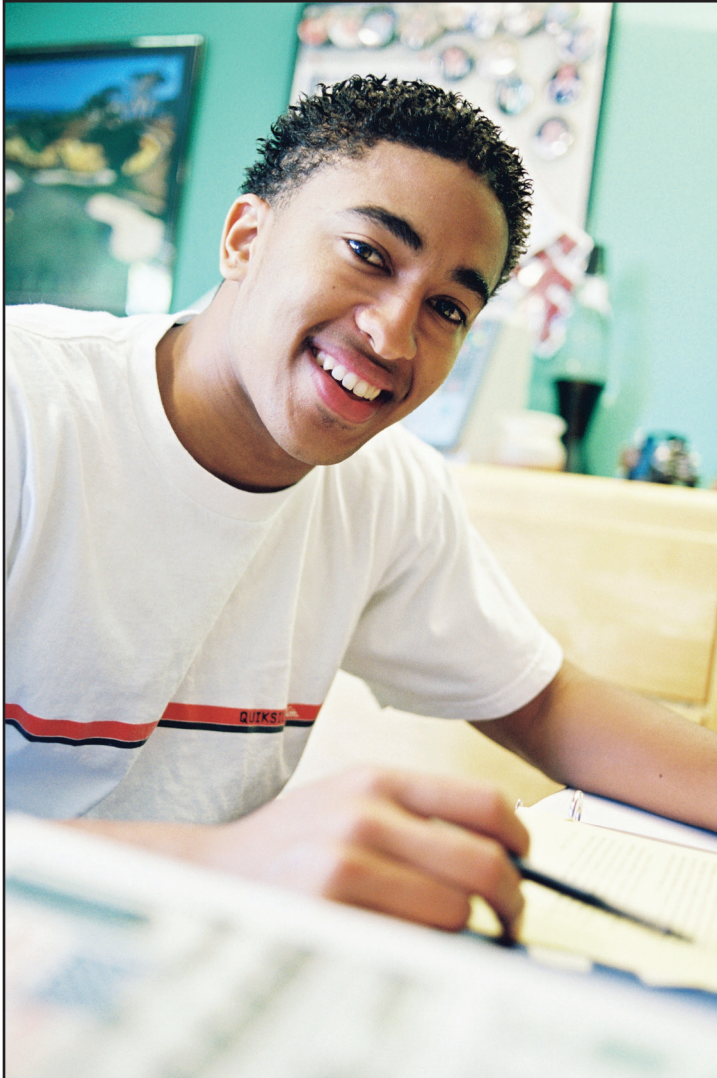




FOR

GA MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS



New GSFC K-12 Student & School Services & GAcademy411 Division Director



Hello, I'm Angie Newell, the new Director of GAcademy411. I am excited about serving in this role and look forward to

continuing GSFC's role of providing outreach and education to high schools, students and their families.

I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree from Wilberforce University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Kennesaw State University. After earning my Master of Public Administration degree in 2002, I put my strong interest in public service to work and began my career with the State of Georgia.

I am an advocate for higher education. I look forward to helping guidance counselors, students and their families navigate the GAcademy411 website and plan for their college future.

Apply to College Month a Big Success!

We would like to thank those colleges who participated in Apply to College Month. It turned out to be a big success. We had nearly 200 schools participate this year. A big thanks to all the volunteers as well!

COPPA Restrictions Lifted from GAcollge411



On November 7, 2011 the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) restrictions which keeps personal information for children under 13 safely off the internet were lifted from GAcollge411.org. The restrictions were lifted because the website in question is not operated for commercial purposes, in our opinion, COPPA does not apply.

Since the COPPA restrictions were lifted, questions have been raised about why the student names were not immediately visible. Since the students were under 13 when the accounts were created and the restrictions were in force, none of the students' personal information was stored on the website. Any accounts created while the restrictions were in force will have to be entered by the student, and they will need to enter their names in their Profiles.

When a student signs in to the website, the first step they should take is to go to their profile. The first option link is "The Basics". When they click on "This is Me", the student should then click the edit link and add in their name. This is also the screen where they can add a connection to the high school they will attend.

Eighth grade students should add the high school they will attend some time during their 8th grade year. The student does this by clicking Add another connection. Once they have added their high school, the high school counselor will be able to see their information as well as the middle school counselor and will be able to look up their login and help with their password, if the student forgets their information over the summer break. It also means the Middle School Professional will not have to keep a log of all the students' login names to hand over to the High School.

We hope that the lifting of the COPPA restrictions has been helpful to the schools and that you will be able to use the website to meet the Bridge requirements.

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College, Yes You Can Day

On Monday, January 30th, more than 500 high school students will be visiting the Capitol as part of college, Yes You Can Day. There will be a brief program and then students will have the opportunity to attend presentations on college admissions and financial aid and learn more about Georgia Colleges.



The focus for January is that any student can attend college. It could be a 4-year university, a 2-year college, or a technical college. It doesn't matter where a student attends; we just want them to be aware of the opportunities available beyond high school. GAcollge411 can help students to explore all the colleges in Georgia and nationwide. Help us encourage students to create a plan and decide where they want to attend college after high school.

"How to have parents review a student's Individualized Graduation Plan/Plan of Study"

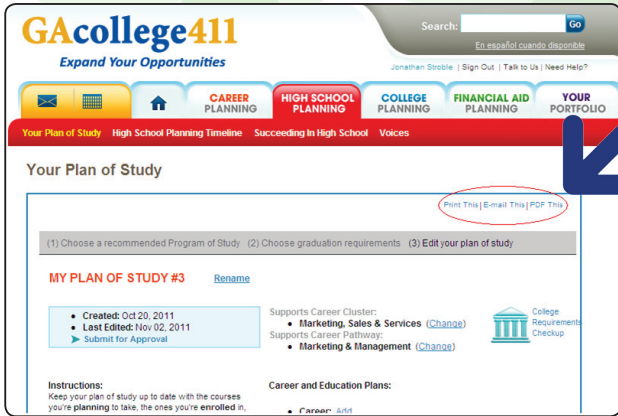
Questions have been asked by schools on how to have Individual Graduation Plans (IGP) approved. Following are step-by-step instructions.

