighting Scheme and will Un-weight Grades Before Calculating the GPAs
- In Step Five, then, Numeric Grades with Weighting Indicators will be Reduced by the Appropriate Weight to Produce Un-weighted Grades

Weighting Key Needed to Un-Weight Grades



Weighting Indicator	Course Type	Extra Quality Points
AP	Advanced Placement	10 points added weight
IB	International Baccalaureate	10 points added weight
H	Honors	5 points added weight
AC	ACCEL	3 points added weight
AD	Advanced	3 points added weight
G	Gifted	3 points added weight
CW	Course Weight	3 points added weight
JE	Joint Enrollment	3 points added weight

Step Six: Use Un-weighted Numeric Grades to Convert Grade to 4.0 Scale



- School Grading Scale Elements will be used to Reduce Each Numeric Un-weighted Grade Obtained in Step Five to a Corresponding Grade on the 4.0 Grading Scale used by the Local High School. (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)
- For Schools Reporting Letter Grades Only on the Transcript, the Conversion will Take Place at This Stage, and Step Five Will be Omitted.

Step Seven: Identify AP and IB Courses and Weight Them



- Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses Will have Uniform Weights Added at this Stage
- The Exact Weights have been Determined by the GSFC Board – We will Weight Grades in AP and IB Courses by One-half of a Letter Grade: Grades of “B” in an Advanced Placement Course, would be Translated to 3.0 in Step Six and Would be Increased to 3.5 at This Step – “A”s Will not be Weighted, Since a 4.0 is the Highest Grade Possible
- The Resulting Grades Conform to the Statute

Step Eight: Average Grades Factoring in Credits Attempted to Obtain HOPE GPA – Apply Standard



- The Grades Obtained in the Previous Step will be Averaged Taking Into Account the Element “Credit Hours Attempted” from the “Student Course Record”
- The Sum of All (Grades X Credit Hours Attempted for Each Course) Divided by the Sum of All Credit Hours Attempted will Yield the HOPE Grade Point Average
- For Students Who Have not Yet Graduated: If the Student’s “Graduation Program of Study” Indicates College Preparatory, the Standard is 3.0 – if not, 3.2.
- For Graduates: If the “Diploma Type” Indicates College Preparatory, the Standard is 3.0 – if not, 3.2.
- Both “Graduation Program of Study” and “Diploma Type” are “Student Academic Status” Elements

Sample GPA Calculation



Sample Grade Point Average Calculation: A Preview of the Method of Determining HOPE Scholarship Eligibility in 2007

