

**Special Called Telephonic Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Georgia Student Finance Commission
Tuesday, June 16, 2009
President's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

Members of the Board of Commissioners

Billy Jerles, Chair
Kay Brown, Vice Chair
Gary Wisenbaker
Joe Edwards
Thomas Bowen
Molly Dye Franklin
Kip Mercer
Mid Ramsey
Pat Burd
Lindsey Tippins
John Cowherd

Call to Order *by Billy Jerles, Chair*

Roll Call *by Monica Cherry, Board Secretary*

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL ITEMS

1. Revisions to the Program Regulations for the ACCEL and HOPE Programs for the 2009 Academic Year
2. Revision to 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Program Regulations to Change Award-Year Reconciliation Deadline Dates

Adjourn

APPROVAL ITEMS

1. Revisions to the Program Regulations for the ACCEL and HOPE Programs for the 2009 Academic Year

Background:

A. HOPE PROGRAM REVISIONS

As a result of action taken during the 2009 legislative session, the law governing the HOPE Program was amended to allow the dependent children of active duty military personnel who are stationed in Georgia to be treated as Georgia residents, for purposes of HOPE Scholarship and HOPE Grant eligibility. The 2009-2010 HOPE Scholarship Program at Public Institutions Regulations, HOPE Scholarship Program at Private Institutions Regulations, and HOPE Grant Program Regulations, already approved by the Board of Commissioners, include this change. In order to provide further clarification to these regulations, the following definition of "Stationed" is to be added to each of the regulations listed above:

"Stationed" means the permanent place of military duty to which Military Personnel are officially assigned or attached by official military orders. Military Personnel are not considered Stationed when the military orders are for temporary duty assignments.

B. ACCEL PROGRAM REVISIONS

The following sections are to be removed from the 2009-2010 Accel Program Regulations:

905.2. Length of Eligibility.

A student who begins receiving Accel Program payment as a 9th grader is eligible for Accel Program payment for four Award Years. A student who begins receiving Accel Program payment as a 10th grader is eligible for Accel Program payment for three Award Years. A student who begins receiving Accel Program payment as an 11th grader is eligible for Accel Program payment for two Award Years. A student who begins receiving Accel Program payment as a 12th grader is eligible for Accel Program payment for one Award Year.

908.1 Award Amounts at Public Eligible Postsecondary Institutions.

a. The Accel Program at USG and TCSG Eligible Postsecondary Institution covers Tuition and Mandatory Fees. The Accel award amount for Tuition must not be greater than the in-state Tuition rate for the specific program of study of the public Eligible Postsecondary Institution. Award amounts may include cents and must not be rounded. The Accel funds awarded for Tuition and Mandatory Fees can only be applied to Tuition and Mandatory Fees, not other Cost of Attendance expenses.

The following three sections are to be added to the 2009-2010 Accel Program Regulations:

905.2. Length of Eligibility.

Students may receive Accel payments for up to four semesters or six quarters regardless of the number of credits received during each semester or quarter.

908.1 Award Amounts at Public Eligible Postsecondary Institutions.

a. The Accel Program at USG and TCSG Eligible Postsecondary Institution covers Tuition and Mandatory Fees. The Accel award amount for Tuition must not be greater than the in-state Tuition rate for the specific program of study of the public Eligible Postsecondary Institution or \$203.00 per semester hour or the corresponding quarter-hour equivalent, whichever is less. Award amounts may include cents and must not be rounded. The Accel funds awarded for Tuition and Mandatory Fees can only be applied to Tuition and Mandatory Fees, not other Cost of Attendance expenses.

908.4. Awards Per School Term.

The Accel Program is available to students for the standard school terms of fall, and spring semesters or fall, winter, and spring quarters. Accel funds are not available for summer terms. An institution may combine mini-terms or modules to form the equivalent of a standard semester or quarter. An institution may offer Non-Standard Terms or Non-Terms, in which courses or modules are taken consecutively to form the equivalent of a standard semester or quarter. Regardless of the structure of an Eligible Postsecondary Institution's school terms, a student must not receive Accel payment for more than two semesters or three quarters per Award Year. No student may receive Accel payments for more than four semesters or six quarters.

Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners of the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the Georgia Student Finance Authority approve the amendments to the 2009-2010 HOPE Scholarship Program at Public Institutions Regulations, HOPE Scholarship Program at Private Institutions Regulations, HOPE Grant Program Regulations, and ACCEL Program Regulations as presented.

2. Revision to 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Program Regulations to Change Award-Year Reconciliation Deadline DatesBackground:

Annually, each scholarship and grant program Eligible Postsecondary Institution is required to perform an Award-Year Reconciliation, which is a student-by-student reconciliation of program disbursements made to the Eligible Postsecondary Institution. Eligible Postsecondary institutions cannot perform an Award-Year Reconciliation until all disbursements are completed.

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009, disbursements for several programs have been delayed due to these programs reaching their SFY 2009 budget maximum. The disbursements for these programs will not be completed until after July 1, 2009 and into SFY 2010.

In normal years, postsecondary institutions would have completed disbursements for most programs in sufficient time to allow a minimum of 30 calendar days to perform the annual Award-Year Reconciliation. However, this year, because of the disbursement delay, postsecondary institutions will have significantly less time to perform the annual Award-Year Reconciliation. A copy of the revision to each impacted regulation is attached.

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Program Regulations be amended to adjust the Award-Year Reconciliation Deadline Date to August 1st for the following Programs: HOPE Scholarship at Public Institutions, HOPE Scholarship at Private Institutions, HOPE Grant Program, HOPE GED Program, Tuition Equalization Grant Program, HERO Program, Accel Program and LEAP Program. A copy of the revision to each impacted regulation is attached.

**Special Called Telephonic Meeting of the Board of Directors
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Tuesday, June 16, 2009
President's Conference Room at 10:10 a.m.**

AGENDA

Members of the Board of Directors

Billy Jerles, Chair
Kay Brown, Vice Chair
Gary Wisenbaker
Joe Edwards
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Lindsey Tippins
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Call to Order *by Billy Jerles, Chair*

Roll Call *by Monica Cherry, Board Secretary*

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL ITEM

Authorizing the President to execute a purchase order under the Blue Cross Blue Shield Contract for GSFA Employees

INFORMATION ITEM

Update on Federal Legislation

Adjourn

APPROVAL ITEM

1. Authorize the President to execute a purchase order under the Blue Cross Blue Shield Contract for GSFA Employees

Background:

Approval is requested for the President to sign a GSFA Purchase Order (P.O.) that will authorize payment of monthly premiums to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBS) for health insurance coverage for GSFA employees. Based upon current enrollments, the total monthly premiums are estimated to be no greater than \$101,510.15. The total premiums for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 are estimated to be no greater than \$1,218,121.80.

GSFA pays 80% of the total amount and the employee pays 20% through payroll deductions. While GSFA's maximum liability is below the President's signature authority, because the total amount to be paid will exceed it, Board approval is required.

Recommended Action:

The staff recommends the President be authorized to execute a purchase order for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia to provide health insurance coverage to GSFA employees as presented.

INFORMATION ITEM

1. Update on Federal Legislation

An update on Federal legislation impacting the industry will be provided.