

# bad or myth Good Perspective



**“Getting a high GPA is the best way for my child to get the HOPE scholarship so I can save on college tuition.”**

We are living in challenging economic times and as people feel the pressure of shrinking incomes or less equity in their homes, new thinking is emerging about education. In the past, most parents were focused on getting the best education possible for their children and were willing to encourage their children to work hard on their school assignments. Parents who were most committed to preparing their children for the future were even willing to pay private school tuition to give their child the very best opportunities for future success.

However, a new trend is emerging where parents believe the myth that “Getting a high GPA is the best way for my child to get the HOPE Scholarship so I can save on college tuition.” The plan of action to get that high GPA is to enroll the student in a school that will be the easiest for them, regardless of the quality of education. This is a myth that needs to be busted.

In 2008, The University System of Georgia released a

report that tracked how many students actually kept the HOPE Scholarship through college after they had received it as incoming freshman. You may be shocked to know that only 1 out of 4 students who qualified for the HOPE (GPA of 3.0 or higher) actually finished college with the HOPE Scholarship. Why? It is obvious that even though a student may receive a 3.0 GPA, it doesn't necessarily mean that he/she is prepared for the rigors of college.

Many students need remedial instruction when they get to college. According to the May 5, 2009 article in the Atlanta Constitution, “Easy Grades, Failing Grads,” as many as a third or more of college bound graduates from some high schools need extra instruction. There are many possible reasons that are speculated for this including grade inflation or making it easy for students to make up work to improve their grades. But the bottom line is this: if children are not truly prepared for college, *they will not keep the HOPE Scholarship no matter how high a GPA they achieved in*

*high school and you will have to pay the tuition.*

So if the myth is busted, what is the truth? The truth is that the best way for your child to get and keep the HOPE Scholarship is by sending your child to a Premier school where he/she can be fully prepared not to just get the HOPE for one year but get it and keep it until they graduate. Yes, it will be hard work, but have we forgotten that this is part of what must be learned in order to succeed in all areas of life?

## Cherokee Christian Schools

92% of graduates accepted into college\*,  
74% qualify for HOPE Scholarship or  
other fin. award\*, SACS Accredited, 2009  
Parents Choice Award “TOP Schools”\*\*

\*based on 2008 and 2009 graduates  
\*\*Greatschools.net award for Georgia schools

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