

FAQ: THE MOVE ON WHEN READY ACT

Frequently Asked Questions about the New Move on When Ready (Senate Bill 132/Senate Bill 2) provided by;



On April 30, 2015, Governor Deal signed Senate Bill (SB) 132 into law with an effective date of July 1, 2015. SB 132, also known as the 'Move on When Ready Act', streamlines the existing dual enrollment programs (Accel, HOPE Grant for dual enrollment, and Move on When Ready) into one program with one funding source. These guidelines are intended to supplement the program information provided in SB 132 and the Move on When Ready (MOWR) program regulations provided by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). This document provides guidance from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), University System of Georgia (USG), and the Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) to assist stakeholders in the implementation of the 2015 Move on When Ready Act (MOWR).

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I. General Questions

1. Has SB 132 been signed into law by the Governor?

Yes, SB 132 was passed by both chambers in the 2015 legislative session and was signed by Governor Deal on Thursday, April 30th.

2. What are the advantages of the new Move on When Ready program (SB 132) over the existing dual enrollment opportunities?

SB 132 streamlines the existing dual enrollment options (MOWR, Accel, HOPE Grant, etc.) into one program with one funding source. By consolidating the existing programs into a single program, it will be easier for students and parents to navigate and take advantage of the available options to enroll in college courses while still in high school. SB 132 also includes provisions to help remove some of the financial barriers that may prevent students from participating in dual enrollment.

3. When does SB 132 take effect?

SB 132 has a July 1, 2015 effective date; therefore, the program will be available to students starting with the fall 2015 semester.

4. Will the existing dual enrollment programs (Accel, current MOWR, and Hope Grant for dual enrollment) be discontinued?

Yes, the existing programs are now consolidated into one program with one funding source called the Move on When Ready program.

5. **How is the new Move on When Ready program created by SB 132 different from the original Move on When Ready Program?**

There are a number of key differences between the original MOWR program and the new MOWR program created by SB 132:

A. Full-time vs Part-time

Original MOWR program - Students were required to enroll full-time in the postsecondary institution.

New MOWR program - Students are able to attend the postsecondary institution part-time or full-time.

B. Eligible Terms

Original MOWR program – Students were able to participate in the fall and/or spring of 11th and/or 12th grade. Students were not able to participate in the summer or prior to 11th grade.

New MOWR program – Eligible students may participate fall, spring and/or summer and they may participate in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade, provided the postsecondary admission requirements are met.

C. Course Offerings

Original MOWR program – Students selected academic course offerings from the Accel Directory and other courses to satisfy high school graduation requirements from the MOWR Supplemental Course List.

New MOWR program – Students select courses from a single MOWR course directory which includes comparable required courses; career, technical, and agricultural education courses; and elective courses. Institutions may submit new course requests through the GATRACS approval process, similar to how Accel requests were previously submitted.

D. Funding Source

Original MOWR program - Postsecondary institutions received payment through the transfer of FTE funds from the Georgia Department of Education.

New MOWR program – Georgia Student Finance Commission administers the program which is funded through state appropriations. Institutions must invoice GSFC to receive payment, similar to how invoicing and payments were handled with the previous Accel program.

E. Tuition

Original MOWR program – Postsecondary institutions received payment through the transfer of FTE funds and were required to accept those funds as full payment for tuition. In those cases where the FTE payment did not cover the full cost of tuition, the postsecondary institution was required to waive the difference.

New MOWR program – The program is funded through state appropriations and administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Postsecondary institutions receive the following funds to be applied towards tuition for each participating MOWR student:

- **Public Postsecondary Institutions:** Standard undergraduate tuition up to a maximum of 15 credit hours per term, per school
- **Private Postsecondary Institutions:** Tuition award up to \$250.00 per semester credit hour and a maximum of 15 hours of \$187.00 per quarter credit hour and a maximum of 12 hours

In the event the funds provided to the institution by GSFC do not cover a student's tuition for the term, the institution must waive any remaining tuition balance.

