

Pike County High School

CLASS OF 2026

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING



PCHS COUNSELORS

Liz Fordham

(A-L)

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(M-Z)

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Registrar

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS CLASS OF 2026

23 TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

- 4 ENGLISH
- 4 MATH
- 4 SCIENCE
- 3 SOCIAL STUDIES
- 1 HEALTH/PERSONAL FITNESS
- 3 REQUIRED CTAE/F. LANG/FINE ARTS ELECTIVES
- 4 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

HONOR GRADUATES: 3.6 GPA OR 90 NGA



WHAT IS YOUR POST-SECONDARY GOAL?

**Military
service**

Workforce

**Technical
College**

**Two-year
college**

**Four-year
college**

Other

MILITARY SERVICE

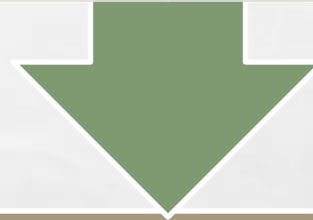
High school diploma critically important

**Very few spots are
open for students
without a high school
diploma.**

**To even be considered,
recruits with a GED
must have much
higher scores on the
ASVAB than recruits
with diplomas.**

**ASVAB given
here on February
25, 2026**

**Military Signing
at PCHS on April
21, 2026**



**For other requirements, see a
recruiter from the branch of
service in which you're interested.
Contact info is in the counseling
office.**

TECHNICAL, 2 YEAR, OR 4 YEAR COLLEGE???

How do you decide which college is right for you?

- **Who are you?**
- **What do you need to succeed?**
- **What's your admissions profile?**
- **How far from home do you want to be?**
- **How large a college do you want?**
- **What activities are available?**
- **What else is important to you?**
- **VISIT THE CAMPUS!**
 - **Seniors have 2 college visit excused absences**



TECHNICAL, 2 YEAR, OR 4 YEAR COLLEGE??

Technical College

- **No testing requirement**
- **Utilizes HOPE Grant (no GPA requirement)**
- **SCTC is nearest**

2-year college

- **No testing requirement**
- **Gordon, ABAC, Young Harris, GMC, Truett**
- **Utilizes HOPE Scholarship**

4-year college

- **Some require SAT/ACT**
- **Must have 2 years of foreign language**
- **Utilizes HOPE Scholarship**
- **Holistic application process**

Which type of College is right for me?

The screenshot shows the GAfutures website interface. At the top, the GAfutures logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Create an Account', 'Sign In', 'Help', and a 'Google Custom Search' bar are on the right. Below this is a horizontal menu with icons and labels for 'HOPE & State Aid Programs', 'Federal Aid & Scholarships', 'College Planning' (highlighted in orange), 'Career Exploration', 'Resources', 'About Us', and 'My GAfutures'. A secondary menu below that includes 'College Decision Guide', 'College Money Matters', 'College Search', 'College Applications', 'Apply to College Initiative', 'High School Transcripts', and 'Path2College 529 Plan'. The main content area has a blue header for 'College Planning'. Below this, the URL 'GAfutures.org / College Planning' is shown. The page is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'COLLEGE PLANNING', contains four expandable cards: 'College Decision Guide' (with a document icon), 'College Money Matters' (with a money bag icon), 'College Search' (with a magnifying glass icon), and 'College Applications' (with a checklist icon). The right column, titled 'NEWS YOU CAN USE', has two tabs: 'Trending' (selected) and 'Shortcuts'. Under 'Trending', there are links for '2017-2018 Award Amounts', 'Find a PROBE College Fair Near You', 'Georgia's College Connector 2017-2018', 'GAfutures Quick Guides and FAQs', 'State Financial Aid Applications', and 'Move On When Ready'. Below the news section is a 'College Money Matters' banner with a large question mark icon and sub-headers for 'Learnings & Earnings', 'Cost of Attendance', and 'Paying for College'.

