

Page 2009-10	Page 2010-11	Section	Change, Add, Delete, or Move	
5 of 33	5 of 41	902. Program Overview	<p>*Change "The purpose of the Accel Program is to offer Georgia public and private high school students the opportunity to earn credit hours toward an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree, as they simultaneously meet their high school graduation requirements as a Dual Credit Enrollment student, by providing financial assistance toward their postsecondary education costs. The Accel Program is funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, referred to in these regulations as the "Commission". The program was established beginning with the 2004-2005 Award Year. The award amount received by eligible students and the total amount of lottery funds appropriated for the program are established each year by the Georgia General Assembly during the preceding legislative session, and are subject to change during the Award Year. In order to be eligible for Accel funds, a high school student must be Enrolled in coursework leading to an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree. A high school student cannot receive assistance from the Accel Program for postsecondary courses that are part of a technical Certificate or Diploma program of study. However, a high school student may receive assistance from the HOPE Grant Program, rather than Accel, for courses that are part of a technical Certificate or Diploma program of study. Additional information is provided in Section 915. Appendix - Student Participation Guidelines and Considerations of these regulations, which may be helpful to students considering participation in the Accel Program." to " The Accel Program offers Georgia public and private high school students the opportunity to earn credit hours toward an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree, as they simultaneously meet their high school graduation requirements as Dual Credit Enrollment students, by providing financial assistance toward their postsecondary educational costs. In order to be eligible for Accel funds, a high school student must be taking coursework leading to an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree. A high school student cannot receive assistance from the Accel Program for postsecondary courses that are part of a technical Certificate or Diploma program of study. The award amount received by eligible students and the total amount of funds appropriated for the program are established each year by the Georgia General Assembly during the prior legislative session, and are subject to change during the Award Year. The Accel Program was established beginning with the 2004-2005 Award Year (State Fiscal Year 2005). The program is funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education and administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, in accordance with these regulations."</p>	
33 of 33	5 of 41	902.1 Student Participation Considerations	<p>*Add 902.1 Student Participation Considerations (This was Section 915. Appendix - Student Participation Guidelines in the previous year regulations.)</p>	

33 of 33	5 of 41	902.1 Student Participation Considerations	<p>*Change the bullet format to a numbering format.</p> <p>*Change the terminology in the fourth bullet (now 902.1.c.) from "it is important for the student to understand that college credit hours earned at a private college or university as a Dual Credit Enrollment student, are not transferable to a University System of Georgia institution unless the student has achieved at least a 970 SAT score and earned a 3.00 cumulative grade point average. These requirements may be used as a guideline when deciding upon participation in the Accel Program" to "it is important for the student to understand that college credit hours earned as a Dual Credit Enrollment student may not be accepted by certain postsecondary institutions. Each institution has its own specific academic requirements and policies as they relate to the acceptance of transfer credit."</p>	
6 of 33	7 of 41	Definition of "Academic Year"	*Change "would normally be expected to complete the equivalent of at least two semesters or three quarters of instruction" to "is expected to complete the equivalent of at least two semesters or three quarters of postsecondary coursework".	
N/A	7 of 41	Definition of "Administrative Review"	*Add definition "'Administrative Review" means a review by Commission staff of an eligibility determination made by an Eligible Postsecondary Institution or by the Commission to determine if an Accel program rule, policy, or regulation was applied correctly in a student's specific case. A formal, written request from a student must be submitted to the Commission within 45 days of the notice of eligibility or determination for which an Administrative Review is sought."	