F. Mandatory Fees

Original MOWR program – In those situations where there were funds remaining after the FTE funds were applied to the student's account, the postsecondary institutions were allowed to apply

the balance to the student's mandatory fees. Any remaining mandatory fees were required to be waived by the postsecondary institution.

New MOWR program – Postsecondary institutions will receive \$50.00 per semester or quarter for each participating MOWR student to be applied to mandatory fees. The institutions are required to waive any remaining balance of mandatory fees.

G. Non-course Related Fees

Original MOWR program – Non-course related fees were the responsibility of the student.

New MOWR program – Institutions may not charge students for non-course related fees. Non-course related fees are those fees charged by a postsecondary institution to students regardless of enrollment status and are not charged to every student. These fees do not include fees that are optional to a student such as parking fees, graduation fees, etc. If a postsecondary institution charges a fee to all students, then the fee is considered mandatory. Room and board fees, charges or deposits, meal plan costs and charges, or fines incurred due to actions by a student such as parking tickets, library fines, and late fees or lost or damaged book charges, are not included in non-course related fees.

H. Textbooks

Original MOWR program – Participating students were typically responsible for purchasing their textbooks. In those situations where there were funds remaining after the FTE was applied to the student's tuition and mandatory fees, postsecondary institutions could provide the balance to be applied towards the purchase of textbooks. In some cases, grants or other outside funding sources provided textbooks at no cost to the MOWR student.

New MOWR program – Institutions are required to provide textbooks at no cost to participating students. Postsecondary institutions on the semester system will receive a payment of \$25.00 per semester hour to be applied towards textbooks. Institutions on the quarter system will receive a payment of \$15.00 per quarter hour. The postsecondary institution may charge a MOWR recipient a fine for a lost or damaged book which was loaned to the student, up to \$75.00 or the cost of the book minus the book allowance, whichever is less.

I. High School Funding

Original MOWR program - High schools maintained a \$200.00 administrative fee and the FTE amount was transferred to the postsecondary institution.

New MOWR program – High schools maintain the full FTE funding but do not receive the \$200.00 administrative fee.

II. High School Requirements and Obligations

1. Which high schools are eligible to participate in the new Move on When Ready program?

SB 132 defines an 'eligible high school' as 'any private or public secondary educational institution located within the State of Georgia and any home study program operated pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690.' In addition, SB 132 requires that each eligible high school execute a participation agreement as prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in order to participate in the program.

2. Are participating high schools required to provide transportation between the high school and the postsecondary institution for their MOWR students?

High schools are not required to provide transportation to and from the postsecondary institution; however, public eligible high schools may apply to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for a transportation grant, provided availability of funds.

3. May participating high schools establish eligibility requirements for students participating in the new MOWR program?

No, any student meeting the definition of 'eligible high school student' is eligible to participate provided the MOWR admission requirements to attend the eligible participating postsecondary institution are met.

4. Are eligible high schools required to participate in the new MOWR program?

No, it is the choice of the local school district to make the determination for public high schools.

5. Are students who participate in the new MOWR program eligible to continue to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, and athletics at their high school?

Yes, MOWR students may continue to participate in activities, clubs, and athletics at their high school.

III. Postsecondary Requirements and Obligations

1. Now that the MOWR program is available for the summer, are institutions required to allow MOWR students to enroll in the summer?

No, postsecondary institutions are not required to offer MOWR participation in the summer. Each postsecondary institution determines whether it will participate in the summer.

2. What are the requirements for a postsecondary institution to participate in the new MOWR program?

In order to participate in the new MOWR program, a postsecondary institution must be determined as eligible. Eligible postsecondary institutions are Georgia institutions which may be a unit of the USG, TCSG, or a private non-profit or proprietary postsecondary institution eligible for the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG). Each participating institution must sign an annual participation agreement.

SB 132 requires that each eligible institution that chooses to participate enter into a participation agreement with the Georgia Student Finance Commission agreeing to:

- A. Waive all mandatory and non-course related fees for eligible high school students participating in the program;
- B. Provide course books to eligible high school students participating in the program at no charge to the student; and
- C. Accept the amount paid by GSFC as full payment for a participating student's tuition, mandatory and non-course related fees, and course books.