Year	Term	Student ID	Course Number	Course Description	Credits Attempted	Credit Qualifier	Grade	Subtract Points for Weighting Indicators				Unweighted Grade	Convert to 4.0 Scale	Re-Weight AP/IB	4.0 Scale Wtd Grade
								Weighting Indicator	H	G	AP				
1999	F	1234567890	27.0610	Algebra I	0.5	#	88		0	0	0	88			
	S	1234567890	27.0610	Algebra I	0.5	#	83		0	0	0	83			
2000	F	1234567890	27.0640	Algebra II	0.5		87	H	-3	0	0	84	3		3
	F	1234567890	23.0610	Ninth Grade Literature/Composition	0.5		95		0	0	0	95	4		4
	F	1234567890	45.2610	Economics/Business/Free Enterprise: Gifted	0.5		99	G	0	-3	0	96	4		4
	F	1234567890	26.0120	Biology I (9-12)	0.5		81		0	0	0	81	3		3
	F	1234567890	53.0361	Beginning Band I	0.5		90		0	0	0	90			
	F	1234567890	60.2110	French I: Gifted	0.5		79	G	0	-3	0	76	2		2
	S	1234567890	27.0640	Algebra II	0.5		80	H	-3	0	0	77	2		2
	S	1234567890	23.0610	Ninth Grade Literature/Composition	0.5		85		0	0	0	85	3		3
	S	1234567890	45.2610	Economics/Business/Free Enterprise: Gifted	0.5		92	G	0	-3	0	89	3		3
	S	1234567890	26.0120	Biology I (9-12)	0.5		88		0	0	0	88	3		3
	S	1234567890	53.0361	Beginning Band I	0.5		86		0	0	0	86			
	S	1234567890	60.2110	French I: Gifted	0.5		77	G	0	-3	0	74	2		2
2001	F	1234567890	23.0620	Tenth Grade Literature/Composition	0.5		85		0	0	0	85	3		3
	F	1234567890	27.0630	Euclidean Geometry	0.5		79		0	0	0	79	2		2
	F	1234567890	26.0130	Biology II (9-12)	0.5		87		0	0	0	87	3		3
	F	1234567890	40.0510	Chemistry I (9-12)	0.5		82		0	0	0	82	3		3
	F	1234567890	60.2120	French II: Gifted	0.5		81	G	0	-3	0	78	2		2
	F	1234567890	53.0362	Beginning Band II	0.5		88		0	0	0	88			
	S	1234567890	23.0620	Tenth Grade Literature/Composition	0.5		80		0	0	0	80	3		3
	S	1234567890	27.0630	Euclidean Geometry	0.5		77		0	0	0	77	2		2
	S	1234567890	26.0130	Biology II (9-12)	0.5		86		0	0	0	86	3		3
	S	1234567890	40.0510	Chemistry I (9-12)	0.5		80		0	0	0	80	3		3
	S	1234567890	60.2120	French II: Gifted	0.5		80	G	0	-3	0	77	2		2
	S	1234567890	53.0362	Beginning Band II	0.5		90		0	0	0	90			
2002	F	1234567890	23.0520	English Literature/Composition	0.5		91		0	0	0	91	4		4
	F	1234567890	27.0650	Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry	0.5		84	H	-3	0	0	81	3		3
	F	1234567890	40.0520	Chemistry II (9-12)	0.5		91		0	0	0	91	4		4
	F	1234567890	45.0810	United States History	0.5		96		0	0	0	96	4		4
	F	1234567890	21.0210	Explorations in Technology	0.5		98		0	0	0	98			
	F	1234567890	45.0830	World History	0.5		93		0	0	0	93	4		4
	S	1234567890	23.0520	English Literature/Composition	0.5		93		0	0	0	93	4		4
	S	1234567890	27.0650	Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry	0.5		90	H	-3	0	0	87	3		3
	S	1234567890	40.0520	Chemistry II (9-12)	0.5		89		0	0	0	89	3		3
	S	1234567890	45.0810	United States History	0.5		91		0	0	0	91	4		4
	S	1234567890	21.0210	Explorations in Technology	0.5		99		0	0	0	99			
	S	1234567890	45.0830	World History	0.5		90		0	0	0	90	4		4
2003	F	1234567890	23.0650	Advanced Placement Literature/Composition	0.5		88	AP	0	0	-5	83	3	0.5	3.5
	F	1234567890	27.0720	Advanced Placement Calculus AB	0.5		80	AP	0	0	-5	75	2	0.5	2.5
	F	1234567890	26.0620	Advanced Placement Environmental Science	0.5		85	AP	0	0	-5	80	3	0.5	3.5
	F	1234567890	45.0620	Advanced Placement Macroeconomics	0.5		85	AP	0	0	-5	80	3	0.5	3.5
	F	1234567890	45.2710	World Geography: Gifted	0.5		88	G	0	-3	0	85	3		3
	F	1234567890	45.0520	Advanced Placement Government/Politics: United States	0.5		90	AP	0	0	-5	85	3	0.5	3.5
	S	1234567890	23.0650	Advanced Placement Literature/Composition	0.5		86	AP	0	0	-5	81	3	0.5	3.5
	S	1234567890	27.0720	Advanced Placement Calculus AB	0.5		78	AP	0	0	-5	73	2	0.5	2.5
	S	1234567890	26.0620	Advanced Placement Environmental Science	0.5		87	AP	0	0	-5	82	3	0.5	3.5
	S	1234567890	45.0630	Advanced Placement Microeconomics	0.5		88	AP	0	0	-5	83	3	0.5	3.5
	S	1234567890	45.2710	World Geography: Gifted	0.5		84	G	0	-3	0	81	3		3
	S	1234567890	45.0520	Advanced Placement Government/Politics: United States	0.5		92	AP	0	0	-5	87	3	0.5	3.5