6 of 33	7 of 41	Definition of "Alternative Study"	*Retiring use of the term "Alternative Study"	
6 of 33	7 of 41	Definition of "Appeal"	*Retiring use of the term "Appeal"	
6 of 33	7 of 41	Definition of "Attempted-Hours"	<p>*Change "means the Degree quarter or semester credit hours" to "means Degree credit hours"</p> <p>*Delete " If a student meets the academic requirements to be a HOPE Scholar and is therefore eligible to enter the HOPE Scholarship Program at the First Tier, then any Degree credit hours attempted by such student prior to high school graduation, or equivalent, are not considered to be Attempted-Hours for purposes of the HOPE Scholarship Program."</p> <p>*Delete "If a student does not meet the academic requirements to be a HOPE Scholar, and is therefore ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship Program at the First-Tier, then any Degree credit hours attempted by such student prior to high school graduation, or equivalent, which are accepted by the student's Eligible Postsecondary Institution as Degree credit, must be treated as Attempted-Hours for purposes of the HOPE Scholarship Program."</p>	
7 of 33	7 of 41	Definition of "Award Year Reconciliation"	*Delete "immediately following the completion of the Award Year"	

7 of 33	8 of 41	Definition of "Certificate"	<p>*Change "means a credential indicating satisfactory completion of training in an organized technical program of study offered by a postsecondary educational institution, which is not an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree." to "means an academic credential granted by a postsecondary institution indicating satisfactory completion of training by a student in an organized technical Undergraduate program of study which is not a Diploma program of study, an Associate Degree, Baccalaureate Degree, Graduate Degree, or Continuing Education."</p> <p>*Add "A Certificate program of study typically requires fewer credit hours than a Diploma program of study."</p>	
7 of 33	8 of 41	Definition of "Combined Paid-Hours"	<p>*Change "has accumulated from any combination of the HOPE Scholarship Program, plus HOPE Grant Program, plus Accel Program" to "has accumulated as a result of payment from any combination of the Hope Scholarship Program, plus HOPE Grant Program, plus Accel Program"</p>	
8 of 33	9 of 41	Definition of "Degree"	<p>*Change "means a two-year Associate Degree or four-year Baccalaureate Degree " to "means an Associate Degree or Baccalaureate Degree"</p> <p>*Change "upon completion of an organized Undergraduate program" to "upon completion of a unified Undergraduate program"</p>	
8 of 33	9 of 41	Definition of "Diploma"	<p>*Change "means a credential indicating satisfactory completion of training in an organized technical program of study offered by a postsecondary institution, which is not an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree" to "means an academic credential granted by a postsecondary institution indicating satisfactory completion of training by a student in an organized technical Undergraduate program of study which is not a Certificate program of study, an Associate Degree, Baccalaureate Degree, or Graduate Degree."</p> <p>*Add "A diploma program of study typically requires more credit hours than a Certificate program of study."</p>	
8 of 33	9 of 41	Definition of "Dual Credit Enrollment"	<p>*Change "means Enrollment by a high school student in postsecondary coursework in which an agreement has been established between his or her Eligible High School and an Eligible Postsecondary Institution wherein the high school student Enrolls in postsecondary courses and earns Carnegie Units of credit that count toward high school graduation requirements and also earns postsecondary credit hours for such coursework" to "means an arrangement whereby a high school student is Enrolled in postsecondary coursework with a postsecondary institution and earning postsecondary credit hours while continuing to pursue a high school diploma, and the student's high school has agreed to accept the postsecondary coursework as credit toward the student's high school graduation requirements"</p>	

8 of 33	9 of 41	Definition of "Eligible High School"	<p>*Change "means a public or private secondary educational institution in Georgia" to "means any private or public secondary educational institution located within the state of Georgia"</p> <p>*Delete "or is currently accredited by"</p> <p>*Add "If the institution is not located in the State of Georgia, then it must be currently accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or one of the following entities: New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (successor to the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges), Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the Alabama Independent School Association, or the Florida Council of Independent Schools."</p>
8 of 33	9 of 41	Definition of "Eligible High School"	*Change "Any secondary educational institution that does not meet the definition of an "Eligible High School" is considered to be an Ineligible high school for purposes of the Accel Program" to "Any high school not meeting the definition of an "eligible High School" is considered to be an ineligible high school."
8 of 33	9 of 41	Definition of "Eligible High School"	Add "An Eligible High School may offer some or all of its coursework by methods of Distance Learning."
9 of 33	10 of 41	Definition of "Eligible High School Courses"	*Delete "However"
9 of 33	10 of 41	Definition of "Eligible Postsecondary Institution"	*Change section (4) "and which has been in existence for at least ten years" to "and which has been in existence for at least fourteen years."
