

January 2018

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018!

Rise in Industry Certifications

The Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart, announced that industry certification completions are on the rise. In 2015 -16, high school students earned a total of 81,970 industry certifications, and in 2016-17, that number jumped to 102,044 industry certifications.

Career and Technical Education opportunities provide students with a school-to-career connection. More than 400,000 Florida students are enrolled in secondary technical education programs.

To learn more about Career and Technical Education in Florida, visit the Florida Department of Education's Career and Technical Education webpage at:

<http://fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu>.

Important Announcements



Financial Aid application season opened OCTOBER 1 for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA).

Counselor Resources: This Month's Highlights!

Navigating Your Financial Future: navigatingyourfuture.org

Click Recourse Tab: Free materials and Publications:

- Order brochures, posters, bookmarks
- NyFF/OSFA Publications
- Downloadable Materials – Presentations
- How to Host a Financial Aid Night
- How to Host a FAFSA Lab

Financial Aid Resources:

- Fastweb Scholarships
- Florida Scholarships and Grants
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Click Training Tab: Select Students: Select Recorded Presentations:

- Evaluating Financial Aid Award Letters
- Financial Aid Overview

Mapping your Future: <http://www.mappingyourfuture.org>

- Middle and high school students
- Parents
- Middle school/high school counselors:
 - ⇒ Prepare for College
 - ⇒ Pay for College
 - ⇒ Manage your Money
 - ⇒ Explore Careers

REMINDERS FOR STAFF

Do you need training on the Online Transcript Entry and Evaluation System (OTEES)? Do you have new staff who need to be trained on state grants and scholarships?

Contact our Training Unit to schedule a webinar by calling 850-245-1890 or emailing Hortensia.Campbell@fldoe.org.



Featured Financial Assistance Program

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), administers a variety of state-funded grants and scholarships to assist Florida residents with the cost of their postsecondary education.

William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) Program

Program Description

The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program provides tuition assistance to Florida undergraduate students attending an eligible private, non-profit Florida college or university. Each participating institution determines application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility.

Applying for an Award

The student will meet the application procedures established by the participating institution. Applications may be obtained at the financial aid offices of eligible Florida postsecondary institutions.

Student Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid office or admissions office of the institution the student plans to attend.
- Not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, at an eligible Florida college or university in a baccalaureate degree program.
- Meet Florida's general eligibility requirements for receipt of state aid.
- Not be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.



Outreach Services Update

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) Outreach Services will continue to offer high schools the following free resources to assist in planning financial aid nights and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) labs.

Speakers' Bureau

OSFA has partnered with local state colleges and universities to provide "in-person" financial aid presentations and FAFSA lab assistance. Send an event request via the following [link](#) and we will do our best to accommodate the event via the Speaker's Bureau. If you have already submitted an event request, we have placed you on our master event list and started the matching process. You will be provided the speaker's contact information after confirmation of event details.

Financial Aid Overview

We have recorded the financial aid overview presentation and placed it online for your convenience. This is a great way to work with smaller groups where an in-person presenter is not an option or for posting on your websites. OSFA staff will serve as points of contact for any questions parents or students may have. Simply email us at NyFF-Info@fldoe.org. Responses will be made within 48 hours.

Train-the-Trainer Sessions

Perhaps a staff member is willing to be the presenter at an upcoming event. We will be glad to provide a train-the-trainer session to review the Financial Aid Overview presentation or provide guidance in assisting with a FAFSA Lab. We are available to assist in answering any questions the students may have.

Financial Aid Night/FAFSA Lab Coaching

OSFA staff will work with high schools and community groups to review financial aid night information or FAFSA lab online toolkits.

www.NavigatingYourFuture.org



THE OSFA PHILOSOPHY



The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few public agencies can, the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific needs and concerns. OSFA provides financial aid workshops, publications, prompt services for participants and helps fund scholarship and grant programs. If a participant has a problem or suggestion, the OSFA management team listens and makes every effort to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve the kind of accountability OSFA provides in financing education.

The News to Know for Counselors is available on the Counselors page of the website www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Previous editions may be viewed on the [Archives](#) page.

Contact OSFA

Tallahassee, FL

OSFA Customer Service: **1-888-827-2004**

Email: OSFA@fldoe.org

Federal Loans: **1-800-366-3475**

Locally: **850-410-5200**

Email: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org