

# OSFA News For Guidance Counselors

*Florida Department of Education*

April thru June  
2010

## ***Summer Financial Aid***

Summer financial aid is available for 2010 high school graduates who plan on attending college during the summer. Students must have a completed error free [2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) on file at their attending institutions and may also be required to complete an institutional summer application. Students must contact the financial aid offices of the institutions they plan to attend for further details. **The deadline to complete a 2009-2010 FAFSA is June 30, 2010.**

## **Bright Futures Initial Eligibility Notifications**

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) began sending out initial eligibility notifications to students in March. Students will receive notification through the Email address they listed when submitting the Florida Financial Aid Application. Students may check the status of their application by visiting our [website](#).

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# OSFA University

OSFA offers [online workshops](#) to high school students. These workshops are available 24/7 for students who prefer to learn at their own pace. Each topic has a built in quiz component and will generate a confirmation page upon completion. Simply have students click on **Get Started**, select **OSFA University** in the drop down menu, press **continue**, and then **choose from the list of available sessions**. Recommended workshops include:

- Financial Literacy
- Managing Your Budget
- Managing Your Credit
- School and Life Management
- Financial Aid

Introducing these sessions to students early will help them manage their finances as they transition from high school into higher education.

## Senioritis Kicking In?

You know the signs - loss of focus, a decrease in attendance, and a slowly declining grade point average. Young minds are focused on spring break, prom, and soaking up every last drop of the waning months of their high school experience. OSFA has a great resource to help get seniors back on track. We prescribe our "[College Planner Tool](#)" to snap them back into reality and academic planning.

You should know...

## Great Counselor Resources!

- The U. S. Department of Education has created a useful guide to help answer many of the questions that counselors and mentors have about completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*. [Click](#) for access.
- Counselors and Mentors now have quick access to the *Counselors and Mentors Handbook* by visiting our [website](#).
- [FACTS](#) is Florida's official online student advising system that assists high school students, college students, parents, and counselors plan and track educational progress in Florida. Visit the Website to see how the useful tool can benefit you and those you serve.
- Use [finaid.org](#) to search for available scholarships and grants nationwide.
- Visit the Federal Trade Commission ([FTC](#)) Website for additional information on scams, or contact the FTC by calling 1-877-382-4357 or TTY 1-866-653-4261.
- Foundations are a great resource when looking for scholarships. Here is an example of what one major corporation offers: [Wal-Mart Foundation](#)
- Do you know of other resources that could help your fellow guidance counselors? Send them to your [Outreach Representative](#) so that we can share your tips!
- **Your Outreach Representative's contact information has changed. Please follow the "Click here" link below to update your address book.**

## Upcoming Calendar Dates

- April 2010 – Seniors who have not submitted a *2010-11 Florida Financial Aid Application* need to apply as soon as possible in order to be evaluated for Bright Futures and other state scholarship and grant programs.
- April 2010 - Students should check their e-mail *addresses on file with the Florida Department of Education*. Bright Futures initial notifications of eligibility cannot reach students without the correct e-mail addresses on file.
- June 2010 - *2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* deadline is June 30, 2010.
- June 2010 – Students receive notification of eligibility or ineligibility for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, the José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund, and the Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Servicemembers.

**Contact OSFA**

Toll-free Federal Loans: 1-800-366-3475

Locally Federal Loans: 1-850-410-5200

E-mail: [OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org)

Toll-free State Programs: 1-888-827-2004

E-mail: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

Visit our [website!](#)

**[Click here](#) to contact an OSFA Outreach Representative about your high school's needs.**