10 of 33	11 of 41	Definition of "Exception"	*Change "GSFC Board of Commissioners" to "Commission"
10 of 33	11 of 41	Definition of "Full-Time"	*Change from "per school term of postsecondary credit at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution" to "per term at a postsecondary institution"
10 of 33	11 of 41	Definition of "Georgia Resident" or "Georgia Residency"	*Delete "and is domiciled in the State of Georgia"
N/A	11 of 41	Definition of "Graduate"	*Add "Graduate means a postsecondary program of study beyond the Baccalaureate Degree"
10 of 33	11 of 41	Definition of "Half-Time"	*Change "means a student attending an Eligible Postsecondary Institution that is Enrolled for the equivalent of at least 6 quarter or 6 semester credit hours, but not more than 11 quarter or 11 semester credit hours during a school term" to "means Enrollment for the equivalent of at least 6 quarter or 6 semester credit hours, but not more than 11 quarter or 11 semester credit hours during a term at a postsecondary institution"
N/A	11 of 41	Definition of "Home Study"	*Add "Home Study means an arrangement whereby a school-age child is involved in a course of study in which instruction is carried out at home rather than in a classroom and is governed by and operating in accordance with the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690 (c)."

11 of 33	12 of 41	Definition of "HOPE Scholar"	*Change from "means: (1) a student who graduated from an Eligible High School located within the State of Georgia as a member of the 1993 High school Graduating Class, or any High School Graduating Class thereafter, meeting the academic requirements for the HOPE Scholarship, or, (2) a student who graduated from an Eligible High School located outside of the State of Georgia as a member of the 1993 High School Graduating Clas, or any High School Graduating Class thereafter, meeting the academic requirements for the HOPE Scholarship" to "means a student who graduated from an Eligible High School as a member of the 1993 High School Graduating Class, or any High School Graduating Class thereafter, meeting the academic requirements for the HOPE Scholarship."	
11 of 33	12 of 41	Definition of "Joint Enrollment"	*Change "an Eligible Postsecondary Institution" to "a postsecondary institution" *Change "but the student's high school has not agreed" to "and the high school has not agreed"	
12 of 33	13 of 41	Definition of "Mandatory Fees"	*Change "amount allowed for the 2003-2004 Award Year at each institution" to "amount allowed for the 2003-2004 Award Year at each eligible Postsecondary Institution." *Add "For a USG or TCSG institution established after January 1, 2004, the Mandatory Fees award amount is equal to the amount initially approved for the new institution for its first year of operation, by action of the Board of Regents or the Technical college System of Georgia."	
12 of 33	13 of 41	Definition of "Non-Standard Term"	*Change "means a school term" to "means a term"	
12 of 33	13 of 41	Definition of "Paid-Hours"	*Change "and/or Accel Program" to "and Accel Program"	
12 of 33	13 of 41	Definition of "Parent"	*Change "the natural mother or father" to "the natural/biological mother or father"	
12 of 33	13 of 41	Definition of "Part-Time"	*Change "Part-time means Enrollment for the equivalent of 1 through 11 quarter or semester hours, per school term, of postsecondary credit at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution" to "means Enrollment for the equivalent of 1 through 11 quarter or semester hours, per term, of postsecondary credit at a postsecondary institution"	
13 of 33	13 of 41	Definition of "Study Abroad"	*Retiring the use of the term "Study Abroad"	
N/A	13 of 41	Definition of "Study Away"	*Add "Study Away" means postsecondary credit-earning coursework approved by an Eligible Postsecondary Institution for its students in locations outside the State of Georgia, including locations in foreign countries."	
13 of 33	14 of 41	Definition of "Term-Reconciliation"	*Change "at the end of each school term" to "at the end of each term"	
14 of 33	14 of 41	Definition of "Transient"	*Change "means a student is attending a Host Institution and is granted temporary admission for the purpose of completing coursework and earning postsecondary credit to transfer back to his or her Home Institution" to "means temporary admission to a Host Institution for the purpose of completing coursework and earning postsecondary credit that the Home Institution has agreed to accept as transferable postsecondary credit"	

14 of 33	15 of 41	Definition of "Tuition"	*Change "means the charges to a student for instruction without regard to other fees (technology, activity, athletic, health) to "means the charges to a student for postsecondary academic instruction without regard to other fees such as technology, activity, athletic, health, etc." or instruction" to "for postsecondary academic instruction"
14 of 33	15 of 41	Definition of "Withdrawal Date"	*Change "as determined by the postsecondary" to "as determined by the institution in accordance with the procedures set forth for determining Withdrawal Date under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended." *Delete "The postsecondary institution must determine the withdrawal date in accordance with the procedures set forth for determining withdrawal date under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended."
