

OSFA News for Guidance Counselors

Florida Department of Education
January thru March
2010

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

FAFSA 101

The 2010-2011 FAFSA will be available beginning January 1, 2010 for financial aid processing.

[FAFSA on the Web Worksheet](#)

*The FAFSA on the Web Worksheet is a tool that **allows students and parents to read and complete the questions before entering the required information online. The questions are listed in the same order that they appear on the Web site.***

[Requesting your PIN](#)

The applicant's PIN can be used each year to electronically apply for federal student aid and to access individual Federal Student Aid records online. The applicant has the option to create and sign the FAFSA with a PIN during the actual application process, as well.

Dependency Status Worksheet

The **[Dependency Status Worksheet](#)** helps students determine if they need to provide parental information on the FAFSA.

FAFSA4caster

The FAFSA4caster, at **www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov**, is an online tool that helps students and parents determine eligibility for federal student aid. Counselors should encourage students to use the FAFSA4caster and learn how much aid they would receive if they applied today.

Apply for State Grants & Scholarships

The *Florida Financial Aid Application* opened December 1st and is now available for seniors to complete [online](#).

One application determines eligibility for the following state grants and scholarships:

- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
- José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Rosewood Family Scholarship Program
- Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Servicemembers

Other state scholarship and grant programs require application through the students' postsecondary institutions and may also require submission of the FAFSA.

College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday is January 31, 2010. From 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., high school seniors and families in your area will be able to receive FREE expert assistance completing the FAFSA. For more information on College Goal Sunday Florida, please call ENLACE Florida at (813) 974-3897 or visit the [Web site](#).

MyFSA

MyFSA is an online account that provides students with access to college and scholarship searches, career and self-assessment tools, and other valuable resources regarding college and financial aid. Students can learn about MyFSA's various functions and set up MyFSA accounts at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/myfsa. For more information about **federal student aid**, counselors and mentors may submit questions at www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/contactus.html or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). Your students and their parents may e-mail studentaid@ed.gov or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-443-3243).

Open Houses and High School Seniors

OSFA [Outreach Representatives](#) are available to assist you with disseminating information to high school seniors. As we approach the mid-point in the academic year, now is the time to provide guidance to our future college students on federal, state, institutional and private sources of financial aid.

Scholarship Research

OSFA would like to inform you of the new “**Searching for Scholarships**” publication on our Web site. This publication is not available to order, but is in a printable format. Please feel free to print and share with your students. This publication is a valuable tool to distribute during your upcoming high school events.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF) has innovative tools and resources that will assist your students in planning and paying for their college education. Check out the OSFA [Web site](#) today.

Scholarships are the best way to fund students' educational success!

It takes some effort, but it is well worth it.

NyFF E-News

Please remind students that they may register [online](#) for the free Navigating Your Financial Future E-News.

Happy New Year!

Great Counselor Resources!

- FastWeb, at www.fastweb.com, offers a free scholarship database that includes over 1.3 million scholarships worth over \$3 billion.
- FACTS, at www.facts.org, 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.
- Use www.finaid.org to search for available scholarships and grants nationwide.
- The Web site www.scholarshipcoach.com provides free information about scholarships, tuition reduction, college savings plans, and other opportunities.
- Visit the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Web site at www.ftc.gov for additional information on scams, or contact the FTC by calling 1-877-382-4357 or TTY 1-866-653-4261.

Upcoming Calendar Dates

- January 2010 - Have seniors complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* and participate in a College Goal Sunday event. Seniors should also check with their chosen colleges for housing assignments.
- February 2010 - Have seniors register for spring SAT's and ACT's.
- March 2010 - Students who are planning to attend summer classes should make sure they complete their institutions' summer financial applications, if applicable.

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

Contact OSFA

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

Locally Federal Loans: 1-850-410-5200

E-mail: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

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

E-mail: OSFA@fldoe.org

Visit our [Web site!](#)