



May 4, 2007

HOPE Scholar GPA: Preliminary Process Update

Dear Financial Aid Partners:

I am pleased to report that the implementation of the Transcript Exchange process is well under way. I wanted share with you what we have experienced to date and as of today, more than 500 High Schools have transmitted student transcripts to us. That means that more than 93 thousand student transcripts have been sent to GSFC and of those, approximately 69 thousand have been calculated thus far. Of those, approximately 32 thousand have been verified by the High Schools. We continue to work closely with the high schools in resolving data issues related to the remaining students files.

We remain confident that the final GPA calculation cycle will be smooth. As you know, part of the process involves the high schools verifying the calculations once we have completed the process. It is at that point that HOPE GPA's will become available to postsecondary institutions. As such, we are dependent upon the high schools for completing this last step of the process in a timely manner. Be assured that we are in constant communication with the high schools regarding the critical nature of the verification process.

Today, May 4th, GSFC will stop calculating preliminary GPAs and all preliminary GPA reports will be removed from SURFER in preparation of the final GPA calculations. This is being done to help ensure that the High Schools will have sufficient time to complete the verification process for final GPA's. Those high schools that have not yet completed the preliminary process will be encouraged to continue to work through any data or technical issues that may exist, but they are not required to do so.

Additionally on May 4th, student records of HOPE Scholars from previous years and for which an invoice has not been paid will be altered in SURFER. When you view a student's Scholarship and Grant Status in SURFER, a new message will be displayed that states: "This student was a previous HOPE Scholar but did not enroll in a HOPE-eligible post-secondary institution prior to May 1, 2007.

According to Georgia law, this student must have his/her high school GPA for HOPE Scholarship eligibility recalculated. Please direct the student to contact GSFC at 1-800-505-4732 for assistance.” Additionally, if you submit an invoice for a student that needs to be re-evaluated, you will receive an invoicing reject code of 021 indicating that a high school GPA was not found.

The Georgia Student Finance Commission will begin calculating final GPAs on May 15th. As soon as high schools report final transcript and graduation information to GSFC, the HOPE Scholar GPA will be calculated. Once the high school has verified the calculations, the information will be available for your view through both reports and individual lookup in SURFER. Additionally, students will be able to log into their GAcollge411 account and look up their final GPA calculation, once the reporting and verification process is completed by their high school. We expect to have a high percentage of student HOPE qualifying GPA's verified and posted by July 1.

As clarification, the new GPA guidelines only apply to 2007 high school graduates and students who have not previously enrolled as a regular freshman in a HOPE-eligible institution prior to May 1, 2007. Students who graduated in previous years do not need to be re-evaluated if they have enrolled in any HOPE-eligible institution prior to May 1, 2007. Receipt of the HOPE Scholarship or HOPE Grant is not a requirement, rather only enrollment as a regular freshman.

We realize that you and your students may have questions regarding this new process. GSFC has added a significant temporary, but fully trained, staff and we stand ready to assist you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions.

We will send you another status update around June 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy A. Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

Timothy A. Connell