16 of 33	18 of 41	904.8. Incarceration	*Change "A student seeking a Degree, Certificate or Diploma from an Eligible Postsecondary Institution is ineligible for Accel payment while Incarcerated. Upon release from Incarceration, such students may begin receiving Accel payments, if he or she meets all eligibility requirements" to "An otherwise eligible student is ineligible for Accel payment while Incarcerated. Upon release from Incarceration, such student may begin receiving Accel payments, if he or she meets all Accel eligibility requirements."
17 of 33	18 of 41	905.1. Student Participation Criteria	*Delete 905.1.a.1.a. "In order to participate in the Accel Program, a student must meet the requirements of either one of the following two categories: 1. A student must have completed all of the academic requirements of the 10th grade (high school sophomore) and be classified as an 11th grader (high school junior) or 12th grader (high school senior) by the student's Eligible High School; or 2) A student must be classified as a 9th grader (high school freshman) or a 10th grader (high school sophomore), and must demonstrate academic excellence by having earned a cumulative high school grade point average of at least a 3.50 on a 4.00 scale. In addition, a 9th or 10th grader must be certified by his or her Eligible High School as having exhausted all coursework available from the Eligible High School that is within the specific core curriculum academic discipline (English Language Arts, mathematics, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Foreign Languages) for which the student will be participating in Dual Credit Enrollment."
17 of 33	18 of 41	905.3. Impact on Future HOPE Eligibility	*Change "However, if a student does not meet the academic requirements to be a HOPE Scholar, and is therefore ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship Program at the First-Tier, then any Degree credit hours attempted by such student prior to high school graduation, or equivalent, which are accepted by the student's Eligible Postsecondary Institution as Degree credit, must be considered as Attempted-Hours for purposes of the HOPE Scholarship Program" to "However, if a student is not eligible for the HOPE Scholarship as an entering freshman due solely to his or her grade point average, then any Degree credit hours attempted by such student prior to high school graduation, or equivalent, which are accepted by the student's Eligible Postsecondary Institution as Degree credit, must be considered as Attempted-Hours for purposes of the HOPE Scholarship Program."
20 of 33	21 of 41	906.5 Transient Coursework	*Add 906.5.d. The Home institution is liable for the return of funds the student receives at the Host institution, if the Home institution erroneously certifies the student's eligibility to the Host institution.
20 of 33	21 of 41	906.6 Study Abroad Coursework	*Change "Study Abroad Coursework" to "Study Away Coursework" in the heading and the body of this section

21 of 33	22 of 41	906.7. Alternative Study Coursework	Delete this section completely	
21 of 33	22 of 41	906.8. Continuing Education and Audit Coursework	*Renumber this section to 906.7. based on the deletion of the Alternative Study Coursework Section	
21 of 33	22 of 41	906.9. Total Withdrawal from Coursework	*Renumber this section to 906.8. based on the deletion of the Alternative Study Coursework Section	
24 of 33	26 of 41	908.1.f. Award Amounts at Public Eligible Postsecondary Institutions	*Change "The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must make funds for the Book Allowance available to the student for the purchase of books and supplies. Book Allowance funds cannot be applied by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution to a student's direct charges, such as fees, room, and meals, unless the institution obtains written or electronic authorization from the student to do so." to "The Book Allowance must be awarded directly to the students and not through a third party vendor such as a bookstore unless the student can request that the funds credited to the bookstore be made personally available to the student at the end of the first day of classes based on enrollment status. These funds cannot be applied to a student's direct charges, such as fees, room, and meals unless the institution obtains written or electronic authorization from the student to do so."	
25 of 33	27 of 41	908.4. Awards Per School Term	*Delete "No student may receive Accel payments for more than four semesters or six quarters."	
24 of 33	25 of 41	908.1.f Award Requirements	*Change "The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must make funds for the Book Allowance available to the student for the purchase of books and supplies. Book allowance funds cannot be applied by the Eligible Postsecondary Institution to the student's direct charges, such as fees, room, and meals, unless the institution obtains written or electronic authorization from the student to do so." to "These funds must be awarded directly to the students and not through a third party vendor such as a bookstore unless the student can request that the funds credited to the bookstore be made personally available to the student at the end of the first day of classes based on enrollment status. These funds cannot be applied to a student's direct charges, such as fees, room, and meals, unless the institution obtains written or electronic authorization from the student to do so."	
