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HOPE Rigor Requirements Pursuant to HB 326/O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-157 Graduating Classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017

Georgia Code 20-2-157 requires that certain course credits must be earned in order for students to be eligible for a HOPE Scholarship. The requirements are as follows:

Beginning with students graduating from high school **on or after May 1, 2015**, in order to be eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship, a student must receive **at least two credits** in courses from the following categories, prior to graduating from high school:

- 1) Advanced math, such as Advanced algebra and trigonometry, math III, or an equivalent or higher course;
- 2) Advanced science, such as chemistry, physics, biology II, or an equivalent or higher course;
- 3) Advanced Placement courses in core subjects (English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language);
- 4) International Baccalaureate courses in core subjects (English, math, science, social studies and foreign language);
- 5) Dual credit courses in Core subjects taken during Dual Credit Enrollment at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution;
- 6) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects (English, math, science, social studies and foreign language) where such courses are not remedial and developmental courses; or
- 7) Advanced foreign language courses.

Students graduating from high school **on or after May 1, 2016**, must receive **at least three credits** in courses from the above categories, prior to graduating from high school; students graduating from high school **on or after May 1, 2017**, must receive **at least four credits** in courses from the above categories, prior to graduating from high school. Students may earn one or more credits in each category; provided, however, that an earned course credit may only be counted one time toward the credit requirement. If a course is assigned one-half credit, the student must take another half-credit course in the categories listed in order to satisfy one course credit requirement. Students should review the credits assigned to courses to determine satisfaction of the above requirements.

The attached "Listing of Courses Possessing Academic Rigor That Will Meet the HOPE Rigor Requirement **(September 2013)**" is the comprehensive list of all courses that meet the rigor requirements in 2015, 2016 and 2017.