



**DON'T CROSS YOUR FINGERS AND HOPE
YOUR STUDENT IS READY FOR COLLEGE...**

GET THE FACTS ABOUT CHANGES TO THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1993, more than 850,000 students have attended college and technical school on HOPE, Georgia's lottery-funded scholarship and grant program. In fact, the program has been so successful that lawmakers have taken cost-saving steps to preserve HOPE for future generations of Georgia students. So, what does that mean for you as the parent of a Gwinnett student who's college-bound in the future? Read on to get the facts about changes to the scholarship program and how they will affect your student.

WHAT ARE THE BIG CHANGES IN THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP?

- ❑ The Georgia Student Finance Commission, not the school system, will determine your student's eligibility for HOPE, based on grades in **both required and elective classes in core subjects**— language arts, math, science, social studies, and foreign language (college prep diploma only). If your child fails a class in a core subject, then retakes the class, both grades will be included in the student's HOPE GPA.
- ❑ Your student will need a HOPE grade point average (GPA) of **3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale** if enrolled in the college prep diploma option. If your child is enrolled in the career/technical option, a 3.2 GPA or higher is required.
- ❑ Statewide, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses will be **given the same "weight."** For HOPE purposes only, the unweighted numerical average of an AP or IB class— without the 10 extra points awarded by Gwinnett— will be converted to a 4.0 scale and .5 points will be added, up to 4.0. (Gwinnett students will continue to get a weight of 10 points added to their earned numerical grades in AP and IB courses for determining class rank and GPA for college applications.) *For example, an unweighted 82 in an AP class becomes a 92 on a student's transcript for college. For HOPE, that 82 would be converted to a 3.0, and .5 would be added, for a 3.5.*

WHO IS AFFECTED AND WHEN DO THOSE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT?

The changes apply to Georgia high school graduates who begin taking college courses after **May 1, 2007**. If your student starts college classes before that date, the old HOPE eligibility rules apply.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO GET AND KEEP A HOPE SCHOLARSHIP?

Plain and simple, help your child make good choices. Your student may be tempted to avoid more challenging classes— like AP, IB, or honors and gifted classes— in hopes of getting a higher grade and enhancing his or her HOPE eligibility. But, the fact is, **students are better prepared for college and more likely to keep HOPE if they take the most challenging classes that they can.** (And, students who are successful on AP and IB tests for college credit have fewer class hours to pay for in college!) Studies also show that a student who takes tough high school classes is more likely to finish college, and a college degree means extra money in the bank over a lifetime in the workforce.

WHERE CAN MY CHILD AND I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Talk to your **school counselor**, find HOPE information at **www.GAcolllege411.org**, or call the Georgia Student Finance Commission at **770-724-9000**.