

School Accreditation

Eligible public or private schools must be accredited or holding provisional status from the Georgia Accrediting Commission, an accrediting agencies member of the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or any other accrediting agency recognized by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

Required Documentation

Students seeking recognition as a Georgia Scholar are required to submit the following documentation with their application:

1. An official transcript of all high school work, including all transfer records.
2. An SAT and/or ACT score report from the testing company if the score does not appear on the transcript.
3. A copy of the applicant's voter registration card if a United States citizen and 18 years of age at the time of application.
4. A letter of reference from someone outside the school or family.
5. Georgia Scholar School Verification Form: School principal and counselor signatures required.*
6. Georgia Scholar Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Form.*

**Electronic signatures are not accepted.*

Georgia Scholar Recognition

Georgia Scholar honorees are notified in early April through the official Georgia Department of Education press release and email. Honorees will receive an honorary Georgia Scholar seal.

About GaDOE Excellence Recognitions

The GaDOE Excellence Recognition Program honors outstanding educators, schools, staff, and students throughout the state.

Find additional opportunities at:
<http://bit.ly/Excellence-Recognition>

Contact the Excellence Recognitions team at
Recognitions@doe.k12.ga.us

APPLY TODAY!

Find the Georgia Scholar Program requirements, application, and verification forms on the Georgia Scholar webpage.



Georgia Scholar Program



Georgia Scholar is governed by Georgia Board Rule 160-4-2-.23.

Georgia Scholar Program

The Georgia Department of Education recognizes and honors high school seniors who excel in school and their communities as Georgia Scholars. Each Georgia Scholar receives an honoree seal for their diploma. Georgia Scholar is a **recognition-only program**. No scholarship funds are associated with this program.

2024 Georgia Scholar Timeline

Application Window: **January 8-March 1**

Application Deadline: **March 1 at 5:00 p.m.**

Honoree's Announcement: **Early April**

Georgia Scholar Requirements

Georgia seniors are required to meet each of the following criteria.

Criterion 1: Earns a minimum of 22 Carnegie units of credit* for graduation including:

- Three units in science, including one unit in physics or chemistry
- Four units in mathematics, including one unit in Algebra II or its equivalent
- Three units in social studies, including economics or citizenship, world history, and U.S. history
- Four units in English language arts
- Two units in a single foreign language
- One unit in fine arts, chosen from visual arts, music, dance, or dramatic arts

***Credit Equivalency:** Courses taken prior to grade 9 that are taught using Georgia approved 9-12 content standards shall be considered as meeting the units of credit requirements for the purpose of this program.

Criterion 2: Earns a minimum combined score of 1360 on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) at one test sitting or a composite score of 31 on the American College Test (ACT) at one test sitting.

Criterion 3: Have a non-weighted cumulative GPA of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in core courses. Weighted GPAs are **not accepted**.

Criterion 4: Are registered to vote if a U.S. citizen and 18 years of age at the time of application.

Criterion 5: Submit a letter of support from someone outside of the school or family that shows evidence of self-esteem and concern for others in day-to-day activities.

- Current or former teachers, administrators, counselors, and school-based organization sponsors **are not eligible** as a reference.
- The writer must clearly identify themselves by **name** and explain their **relationship** to the student. The preferred reference is one of the student's community organization sponsors from criterion eight.
- The letter must be **dated** and no longer than **one page** in length.
- The letter must be **exclusively written for the Georgia Scholar Program**.
- Upload in **.pdf** format only. Use this naming convention for the file name: Reference_StudentFirstName_StudentLastName

Criterion 6: Participates in at least three different interscholastic activities during grades 9-12. Interscholastic activities are any school-sponsored programs involving competition between individuals or groups representing two or more schools.

Criterion 7: Are appointed by a school official or elected by a constituency to a leadership position in at least two different **school-sponsored organizations**. Leadership positions include but are not limited to president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, captain, drum major, lead editor, advisory board chair, and club founder.

Criterion 8: Provides evidence of leadership in a minimum of two different youth organizations **outside the school**, including being appointed by an organization sponsor or elected by a constituency to a position of leadership or role of responsibility in a minimum of one of these activities. This does not include paid positions.

Georgia Scholar Board Rule

Georgia Scholar is governed by Georgia Board Rule 160-4-2-.23. Applicants are required to meet the specified criteria to receive recognition as a Georgia Scholar. Find the Georgia Board Rule on the Georgia Scholar webpage.