- **FIND OUT WITH THE TOOLS AT WWW.GAFUTURES.ORG**
- **COLLEGE PLANNING TAB**
- **SEARCH FOR COLLEGES**
- **APPLY**
- **REQUEST YOUR TRANSCRIPT**
- **ONLY PLACE TO GET YOUR OFFICIAL HOPE GPA!**

DECIDING TO APPLY

- **SAFETY SCHOOLS: 1 TO 2**
 - **STUDENT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ADMITTED**
- **MATCH SCHOOLS: 3 TO 4**
 - **STUDENT'S GPA, TEST SCORES, OTHER CREDENTIALS "MATCH" THOSE OF RECENT ENTERING CLASSES**
- **REACH SCHOOLS: 1 TO 2**
 - **STUDENT MEETS CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION BUT CREDENTIALS ARE BELOW THOSE OF RECENT CLASSES**

HOW TO APPLY...

Most in-state schools use GAFutures.org

- **College Planning**
- **Applications and Transcripts**
- **College/ University website**
 - **“Apply Now” button**

Some schools use Common App

Application fee waivers

**Available to students who qualify for free/reduced lunch,
students MUST sit for exam using an SAT waiver to qualify**

REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT

GA FUTURES

**LOG IN TO YOUR GA FUTURES
ACCOUNT AND REQUEST**

**TRANSCRIPT WILL BE SENT TO THE
SCHOOL ELECTRONICALLY**

COMMON APP

ENTER YOUR COUNSELOR'S EMAIL

**COUNSELOR WILL UPLOAD
TRANSCRIPT TO COMMON APP**

Transcripts for dual enrollment classes must be requested from the college!!

To request a transcript be sent to a college out of state,
email your counselor with the address!

YOU MAY BE ASKED TO...

Submit a Counselor Recommendation

- **Not required for all college applications**
- **Complete a Student Questionnaire from your counselor**

Submit a Teacher Recommendation

- **Talk with the teacher to see what he/she requires from you in order to write recommendation.**
- **Follow-up with a thank-you note!**
- **DO NOT simply leave a recommendation form on a teacher's desk!**

REQUEST NO LATER THAN 5 SCHOOL DAYS PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE!!

EARLY ACTION DEADLINES

University of Ga-Oct 15

Georgia College & State University- Oct 15

Ga Tech-Oct 15

Augusta University-Oct. 31

Berry College-Nov. 1

Kennesaw State University-Nov. 1

Mercer University-Nov 1

University of North Ga- Nov 15

Georgia State University- Nov 15

Emory University—Nov 1 (binding)

BREAKING NEWS!!!!

USG to extend temporary test optional admission for Academic Year 2026-2027

The University System of Georgia (USG) will continue its temporary waiver of test score requirements. With state colleges already test optional, this means no test scores will be required for admission at 19 of USG's 26 public colleges and universities during the Academic Year 2026-2027 (Fall 2026, Spring 2027 and Summer 2027).

The temporary waiver does not apply to the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Georgia, Georgia College & State University, Augusta University, Kennesaw State, Georgia Southern, Georgia State.

Test scores will continue to be required to apply for Zell Miller scholarships in accordance with state of Georgia requirements.



