

9th Grade — Start Strong

Freshman year begins your official high school record. Grades, attendance, course choices, and involvement during 9th grade can affect graduation, college admission, and eligibility for Georgia financial aid programs.

9th Grade Priorities:

- Create a GAFutures account using your full legal name and select the correct high school.
- Learn your school's graduation requirements and begin tracking progress toward the required 25 credits.
- Understand that grades earned beginning in 9th grade can affect your HOPE Scholarship GPA.
- Develop strong study, organization, attendance, and time-management habits.
- Ask teachers and counselors for academic help early when needed.

- Explore careers, college majors, technical programs, military options, and other postsecondary pathways.
- Get involved in clubs, athletics, fine arts, CTAE organizations, community service, leadership, or other meaningful activities.
- Begin keeping a record of activities, awards, leadership positions, employment, and volunteer hours.
- Talk with your counselor about Honors, AP, Dual Enrollment, CTAE pathways, and other advanced-course opportunities for future years.