



REACH Scholar Selection Committee Grading Rubric for Student Interviews



REACH Scholar Selection Committee Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

Welcome to the REACH Georgia team, business and community leaders! REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) is a 5-year mentoring and scholarship program where selected students can access up to \$10,000 in state financial aid at an eligible college or university in the state of Georgia. Each fall, scholar selection committees at participating school districts in the state of Georgia engage in the process of selecting new 8th grade students for this educational opportunity. The following grading rubric can help guide your district’s decision-making process as you interview each student candidate.

To be considered for REACH Georgia program participation, each student applicant must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen or [Eligible Non-Citizen](#) (*Eligible Non-Citizens must provide proof of status to REACH Coordinator*)
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at an Eligible Middle School in the state of Georgia
- If selected, officially sign a Scholarship commitment in the Fall term of their 8th grade year
- Demonstrate and prove their household’s [financial need](#)
- Have the potential to graduate high school with a 2.5 or greater HOPE-calculated GPA
- Not be truant and have good attendance
- Have a behavior record that reflects no more than 2 in-school suspensions during the 2 semesters or 4 quarters preceding the Spring term of their 7th grade year, and must not have any criminal or drug-related convictions

Note: Initial eligibility is addressed in the first 4 numbered pages of the REACH Student Application and must be confirmed by the school district REACH Coordinator *before* the student candidate is interviewed by the REACH selection committee.

Application Reviewed by: _____

Date Reviewed: _____



REACH Scholar Selection Committee Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

The Student Scholar Application				
Criteria	Not Preferred (0 Points)	No Preference (1 Point)	Preferred (2 Points)	Score
Student's Questionnaire (Page 5)	Provides very few positive observations about themselves and their abilities and unclear or inconclusive evidence of their intent/desire to pursue postsecondary options. Student fails to identify how they would benefit from being a REACH Georgia Scholar.	Provides positive observations about themselves and their abilities but does not identify specific examples of accomplishments. Student identifies intent/desire to pursue postsecondary options at an institution of higher learning. Student is vague when describing how they would benefit from being a REACH Georgia Scholar.	Clearly indicates positive observations regarding themselves and their abilities. Examples provided relate to those observations. Student can articulate the benefit of being a REACH Georgia Scholar.	
Academic Reference (Pages 7-8)	Up to 50% negative responses; suggests that student lacks academic potential required to be successful.	75% Positive Responses; most responses are positive in nature with room for growth.	100% Positive Responses; highly favorable academic reference responses from teacher or other school official.	
Community Reference (Pages 10-11)	Up to 50% negative responses; suggests that student lacks the required to be successful.	75% Positive Responses; most responses are positive in nature with room for growth.	100% Positive Responses; highly favorable academic reference responses from teacher or other school official.	
			SUBTOTAL SCORE:	



REACH Scholar Selection Committee Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

REACH Program Preferences				
Criteria	Not Preferred (0 Points)	No Preference (1 Point)	Preferred (2 Points)	Score
Parent/Guardian's Highest Level of Education Completed; preference given to first generation college students.	1 or both Parent/Guardian holds Bachelor's degree or beyond	1 or both Parent/Guardian holds Certificate or Associate's degree	Both Parent/Guardian has little or no postsecondary experience	
Student has less than a 3.0 cumulative grade point average but has the potential to make A and B grades. Student has the potential to succeed at the postsecondary level.	The student currently has an "A" grade point average and demonstrates a persistence and interest in learning and would most likely prove themselves successful without the help of an Academic Coach or mentor.	The student currently has a grade point average of "C" and an academic record that does not reflect persistence and interest in learning."	The student currently has a grade point average of "C" or higher and an academic record which demonstrates a persistence and interest in learning supporting an ability to earn A or B grades in Core course with the help of an Academic Coach and mentor.	
Student who has no disciplinary infractions during the two semesters immediately preceding the spring term of the student's 7th grade year.	Student has 2 or more disciplinary infractions	Student has at least 1 disciplinary infraction	Student has no disciplinary infractions.	
			SUBTOTAL SCORE:	



REACH Scholar Selection Committee Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

The Interview				
Criteria	Not Preferred (0 Points)	No Preference (1 Point)	Preferred (2 Points)	Score
Presentation (Professionalism, Engagement, Enthusiasm)	The student presented themselves unprofessionally, did not engage, and lacked enthusiasm.	The student was relatively professional, remained engaged on occasion, and showed some excitement about the opportunity.	The student was very professional, kept consistently engaged, and expressed great excitement about the opportunity.	
Postsecondary Aspirations	The student is unenthusiastic in their responses regarding the future and has no intention of going to college.	The student shows drive and determination in their answers regarding their future but has some uncertainty about next steps. The student is unsure about the future and doesn't know where they want to go to college or if they plan to do so in the state of Georgia.	The student is enthusiastic about their future and has some creative plans or expressed desire about wanting to succeed at the postsecondary level within the state of Georgia.	
Thoughtful answers to student interview questions	The student provided only limited/general answers and appeared uninterested.	The student provided limited responses to the questions but put some thought into his/her answers.	The student went above and beyond to thoroughly and thoughtfully answer each question.	
			SUBTOTAL SCORE:	



REACH Scholar Selection Committee Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

REACH Scholar Interview Questions

The following is a list of sample questions for the student interview process. Please feel free to add questions or offer alternatives to determine if the student is a good fit for the program and has the potential to succeed at the postsecondary level.

1. *Tell us some general information about yourself, such as some things that interest you outside of school.*
2. *Are you involved in any activities, clubs, or sports within your school or in your community?*
3. *Which subjects interest you in school now, and why?*
4. *Describe a personal achievement or something you've done that you are proud of.*
5. *Describe a time that you overcame something difficult and what you learned from it.*
6. *What are some things that you would like to get better at while in high school?*
7. *Tell us about a school project or assignment that you were involved in that was successful.*
8. *Are you interested in going to college? If so, which colleges or universities have you considered applying for?*
9. *What sort of academic topics and/or paths of study might interest you when enrolled at college?*
10. *What sort of jobs do you expect to apply for once you've graduated?*
11. *How would your friends and teachers describe you?*
12. *How much would this program's mentoring and academic coaching elements benefit your family and your future?*
13. *Tell us about a leader/mentor in your family, school, or community – someone you look up to.*
14. *How would you prepare to meet rigorous program requirements (discipline, attendance, and academic) in high school?*
15. *What are some examples of how you might be able to give back to your community after receiving this opportunity?*

REACH GA Selection Committee Members: Thank you for your support and for making educational achievement happen!
