

REACH Scholar Overview

REACH Scholars are nominated and selected by the school system and community based on demonstrated academic promise and commitment. REACH Scholars will be provided with the social and academic support they need to be successful in middle school, high school and in their post-secondary pursuits. Additionally, REACH Scholars are given a college scholarship award upon successful completion of the program, with award amounts up to \$10,000 which are matched or double-matched at qualifying University System and Technical College System of Georgia schools.



REACH Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen

Mission

REACH Georgia provides Georgia's low-income, academically promising students with the academic, social, and financial support needed to graduate from high school, to access college, achieve post-secondary success and be prepared for the 21st Century workforce.

Program Components

- ◆ **Mentoring**—students are matched with a mentor for encouragement to reach their full potential
- ◆ **Academic Coaching**—to develop personalized college and career goals
- ◆ **Financial Scholarship**—upon graduation, students will earn up to a \$10,000 scholarship.

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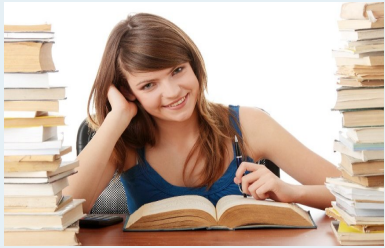


Paulding County School District

REACH Scholars Program



REACH Georgia. Change Lives.



Student Selection Criteria

To be eligible for the REACH Georgia Program, a student must be nominated and meet the following qualifications:

- ◆ Be a rising 8th grader at a participating eligible Georgia middle school (note: student begins as a REACH Scholar in the 8th grade)
- ◆ Qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program
- ◆ Have legal status in the United States (U.S. Citizen or legal resident)
- ◆ Have and agree to maintain above average attendance and behavior,
- ◆ Have grade reports reflecting at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in all core course (English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language)
- ◆ Have and agree to maintain a crime and drug-free record
- ◆ Have the support of a parent, legal guardian, or other caring adult.

Students who are nominated will be interviewed by school district and community volunteers. REACH scholars will participate in the program from the beginning of 8th grade through high school graduation.

Scholar's Commitment

REACH Scholars sign a contract committing to:

- ◆ Maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average of a 2.5
- ◆ Maintain good attendance
- ◆ Maintain good behavior
- ◆ Remain drug and alcohol free
- ◆ Meeting with his/her assigned mentor a minimum of 8 times per semester
- ◆ Meeting with his/her academic coach at least once per month
- ◆ Attend REACH program activities
- ◆ Graduate from high school
- ◆ Enroll in a University System of Georgia or Technical College System of Georgia institution or an eligible private postsecondary institution of their choice
- ◆ Complete college

Parent Commitment

Parents play a key role in the success of their REACH Scholar. They are expected to encourage, support, and assist their students in their academic, professional and personal pursuits to the best of their abilities. Their responsibilities include:

- ◆ Helping their student complete the required forms
- ◆ Attend the REACH Signing Ceremony
- ◆ Attend REACH related activities
- ◆ Support and encourage your student to focus on academics, to meet regularly with their mentor and academic coach, to maintain positive behavior and attend class.

Mentor's Commitment

Highly qualified mentoring is essential to the success of the REACH Scholars program. REACH mentors are volunteers from the community who provide support and guidance to encourage students in achieving academic, personal and occupational success. Responsibilities of REACH mentors include:

- ◆ Submitting a REACH Mentor application including references
- ◆ Agreeing to a comprehensive background check
- ◆ Completing 2 hours of pre-training before the first mentoring session with a student
- ◆ Meeting with their student once a week for at least 30 minutes, or a minimum of 8 times per semester
- ◆ Committing to support their student for at least a year
- ◆ Making a difference in the life of a child by giving time, attention and wisdom to help them create a plan for their future

"One person can make a difference, and every person should try" - John F. Kennedy

