



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



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

Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

June 24, 2011

Re: State Scholarship and Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2012

Dear Colleagues,

As we gear up for another award year and move towards full implementation of the changes to the HOPE Programs for Fiscal Year 2012, I wanted to share some important information items with you.

Fiscal Year 2012 Invoicing Processing

SURFER has been updated so that invoicing for Summer FY2012 may begin. You may submit Summer FY2012 invoices online manually or through the normal invoicing file process.

Please remember that due to the HOPE Changes Implementation Schedule Summer invoicing will be closed on August 3, 2011, but re-opened from October 17 – 21, 2011. If your institution must receive Summer HOPE funds prior to October, please ensure that your Summer invoices are fully processed prior to August 3rd.

Invoicing Deadline Dates

The Invoicing Deadline Dates for State Scholarship and Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2012, including HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Grant, Zell Miller, Accel, GTEG, etc, are as follows:

HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant, HOPE GED, and Accel Invoicing Deadlines

Summer Semester/Quarter	October 21, 2011
Fall Semester/Quarter	February 10, 2012
Winter Quarter	April 16, 2012
Spring Semester/Quarter	June 29, 2012

GTEG Invoicing Deadlines

Summer Semester/Quarter	October 15, 2011
Fall Semester/Quarter	December 1, 2011
Winter Quarter	March 1, 2012
Spring Semester/Quarter	June 1, 2012

While these dates are the deadlines by which all invoices must be submitted and processed for disbursement, we encourage you to submit your invoices even earlier than the deadlines when possible, so that we can make projections and determine award rates for Fiscal Year 2013 as soon as possible.

Timing of Disbursements

As has been the case over the last several years, the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) will receive the Scholarship and Grant Program budgeted program funding on an allotment basis from the State. We will receive funding for lottery programs on a quarterly basis and we will receive funding for state programs on a monthly basis. For state programs, such as HERO, Accel, and others, this means that we will receive 1/12 of the full appropriated amount each month. This means that there will again be times when you will receive error messages for your disbursements stating "No Funds Available". As in the past, you will receive the funds for these disbursements as soon as the funding is made available to GSFC. We will disburse funds based upon the order in which the invoices were received. Keep in mind that for some programs, it could be many months, even into the Spring term, before we will have sufficient funding to cover all the invoices processed in Summer and Fall. Please share this information with your students so that their expectations for the timing of their funding are realistic.

Fiscal Year 2012 Regulations

The Fiscal Year 2012 State Scholarship and Grant Program regulations have been updated with several technical corrections and have been re-posted to the website.

We hope these updates are useful as we close out one year and begin another. I understand how challenging the past couple of months have been and how those challenges will continue for the next several months as we all begin working with the HOPE Changes. We appreciate your cooperation and continued efforts in assisting GSFC in administering the State Scholarship and Grants Programs.

If you have any questions related to the HOPE Program Changes or the information contained herein, please contact Caylee French, Director of Student Aid Services, at cayleef@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Connell

TAC:cf