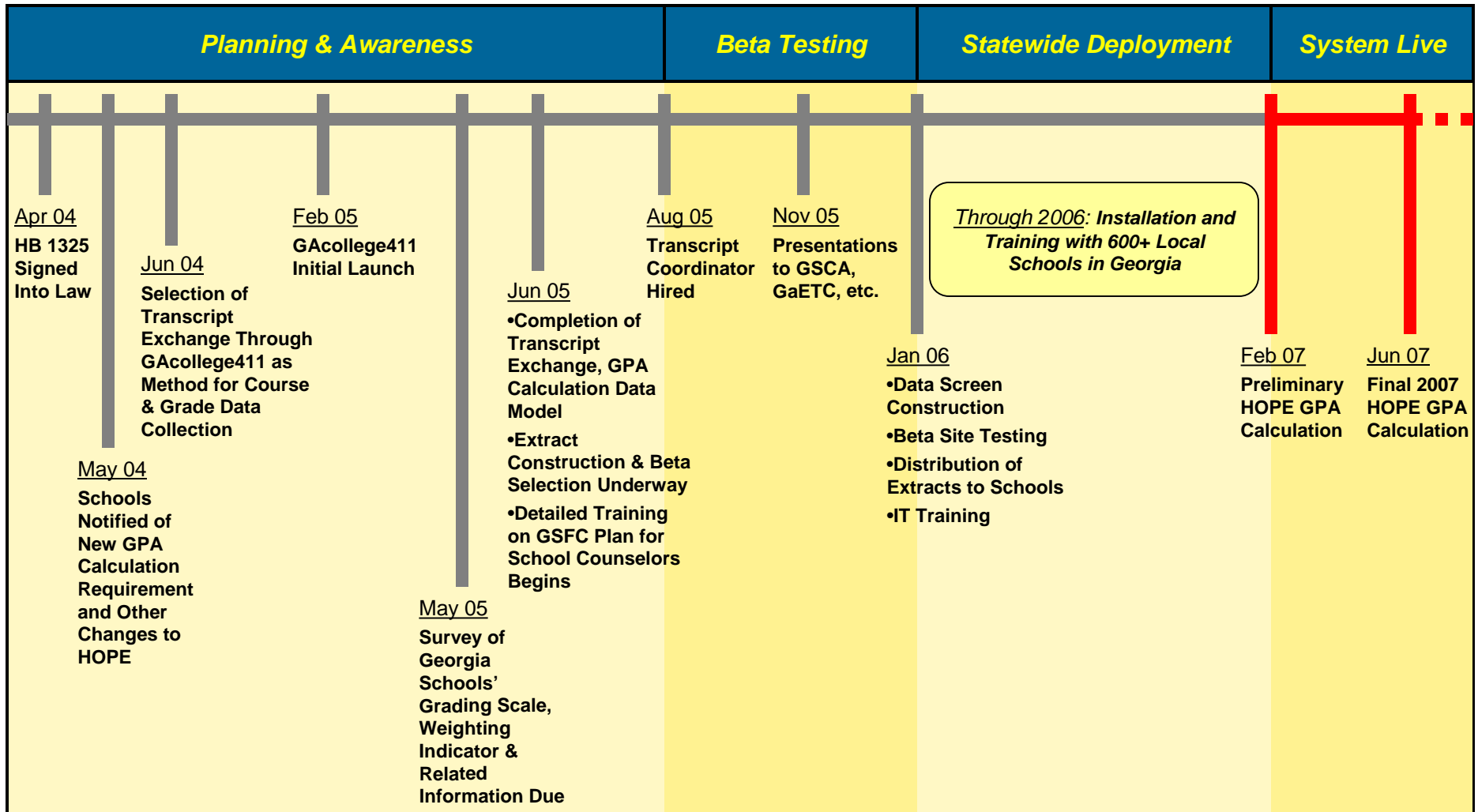
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HOPE GPA -- 2007 Method =

3.12

= Coursework Taken in Core Academic Areas Used in GPA Calculation

HOPE Scholarship GPA & Transcript Exchange Timeline



Questions?



What Questions Do You Have About the Process?