



REACH GEORGIA – Frequently Asked Questions

What is REACH Georgia?

REACH Georgia is a state-wide program founded in 2012 by the Georgia Student Finance Commission to provide guidance and support to low-income students who demonstrate true academic promise.

What is the desired outcome of the program?

The REACH Georgia Scholarship Program was designed to assist “the middle band of students”– low-income kids who demonstrate true academic promise, but may not have the personal motivation, academic preparation, or financial support they need to obtain a postsecondary degree, diploma, or career certificate. By initiating support in the middle school years, students are better prepared to excel in high school and beyond, thereby increasing their access to higher education and breaking the cycle of poverty.

How are students chosen for REACH?

Students who meet the eligibility criteria are identified by school counselors and then must submit an application including essays and a personal interview with the REACH committee.

What are the components of the REACH program? (from www.reachga.org)

Student Commitment: REACH Scholars are selected in middle school and sign a contract along with their parent/guardian to maintain a 2.5 GPA, remain crime, drug, and behavior issue free, and meet with a volunteer mentor and academic coach until they graduate from high school.

Parental/Guardian Commitment: Along with their Scholar, REACH parents or guardians sign a contract to support and encourage their student to develop positive relationships with teachers, mentors, tutors, counselors and academic coaches, attend REACH Georgia sponsored meetings, and continually communicate with school personnel and volunteers to ensure their student is on the path to high school graduation.

Mentor Commitment: Each REACH School System commits to match each Scholar with a caring adult mentor who aims to meet with the student every week for a minimum of eight times per semester. These volunteer mentors are recruited, trained, supported, and monitored by the REACH School Systems to ensure the Scholars are provided with appropriate academic and social support.

Academic Coach Commitment: Each Scholar is provided with an academic coach within the school system who monitors each student’s behavior, grades and weekly attendance. The academic coach meets with the student once per month to ensure Scholars are on track to graduate and continue to meet program regulations.

Financial Scholarship: Each Scholar who completes all program requirements receives up to \$10,000 scholarship that was earmarked for him/her in the 8th grade. The Scholar is able to receive up to \$2,500 per year for up to four years to be used at a two- or four-year Georgia REACH eligible institution of their choosing to be used towards the cost of attendance.

How can I get involved?

If you are interested in volunteering as a REACH mentor, please complete the form at the bottom of the page at www.decaturreducationfoundation.org/mentoring and you will be contacted by DEF.