27 of 33	28 of 41	909.1. Submission of Invoices	*Change 909.1. from "Eligible Postsecondary Institutions may submit Accel Program invoices to the Commission as early as 15 days prior to the first day of classes for the school term" to "909.1.a. Eligible Postsecondary Institutions may submit Accel invoices to the Commission as early as 15 calendar days prior to the first day of classes for the school term." *Add 909.1.b. "Invoices must be submitted, processed and approved by the Commission by the Invoicing Deadline Date as established by the Commission. In the event invoices are submitted to the Commission by Eligible Postsecondary Institutions after the Invoicing Deadline Date for a school term, the Commission may issue a notice of failure to meet the invoicing deadline date to the President and/or governing body of the Eligible Post-Secondary Institution and the invoices may not be honored." *Add 909.1.c. "Prior to the beginning of any award year and no later than June 30 of each year the Commission shall establish and publish the Invoicing Deadline Dates for each school term for the upcoming Award Year."	

28 of 33	28 of 41	910.1.c. Calculation of Refunds	<p>*Change "The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must post the refund on the student's record in the Commission's SURFER system, within 45 days of the determination, and return that amount to the Commission at the time of the Award-Year Reconciliation. The remainder of the Accel award amount is retained by the institution to cover the institution's cost for the portion of the school term that the student was Enrolled." to "The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must determine the amount of the refund due back to the Accel program. The amount of the Accel award not determined to be owed back to the Accel program is retained by the institution to cover the institution's cost for the portion of the school term that the student was enrolled."</p> <p>*Add 910.1.c.1. "The Eligible Postsecondary Institution must adjust the student's invoice in SURFER to the new award amount remaining after the refund is calculated within 45 days of the determination."</p> <p>*Add 910.1.c.2 "If the student only received Accel funds, the Eligible Postsecondary Institution should return the funds determined to be owed to the Accel program within 45 days of the refund determination. The Eligible Postsecondary Institution would then collect the refund amount from the student. However, the student should not be reported with a "Refund Due" status to the Commission since the funds have been repaid to the Commission."</p> <p>*Add 910.1.c.3. "If the student received a combination of federal Title IV funds and Accel funds, the Eligible Postsecondary Institution may not have sufficient funds on hand from the student's award disbursements to return to the Commission the refund owed to the Accel program, after applying the Federal Title IV Return of Funds policy. In this instance, the student is considered to have a "Refund Due" to the Commission and the institution must report the student to the Commission with a "Refund Due" status."</p>	
29 of 33	31 of 41	911.3. Return of Funds	*Add "This includes Book Allowance Funds for which students were ineligible."	
31 of 33	33 of 41	913. Administrative Review and Exceptions	*Change "Appeals" to "Administrative Review" in the Heading and Body of this section	
32 of 33	32 of 33	914.2. Compliance Review Process	<p>*Change 914.2 to include 914.2.a. and 914.2.b.</p> <p>*Add 914.2.b. "The Commission will exclude from review the Residency determinations and Satisfactory Academic progress (SAP) determinations, as they relate to Sections 904.2.a., 904.2.c, and 904.4 of these regulations, made for Accel recipients in the selected sample for any USG or TCSG Eligible Postsecondary Institution which has submitted to the Compliance Department of Georgia Student Finance Commission a certification signed by the President of the Eligible Postsecondary Institution that the Eligible Postsecondary Institution is in compliance with its policies and procedures in the determination and the administration of the financial aid award process relative to Residency requirements and Satisfactory Academic Progress, and that the Residency and SAP determinations have been fairly and consistently applied with respect to all students receiving the Accel awards. Such certification must be submitted annually to the Compliance Department of Georgia Student Finance Commission."</p> <p>*Add "Failure to provide such certification will result in a review of Residency determinations and SAP determinations made for HOPE recipients in the selected sample."</p>	
N/A	36 of 41	915. Appendix Approved Mandatory Fees Table	*Add Approved Mandatory Fees Tables for TCSG and USG	