1. Login to student's GAcollge411 account.
2. Pull up the student's Plan of Study.

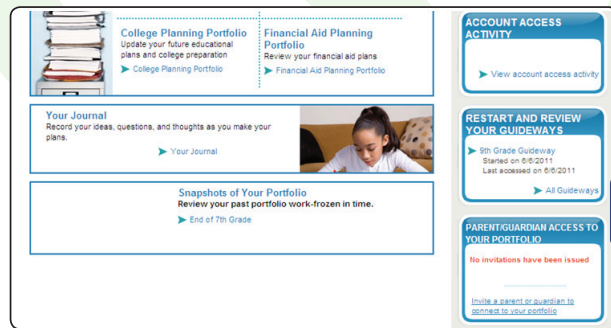
“How to have parents review a student’s Individualized Graduation Plan/Plan of Study” (continued)

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3. There are a few methods for parents’ approval of a student’s graduation plan.
 - a. Students can print, email or PDF their graduation plan.



Parents can be linked to their students GAcademy411 account. All they have to do is go under the “Portfolio” tab, the bottom right side; they can request to be linked to their students account. Students must then login and approve their parent’s request. Students can also request parents to be linked to their own account, but much like a facebook friendship, a request must be made, then approved by the other party.



If students decide to print out or email their Plan of Study, they can take home the paper copy and have parents sign this copy. Once counselors receive the signed copy or the emailed approval of the Plan of Study, they can then indicate in the Professional Center that parents have reviewed and approved the Plan of Study.

If you need more help with this process please contact your schools’ representative.

Accel and HOPE Grant Clarification

- b. Students can invite their parents to review their Plan of Study through their parents GAcademy411 account (Yes! Parents can have a GAcademy411 account and it can be linked to their students Portfolio – see below for details) or they can email the Plan of Study to a specific email address.



For those of you who have attended a Fall training session about the HOPE changes, here is updated information about the Accel program and Dual Enrollment Program and how they affect the HOPE program hours cap.

Electives	Required	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Your Total: 0 or Required: 4 or
TOTAL	Completed: 0 or Enrolled: 0 or Planned: 0 or	Completed: 0 or Enrolled: 0 or Planned: 0 or	Completed: 0 or Enrolled: 0 or Planned: 0 or	Completed: 0 or Enrolled: 0 or Planned: 0 or	Completed: 0 or Enrolled: 0 or Planned: 0 or	Your Total: 0 or Required: 22 or

PARENT/GUARDIAN REVIEWS AND COMMENTS [Hide Review and Comments](#)

- ▶ Invite Parent to Review This Plan (invite your parent to create an account and review your portfolio)
- ▶ Send This Plan to a Parent for Review (this plan of study will be sent to your parent's e-mail address)
- ▶ Choose a different set of graduation requirements

ACCEL PROGRAM:

The Accel program is available to dual-enrolled students enrolled in degree-level coursework at eligible post-secondary institutions. Beginning with this current Fall 2011

Accel and HOPE Grant Clarification (continued)

term, credit hours paid for by the Accel program do not count towards the HOPE Combined Paid Hours Limit. Hours taken prior to the Fall term 2011 remained counted towards the limit. Students eligible for Accel payment receive full tuition, approved mandatory fees (capped at the 2004 level), and a book allowance. Students are currently eligible for 4 semesters of Accel payment.

HOPE GRANT FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS:

The HOPE Grant program is available to dual-enrolled and joint-enrolled students enrolled in certificate or diploma coursework at eligible post-secondary institutions. Dual-enrolled students are receiving high school credit for the coursework taken at an eligible post-secondary institution, while joint-enrolled students are not. Credit hours taken by a dual-enrollment student and paid for by the HOPE Grant are not counted towards the HOPE Grant Paid Hours Limit or the HOPE Combined Paid Hours Limit. The exclusion of such hours has been in place since July 2008. Students who took dual-enrollment coursework paid for by the HOPE Grant prior to July 2008 may contact GSFC and request that those hours also be excluded from the limits. Credit hours taken by joint-enrolled students and paid for by HOPE Grant are counted towards all paid hour limits.

Beginning with this current Fall 2011 term, all HOPE Grant recipients, including dual-enrolled, joint-enrolled, and regular admit students, receive only a per hour HOPE Grant award amount. Book allowances are not available to any HOPE Grant recipients.

We apologize for any confusion that our miscommunication may have caused, and we hope that the information provided herein clarifies the rules regarding the Accel and HOPE Grant programs. If you should have any other questions related to these or any other State Scholarship and Grant Programs, please contact Caylee French, Director of Student Aid Services, at cayleef@gsfc.org.

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Final Thoughts

I want you to know that we have heard your concerns about the inefficiency of the GAcademy411 website. Please understand we are committed to working with our vendor to improve the performance of the website as well as continuing to enhance the GAcademy411 with relevant tools and resources for you and your students.

We are always happy to hear from you regarding your experience while visiting the website. So please continue to send any suggestions or concerns with the website to me. As always don't hesitate to [contact your respective K-12 Student and School Services representative](#) as they are available to assist you in any way possible.



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GAcademy411

Expand Your Opportunities