www.sat.org

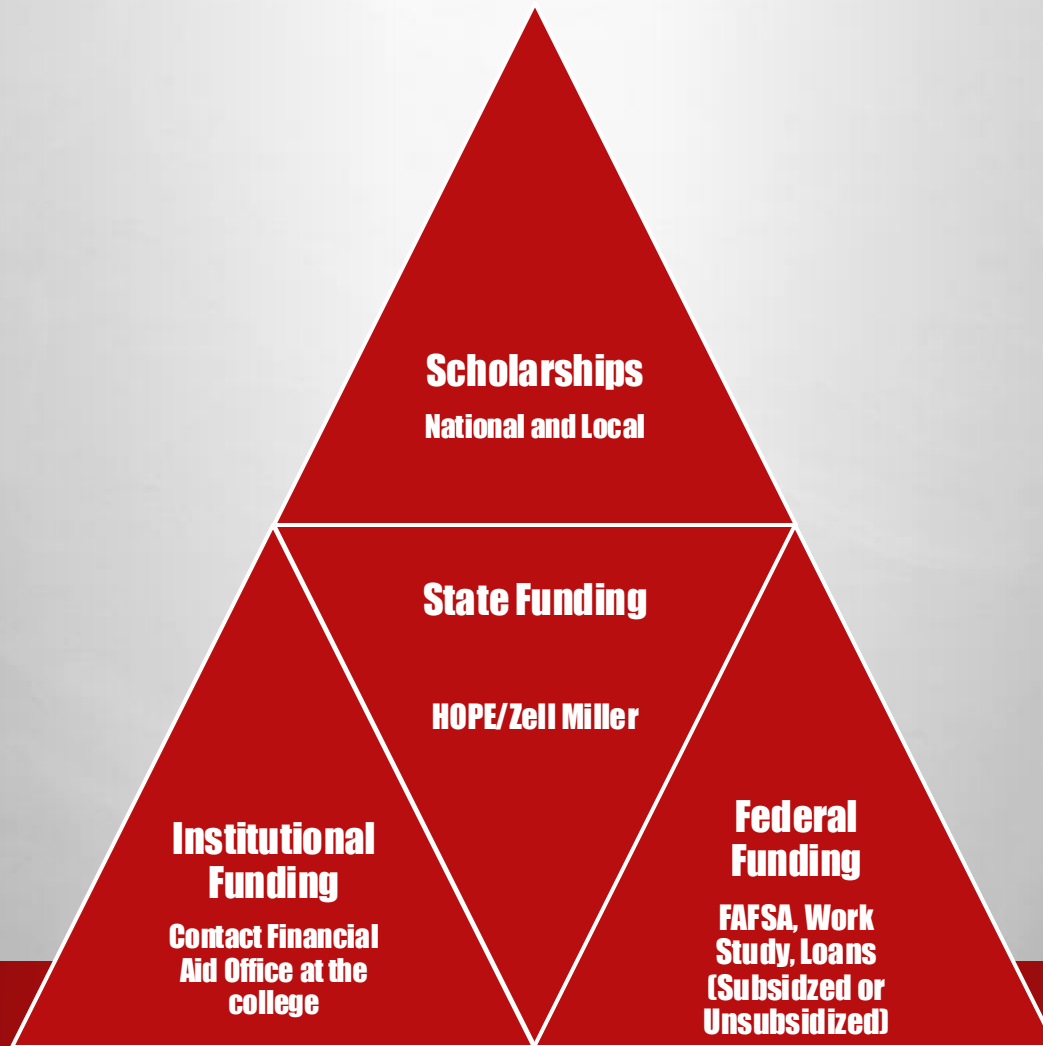
www.act.org

If you qualify for Free/Reduced lunch, see your counselor in the counseling office for a fee waiver for SAT/ACT!!!

Average SAT scores for common universities:



FUNDING SOURCES



HOPE SCHOLARSHIP/ZELL MILLER

HOPE

- **3.0 Core GPA (AP and DE classes weighted +.5 up to 4.0)**
- **4 Rigor courses**
- **Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in college**
- **HOPE amount differs at each institution, generally around 60%**
- **HOPE GPA IS NOT ROUNDED! 2.9999 is ineligible!!!**

Zell Miller

- **3.7 Core GPA (add .5 weighting for AP and DE courses up to 4.0)**
- **Combined 1200 Read + Math SAT or 26 Composite ACT in a single test sitting (test must be taken before graduation)**
- **4 Rigor courses**
- **Students must maintain a 3.3 GPA in college**
- **Zell Miller Scholarship will cover *tuition* at 100%**
- **Students who drop below the college 3.3 GPA can earn Regular HOPE if their college GPA remains above 3.0**
- **NOT ROUNDED: 3.6999 will receive HOPE, not Zell Miller**

