

## Financial Aid Planning 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisement Activity Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes

### Georgia's Teachers-As-Advisors Framework

#### Goal 9-1.3 - Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information from the local, state, and national levels during the career exploration and planning process.

a. Locate and utilize career information that includes occupational, education and training, employment, and economic information.

#### Objectives:

- Students will gain a basic understanding of the types of financial aid available for pursuing postsecondary opportunities NOTE:

#### Materials:

- “Financial Aid Planning” Handout; order the booklet from GACollege411, “Guide to Financial Aid in Georgia”. This publication can also be downloaded as a pdf.

#### Activity:

1. *Greet the students:* “Good morning welcome to advisement. Today we are going to learn more about postsecondary financial aid. If the career you select requires education beyond high school, and frankly most new occupations will require at least 14 years of education --- at least 2 more years after graduation, you will need financial aid. Postsecondary education is expensive but will “pay off” in the long run. It will be important that you begin to gather information and understand the financial aid process. There are many ways to continue your education beyond high school. We will discuss some of them this year in advisement. You may choose to go to a 4 year college or university, a technical college, a school or program which grants you a license or certificate such as a state registered apprenticeship, or you may enter the military service.” *List these options on the board. For today, let’s concentrate on ways to pay for higher education. GACollege411 ([www.GACollege411.org](http://www.GACollege411.org)) is your primary resource for gathering financial aid information under the FINANCIAL AID tab. The “Financial Aid 101” section will give you and your family a general overview of the process and answer many questions you may have about the process. Check it out!*
2. *Handout the document, FINANCIAL AID. Ask students to identify the four types of financial aid. Write them on the board. Ask which ones must be paid back and which ones do not have to be paid back? Ask: Must the HOPE Scholarship be paid back?*
3. *Read the section “College is Affordable”. Help students understand that they can continue their education---money should never be the excuse for not continuing.*
4. *Distribute the supplemental information from GACollege411, “Guide to Financial Aid in Georgia”. Say: We will continue to get more information regarding financial aid in other advisement sessions and your counselors will continue to provide information. They should use GACollege411 to begin gathering information about the process and about possible scholarship opportunities. Please take this information home and share it with your family. Make a file at home to keep financial aid information. Have great day!*

## FINANCIAL AID

*"We believe, that is, you and I, that education is not an expense. We believe it is an investment."*  
- Lyndon B. Johnson, October 16, 1968

## TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID



### Grants

Money one receives based on financial need, not academic performance. You don't have to pay the money back.

### Scholarships

Money one can receive usually based on academic or extracurricular achievements, other special talents or interest in a particular subject. You don't have to pay the money back.

### Loans

Money you borrow to pay college costs. For most loans, you must begin to pay back the money after graduation. Your payments can extend over a period of up to 30 years.

### Work-Study

Program in which students work part time for the college they attend and earn money. You don't have to pay the money back.

## DID YOU KNOW ... College Is Affordable especially with HOPE!\*

- Last year, more than \$122 billion of financial aid was available.
- Average tuition and fees are: \$5,132 at four-year public institutions and \$2,076 at two-year public institutions.
- Nearly 75 percent of full-time students at four-year public institutions have tuition and fees below \$6,000.
- Only 5 percent of all students attend colleges where tuition is more than \$24,000.
- About 25 percent of full-time students enrolled in private colleges face tuition less than \$15,000.

**GEORGIA'S HOPE SCHOLARSHIP-** A scholarship program whereby Georgia students can receive aid based on their high school grade point average (GPA). **Calculations for the HOPE SCHOLSHIP begin in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and continue through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** You must maintain an average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in your academic classes (English, Math, Social Studies, Science and Foreign Language). How are you doing? Can you calculate your GPA? If not, ask you Math teacher to show you how. What is your GPA after the first semester of your 9<sup>th</sup> grade year?



GACollege411 can give more information about the HOPE Scholarship and other financial aid programs for students in Georgia at [www.GACollege411.org](http://www.GACollege411.org). Share this information with your family.

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