

GA Lottery Pays Tuition For Thousands

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Consumers have pumped billions of dollars into Georgia's Lottery Scholarship Program since 1993.

Ticket sales have topped out at over \$10 million dollars, and as News 3 found out despite low budgets people are still playing the numbers, a lucky streak students are grateful for.

Hunter Kinsman is in his second year at Columbus Technical College, thanks to the HOPE Scholarship.

A loss for the lottery could mean a blow to Kinsman's education, "It would hurt me, it really would hurt me." It's a set back he says he's not sure his education would survive, "I probably wouldn't be here without it to be honest."

But it's a bullet the Georgia Lottery has dodged.

In fact Georgia Lottery President and CEO Margaret DeFransisco says the lottery is making gains, "We are a tiny bit ahead and we wonder how much further we would be if the economy were robust and strong."

While the lottery has raked in billions for the HOPE Scholarship Fund over the past fifteen year, DeFransisco knows there are no guarantees, "This is an entertainment dollar, it is not a necessity."

But it is a necessity for some students, "I moved here half way through my junior year so that I could get the HOPE scholarship, without HOPE I probably wouldn't be in school at all anywhere."

DeFransisco says the lottery is grateful for its players across the state and students say they are grateful for a little help in an economy where hope is hard to come by.

Nearly 40,000 students in Muscogee, Harris, Chattahoochee and Marion County have received the HOPE Scholarship over its fifteen years. That tops out at over \$120 million dollars.

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