

REACH Georgia Scholarship Program: Signing Day

During the fall term, **REACH Georgia** is given statewide recognition through press releases, social media and occasionally live media coverage as new scholars are inducted into the program. This event will give your local school system the opportunity to welcome new students to the REACH Scholarship program and commit to supporting the students' Scholarship eligibility at the secondary level.

At the REACH signing ceremony, students and their families will commit to satisfying the program requirements, graduating from high school, and enrolling at a HOPE-eligible postsecondary institution. They sign Commitment Forms during this ceremonial occasion agreeing to maintain program requirements much like athletic signing day ceremonies. The REACH Signing Day held at your school is the perfect opportunity to engage community stakeholders and supporters. Consider inviting your elected officials, local Chamber of Commerce representatives, potential donors, your local college and university representatives, scholar selection committee members, etc. to share in welcoming our future college graduates and workforce/community leaders in the state of Georgia!

While REACH signing ceremonies may vary from system to system, below is a sample agenda that can serve as a general guide for your event. We look forward to continuing to support your school system and your new REACH Georgia scholars!

Sample REACH Signing Day Agenda

- I. Welcome and Occasion – *Superintendent or designee. Provide background information on your program and the program in general. Example: "REACH began in 2012 as Georgia's first need-based scholarship and mentoring program. We serve promising students in their educational journey to ensure they have the support needed to graduate from high school, enroll at and graduate from an eligible postsecondary institution - becoming a vital part of our state's future workforce."*
- II. Recognition of Board, Distinguished Guests, Elected Officials – *Superintendent or designee*
- III. Remarks by Guest Speaker – *typically school systems ask an elected official to speak*
- IV. Signing Ceremony – *Superintendent or designee. See below for REACH Program Signing Ceremony Instructions. Students are called by name; student signs Commitment Form; parent/guardian signs Commitment Form; Superintendent signs Commitment Form*
- V. Closing – *Superintendent or designee*
- VI. Photo opportunities for families and community members
- VII. Scan and email completed Commitment Forms to REACH@gsfc.org for final signature

REACH Coordinator Resources



REACH Program Signing Ceremony Instructions

Typically, this segment is led by the Superintendent or designee.

- At this time, we will induct the REACH Cohort of (name current academic year).
- REACH Scholars, first I would like to walk you through your obligations and responsibilities.
- The contract that you are about to sign requires that you:
 - Maintain an overall 2.5 HOPE-calculated GPA throughout high school
 - Have good attendance
 - Have good behavior and remain drug and crime free
 - Meet with your assigned mentor at least eight times a semester
 - Meet with your assigned academic coach at least four times a semester
 - Attend REACH events, meetings, programs, and engage in activities for college
 - Graduate from high school with your peers and acquire a diploma
 - Enroll at a HOPE-eligible college or university in the state of Georgia
- **REACH Scholars:** before we sign, please signify “I will” as I administer the following charges:
 - Will you commit to keeping good grades, attendance, and behavior; meeting with your mentor and academic coach; and graduating from high school and college?
 - [pause for response]
 - **REACH Parents and Guardians:** will you commit to supporting your students as they progress through the program. Will you also commit to attending REACH events, meetings and programs, contacting your student’s academic coach or REACH Coordinator if there are issues you believe should be addressed?
 - [pause for response]
 - **School System and Community Members:** it is incumbent on us to affirm our willingness to support these REACH Scholars in their journey to adulthood. Will you commit to supporting these REACH Scholars with your time, talent, and treasure as they progress through the REACH program into college and the workforce?
 - [pause for response]
 - It is now time for the students and parents to sign your Commitment Forms.
 - **Congratulations, REACH Georgia Scholars, Parents and Guardians!**