

JUNE 2017

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Legislative Updates

The final budget for the state of Florida has not been signed by the governor. We will send out communication over the summer to convey the latest information and how it may impact your students in the 2018-19 school year.

Please check your email periodically as the summer months progress.

Speaking of summer, there will not be a July issue of the *News To Know for Counselors*. We are taking a break to restock our publications, update our website and restructure our fall presentation platform to better serve you in the next academic school year.

Missed a previous issue of our newsletter?

You may access archived issues [HERE](#).

Important Announcements



OSFA-STATE HS: #16-17:16 Bright Futures 8th Final Evaluation for 2016-17 High School Seniors

Please refer to this memorandum released on May 15 which provides important details regarding the Bright Futures 8th semester evaluation process for 2016-17 graduating seniors. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Customer Service at 888-827-2004 and ask to speak with a Bright Futures program specialist.

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

Contact our Training Unit to schedule a webinar just for your team. Hortensia Campbell is our OSFA trainer and can be reached at 850-245-1890 or by email Hortensia.Campbell@fldoe.org.

REMINDERS for Senior Students

Time is running out to complete the **Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)**. Please encourage all seniors to apply PRIOR to graduation.

The ACT/SAT exams may be taken through June 30, 2017.

REMINDERS for Junior Students

Now is the time to help junior year students complete their FSA ID in preparation for the early FAFSA season which begins October 1, 2017. A great tutorial from Federal Student Aid can be found on YouTube. Consider sending these links to students and families in the junior class and help them have a head start on next year's financial aid applications:

- [How to Create an FSA ID - YouTube](#)
- [FAFSA and FSA ID Tips for Parents - YouTube](#)

Reorganization

The Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) would like to recognize and sincerely thank each individual Outreach team member for their relentless dedication in being proactive and innovative while serving schools, students and families in spite of the ever-changing financial aid landscape in which we exist.

With these ongoing shifts in the industry, OSFA is announcing that we are reorganizing the Outreach Services unit by centralizing its operations to Tallahassee. This centralization of staff involves saying goodbye to part of our OSFA family. We hope that you will take this time to communicate your appreciation to the following Outreach representatives as they embark on a new chapter in their professional lives:

Lori Auxier (who stepped down from OSFA about a month ago), Robin Pernice, Gerri McCormick, Stephanie Rosh and Isabel Acevedo.

Beginning June 1, Pedro (Pete) Hernandez and Jan Smith will be the central contacts for our new Outreach services. We will communicate with you in the upcoming weeks regarding the new structure of the Outreach services. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we complete the reorganization process.

You may reach Pete, Jan, Lou Anne or Levis via phone or email.

Pedro Hernandez | 850-245-1821 | Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

Jan Smith | 850-245-1822 | Jan.Smith@fldoe.org

Lou Anne Standley | 850-245-1983 | Louanne.Standley@fldoe.org

Levis Hughes | 850-410-6810 | Levis.Hughes@fldoe.org



Together we are better!

When we all work together for the common goal of helping students succeed in life after high school, amazing things can happen!

We look forward to bringing key people together to help a student make informed decisions about their educational and financial future:

- ◆ Parents
- ◆ School Counselors
- ◆ Postsecondary Financial Aid staff
- ◆ OSFA's Outreach Services



Calendar

Upcoming Events

October 1—Applications open for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

November 2—4 2017 Florida School Counselor Association (FSCA) Convention, Orlando

Have a great summer break!

Take this time to reflect, relax, renew your spirit and rekindle friendships.

Some of you may be choosing to relocate or retire.

In either case, please remember that you are appreciated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance!

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of students.





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