IV. Student Participation Requirements

1. Does SB 132 provide a minimum age requirement for a student to be eligible to participate in the Move on When Ready program?

SB 132 does not provide an age requirement but only students in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade may be eligible for the program. Students must meet the institution admission requirements to participate in the program.

2. Are the postsecondary institutions required to allow 9th and 10th graders to participate in the new MOWR program?

To Be Determined

3. How do students apply for the MOWR program?

A student must be approved and classified as a MOWR student at the eligible high school and accepted as a MOWR student at the participating postsecondary institution. A student must complete the MOWR application and submit it to the participating high school or home school program for each term the student wishes to participate in the MOWR program. The participating high school or home school then completes their portion of the application and submits it to the participating postsecondary institution. MOWR applications must be submitted to Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) by the term deadline.

4. **What are the Georgia residency requirements for a student participating in the MOWR program?**
There is no residence or citizenship requirement in order to participate in the MOWR program. A student must be enrolled at an eligible participating high school located in Georgia or home study program operated pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690 located in Georgia, and meet the postsecondary admission requirements and enroll in a participating postsecondary institution.
5. **May a student attending an out-of-state high school, home study program, or distance learning program operated in another state participate in the MOWR program as long as they live in Georgia?**
No, a student must be enrolled in an eligible participating high school or home study program operated pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690 in order to participate in the MOWR program.
6. **Are postsecondary institutions permitted to establish admission requirements for the new MOWR program that are different than their freshman admission requirements?**
Yes, postsecondary institutions establish the admission requirements for students wishing to enroll in their institution as part of the MOWR program and these may be different than those required for admission as a freshman.
7. **Are students participating in the new Move on When Ready program required to enroll full-time at the postsecondary institution?**
No, the new Move on When Ready program does not require participating students to enroll full-time in the postsecondary institution. Students may enroll part-time or full-time at the postsecondary institution and may take courses at both their high school and the postsecondary institution in the same term.
8. **Are students enrolled in private high schools eligible to participate in the new Move on When Ready program?**
Yes, per SB 132, a student must be enrolled in an 'eligible high school' to be eligible to participate in the new MOWR program. SB 132 defines 'eligible high school' as 'any private or public secondary educational institution located within the state of Georgia and any home study program operated pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690'.
9. **Are home-schooled students eligible to participate in the new Move on When Ready program?**
Yes, per SB 132, a student must be enrolled in an 'eligible high school' to be eligible to participate in the new MOWR program. SB 132 defines 'eligible high school' as 'any private or public secondary educational institution located within the state of Georgia and any home study program operated pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690'.
10. **Can students not meeting the definition of 'eligible high school student' enroll in a postsecondary institution while still in high school?**
Yes, high school students not meeting the MOWR definition of 'eligible high school student' may pursue enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution but would not qualify for MOWR.
11. **Are MOWR students required to maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to be eligible for the MOWR program?**
Yes, the MOWR program regulations published by the GSFC require that a student maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to be eligible to continue in the program. The postsecondary institutions define and certify SAP for their students.
12. **Are students required to take an End of Course (EOC) assessment associated with a course they complete through the MOWR program?**
Yes, public school students participating in the MOWR program are required to take all appropriate EOCs. Students who are home schooled or attend a private school are not required to take EOCs.

More information on the EOCs can be found online at <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>

V. Eligible Courses

1. Will the new Move on When Ready program continue to use multiple course lists (Accel Directory, Dual Enrollment Matrix, MOWR Supplemental Course List)?

No, SB 132 eliminates the confusion of having multiple dual enrollment funding sources and course lists. Following the implementation of SB 132, there will be a MOWR course directory, similar to the previous Accel directory. While the Accel directory was limited to courses in the five academic areas (English, math, science, social science and foreign language), SB 132 allows for degree and non-degree level courses in core, career, technical, and agricultural education and elective subjects. The new MOWR course directory will include all approved courses.
2. What courses will be available to students under the new Move on When Ready program?