HOPE RIGOR COURSES

English—AP Lang, AP Lit

Math—Algebra II, AMDM, Pre-Cal, AP Calc

Science—Physics, Princ. Of Physics, AP Physics, Chemistry, Anatomy, AP Bio, AP Env

Social Studies—AP Human, AP World, AP US, AP Econ, AP Gov

Foreign Language—Spanish II, Latin II, French II, Sign Language II

****Dual Enrollment courses in English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language will also satisfy the rigor requirement**

HOPE GRANT

Every GA high school graduate can currently go to college in the State of Georgia without paying tuition!

Program is for students enrolled in technical colleges and seeking a technical certification or diploma

Full-time enrollment not required

Must maintain a 2.0 GPA

**In most cases:
Pays 100% of tuition for Georgia Residents regardless of high school GPA or test scores!**

GSFAPPS

GSFApps is the application used to apply for HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarships/Grants.

www.gafutures.org

Log in or create an account

Click on HOPE and State Programs

Click on State Aid Applications and Forms

Click on State Program Applications

Click on GSFAPP

Good for 10 years, but THIS DOES NOT REPLACE FAFSA!!!

SELECTIVE SERVICE

**18 YEAR OLD MALE STUDENTS
MUST REGISTER FOR SELECTIVE
SERVICE TO RECEIVE STATE
FUNDING FOR TUITION.
STUDENTS MUST REGISTER AT
SSS.GOV AND UPLOAD TO GSFC.**

GSFC | Georgia Student Finance Commission

GAfutures - Student Document Upload

- Students may upload forms and documents to GSFC, including Selective Service
- Student must sign into GAfutures account

 **Document Upload**

- Requests are reviewed within 7-10 business days
- Exemption approval/denial displayed in PSF > Student Information and Student Dashboard

Students with an active GAfutures account may upload documents to GSFC and GAfutures. GSFC manages. Once a document is uploaded, average review time is 7 to 10 business days. If additional review is needed, you will be notified via email. Do not submit the exact same document more than once. It will not expedite the review process. Acceptable file types are pdf, jpg, png, mp3, mp4, and gif.

Document Type *

None

Choose a File to Upload *

No file chosen

Document Type *

None

SAT Scores

Selective Service Documentation

Social Security Card

Driver's License

GSFAPP

ADA Limited Extension Request - HOPE/Zell Scholarship

Authorization to Release Non-Public Information Request

Dual Enrollment funding Program Exception Request

HOPE/Zell Program Exception Request

Military Extension Request - HOPE/Zell Scholarship

Out-of-State High School Transcript Evaluation Request - HOPE/Zell Scholarship

Unaccredited Home Study Academic Eligibility Evaluation Request - HOPE/Zell Scholarship

GSFC | Georgia Student Finance Commission

My GAfutures Student Dashboard

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

Send emails from a professional email account

The display name for your email account should be professional

Use a simple and clear subject line. Don't put the body in the subject line!

Include a greeting

Use appropriate titles

Introduce yourself

Body of the email is your purpose. Do not send emails out of emotion. Calm down, collect your thoughts and use appropriate phrases.

Conclusion and proofread

Allow at least 24-48 hours for a response. This does not include weekends and holidays. If you have not received a response after two days, send a follow up email that includes a gentle reminder.

UPCOMING EVENTS



September 16—Senior picture make up day



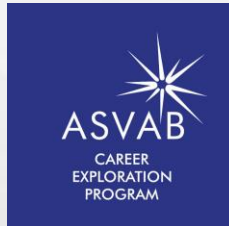
November 2—Deadline to register for AP Exams



November—No Fee November!! Several colleges waive admission fees



February TBA—FAFSA Completion Night, 6:00pm



February 25—ASVAB



May 5—Honors Night



May 22—Graduation!!

YOUR QUESTIONS?

