

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

STUDENTS/PARENTS: PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

➤ FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid information (grants & loans), as well as scholarship information can be found on the HCHS website and at www.gafutures.org. Students and parents are responsible for viewing the websites to obtain this information.

➤ HOPE SCHOLARSHIP, HOPE GRANT, AND ZELL MILLER

The HOPE scholarship program was established in Georgia to help students in Georgia with their college tuition costs. To qualify as a HOPE Scholar, students must graduate with at least a 3.0 GPA in core classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language). The award amount is dependent upon the specific institution.

The Zell Miller Scholarship is a merit based scholarship that provides full tuition at a public postsecondary institution and tuition assistance at an eligible private postsecondary institution. A student must graduate from an eligible high school as valedictorian or salutatorian (meeting the requirements of the HOPE Scholarship) or graduate with a minimum 3.7 Zell Miller GPA (as calculated by GSFC in core classes) along with a minimum combined score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT or a minimum composite score of 26 on the ACT (single national administration of either test) and meet specific rigor course requirements.

The Hope Scholarship does not provide an allowance for books or other fees. In order to continue receiving the HOPE Scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 postsecondary GPA at designated checkpoints. The cumulative 3.0 postsecondary GPA does not include Dual Enrollment Coursework Credit taken prior to high school graduation or home study completion. A student will lose the HOPE Scholarship if their GPA is below the minimum requirement at one of the checkpoints and may only regain the scholarship one time. A student is ineligible to receive HOPE Scholarship funds once the student has reached the 127 hour limit.

The HOPE Grant will pay tuition and fees to anyone enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a Georgia public technical college regardless of GPA. However, students attempting to obtain an associates degree from a Georgia public technical college must meet the GPA requirements listed for the Hope Scholarship. The HOPE Grant Requires recipients to earn a 3.0 GPA by the first HOPE check point, once enrolled in technical college courses.

The only classes that will be “weighted” are Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment/ACCEL (college courses). The GSFC will weight those classes to ensure uniform weighting across the state. Numeric grades will be converted to the 4.0 scale and .5 will be added to each, up to a total of 4.0. Local weight (3 points) for honors classes will be removed for purposes of the HOPE calculation.

➤ HONOR GRADUATES, VALEDICTORIAN, AND SALUTATORIAN

The cumulative GPA is used to determine honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian. To be an honor graduate, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 90 (not rounded up.) Determination of honor graduates, salutatorian, and valedictorian is made at the end of the first semester of the senior year. **The student's cumulative GPA is listed on the student's transcript.**

➤ PLAYING SPORTS IN COLLEGE

In order to be eligible to play college sports as a freshman, students must meet certain course requirements and meet certain standards in GPA and SAT or ACT scores. The student and parents are responsible for being certain students take the proper courses to meet NCAA standards. Check with your student's coach or athletic director.

Students must complete the NCAA eligibility form online at the end of their junior year. It is the students' responsibility to be certain this form is completed online and transcript is mailed. Registration form and more information can be found at www.ncaa.org

Although GA Credit Recovery courses may meet Georgia graduation requirements, effective August 1, 2010 the NCAA will no longer accept the GADOE's Credit Recovery Program course credits for student athletes and may not accept courses earned through Odysseyware. The NCAA will also NOT accept courses earned through Milestone "testing out" and may not accept Odysseyware courses.

➤ INFINITE CAMPUS

Infinite Campus allows parents to access the grades and attendance of their children on a daily basis through the internet. You can access this center by going to the county's main web page, www.hcbe.net, and under "Parents", click on "Infinite Campus. You can also get step by step directions for creating an account in the counselors' office.

➤ GA VIRTUAL CREDIT RECOVERY AND ODYSSEYWARE

At Houston County High School, GA Virtual Credit Recovery and Odysseyware courses are currently available ALL students that may not graduate on time due to being credit deficient or having failed a core class. The student can retake the failed course online. Please see your student's counselor for more information. Although Credit Recovery courses may meet Georgia graduation requirements, effective August 1, 2010 the NCAA will no longer accept the GADOE's Credit Recovery Program course credits for student athletes. Additionally, the NCAA may not accept Odysseyware courses.

➤ GA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

GA Virtual School is a tuition funded online program designed to allow students the opportunity to enroll in online courses to get back on track for graduation. Houston County School System has established regulations and guidelines for students to participate in the online courses through GA Virtual School. Students are limited in the number of courses they can take each semester depending on their current grade level. See your student's counselor for more information.