The approved courses for MOWR are listed on the MOWR course directory. Approved coursework may include degree level or non-degree level courses in the five academic areas (English, math, science, social services, and foreign language) electives, career, technical and agricultural education. The courses a student chooses will be listed on the MOWR application and must be approved by the participating high school/home study and participating postsecondary institution.
3. Are students participating in the new Move on When Ready program eligible to enroll in online courses?

Yes, MOWR students may enroll in online courses provided the course appears on the approved course list. Students should be advised to carefully consider whether an online course is a good fit before enrolling in the course.
4. Is there a limit on how many postsecondary courses, or a combination of high school and postsecondary courses, a student may take each term?

SB 132 does not provide a limit to the number of courses or hours a student may take in a term. However, MOWR pays a maximum of 15 hours per semester/12 per quarter at each eligible postsecondary institution the student attends each term.
5. Is a student participating in the new MOWR program eligible to attend more than one postsecondary institution in the same term?

Yes, a MOWR student may take courses at more than one postsecondary institution.
6. Once SB 132 is fully implemented, what process must postsecondary institutions use to request the addition of new alignments to the approved course list?

Once SB 132 is fully implemented, postsecondary institutions may submit new course requests, along with the necessary supporting documentation, through the GATRACS approval process similar to that previously used for Accel requests.
7. Under the new MOWR program, can high schools or school systems limit the Move on When Ready course offerings available to their students?

The participating high school or home study program must approve the student's courses each term as part of the MOWR application process.
8. If a MOWR student completes all high school graduation requirements, is that student required to return to his or her high school?

Students are not eligible for MOWR participation or funding once they receive a high school diploma, a General Education Development (GED) diploma, or completed a home study program. If the student is following one of the three options provided by SB 132 upon completion of the postsecondary credentialed program and upon acceptance of that credential by the local school district, that student would receive his/her high school diploma.
9. Are MOWR students who complete all high school graduation requirements eligible to graduate high school early?

The student is eligible to graduate from high school once all local school district secondary graduation requirements are achieved, either through traditional requirements or alternative (SB2) requirements.

VI. Eligible Programs

1. What programs will be available to students participating in the new Move on When Ready program?

SB 132 allows high school students who complete certain courses in 9th and 10th grade, meet the MOWR admission requirements established by the intended postsecondary institution, and then complete an approved associate, diploma or technical certificate of credit program, to be eligible to be awarded a high school diploma. Available programs will be listed on GATRACS.org and will vary by postsecondary institution.

2. Will those students who enroll in approved programs through the new MOWR program be required to complete coursework needed for high school graduation?

A provision of SB 132 allows students to meet their high school diploma requirements by completing at least the following state-required 9th and 10th grade level high school courses or their equivalent: two English courses, two mathematics courses, two science courses, two social studies courses, and one health and physical education course; and any state required tests associated with any such courses; and one of the following:

- A. An associate degree program;
- B. A technical college diploma program and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field; or
- C. At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career pathway and all postsecondary academic education and technical education and training prerequisites for any state, national, or industry occupational certifications or licenses required to work in the field as determined by the Technical College System of Georgia.

3. What will happen if an 11th or 12th grade student enrolls in an approved program through the Move on When Ready program but does not complete the program?

Students should be encouraged to carefully consider the benefits and potential consequences of participating under the program provision of SB 132. Since students participating in that option take courses to fulfill program requirements, but not specific high school course requirements, students leaving the postsecondary before completing an approved program would be deficient in their course requirements for high school graduation. In that situation, students would need to return to their high school to complete their high school graduation requirements.

VII. Program Funding and Invoicing

1. How will the new Move on When Ready program be funded?

The new MOWR program will be funded through annual state appropriations.

2. Who will administer the new Move on When Ready program?

The new MOWR program will be administered by the GSFC.

3. How much will participating postsecondary institutions receive for each student participating in the program?

For Academic year 2015, postsecondary institutions will receive the following for each participating MOWR student:

A. Postsecondary institutions:

- a. **Public postsecondary institution** tuition will be paid per hour up to 15 semester hours at the standard undergraduate in-state tuition rate
- b. **Private postsecondary institution** tuition will be paid per semester hour up to 15 hours at \$250.00 per semester hour and per quarter hour up to 12 hours at \$187.00 or rate if less per quarter hour

B. **Mandatory fee payment** is \$50.00 per semester or quarter

C. **Book payment** is \$25.00 per semester hour up to 15 hours or \$15.00 per quarter hour up to 12 hours

4. **How will the postsecondary institutions receive payment?**

Postsecondary institutions submit invoices through GSFA's online invoicing system, Scholarship Up-to-date Records for Electronic Reporting (SURFER), processed, and approved by GSFA by the invoicing deadline date as established by GSFA. GSFA submits funding to the postsecondary institution per the approved invoices.

5. **Under the new MOWR program, will the participating high schools retain FTE funding for students participating in the program?**

Yes, under the new MOWR program, participating high schools will retain their FTE funding.

6. **Does a MOWR student have full access to all facilities and resources at the postsecondary institution?**

To be determined.

VIII. Tuition, Fees and Books

1. **If an institution offers optional access to facilities and resources not supported through the student mandatory fees, can the student be charged?**

Yes, if the student chooses to use facilities or resources not made available to all students through mandatory fee costs the student can be charged for the optional resource or activity.

2. **If a student attends more than one institution in the same term through the MOWR program, which institution receives the \$50.00 mandatory fee payment?**

If a MOWR student is attending more than one participating postsecondary institution in the same term, both institutions will receive a mandatory fee payment of \$50.00 for the student. Likewise, a MOWR participant may receive up to the maximum tuition award at each participating postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

3. **Are institutions allowed to charge MOWR applicants an application fee?**

No, since application fees are charged to all students, they are considered mandatory. Postsecondary institutions may not charge an eligible high school student applying to participate in the MOWR program any mandatory fee.

4. **Are institutions required to waive costs associated with student room and board?**

No, per the 'non-course related fee' definition provided by GSFA, room and board fees are not considered non-course related fees and therefore are the responsibility of the student. Students who wish to receive on-campus room and board are responsible for the costs associated with that room and board.

5. **Are meal plans considered a 'non-course related fee'?**

No, per the 'non-course related fees' definition provided by GSFA, meal plans costs are not considered a non-course related fee. Students who wish to be on a meal plan are responsible for the cost of the meal plan.

6. **May institutions charge their MOWR students to attend new student orientation?**

If student orientation is mandatory the institution cannot charge the MOWR student. If the orientation is optional then it would not be considered a mandatory fee and the student may be charged if the student wishes to attend.

7. **What is considered a course-related fee or supply?**

Per the definition provided by GSFA, 'course related fees or supplies' are those 'fees or supply items required for participation in a specific course and all students enrolled in the specific course are required to pay a fee or purchase such items.' Examples of course-related fees are materials, supplies, tools and equipment required for a specific course. Books are not included in course-related fees.

8. Is the postsecondary institution required to provide any needed course supplies or equipment at no charge to the student?
SB 132 states that postsecondary institutions are not responsible for providing course-related materials or supplies.
9. If the amount an institution receives for a student's textbooks does not cover the full cost of those books, is the institution allowed to charge the student the difference?
No, a postsecondary institution must accept the book allowance for each MOWR student as full payment and provide the student with the required course books.
10. If the postsecondary institution establishes a textbook loan program for their MOWR students, can the institution charge the student for unreturned or damaged books?
Yes, students are responsible for any unreturned or damaged textbooks they receive while participating in the MOWR program. If a book is lost or damaged the postsecondary institution may assess the student a fine of \$75.00 or the cost of the book minus the book allowance, whichever is less.

IX. Registration, Grades, Transcripts and College Credit

1. Are institutions required to report numeric grades back to the high school for each participating MOWR student?
No, institutions are not required to report numeric grades.
2. Are institutions required to provide a transcript back to the MOWR student's high school at the conclusion of each semester the student participates in the program?
Yes, per the Move on When Ready program regulations, institutions must send a transcript to the high school for each participating Move on When Ready student at the conclusion of each term the student participates.