

# OSFA News for Guidance Counselors

*Florida Department of Education*

January thru March  
2011

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available. Students and parents may complete the FAFSA for consideration of Federal and State financial aid. This user-friendly application has been updated to include built-in edits to help prevent costly errors and implements skip logic to prevent the applicant from answering unnecessary questions. Additional changes include: the ability to link information from your most recent tax return to the FAFSA; the name of the high school from which the applicant graduated; a more simplified login process; and new language regarding applicants who receive food stamp benefits.

Visit the [website](#) for answers to questions about the FAFSA or call toll-free at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 1-319-337-5665.

## College Goal Sunday

**Florida's College Goal Sunday** is February 20, 2011. From 2 to 5 p.m. (EST), 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 1-813-974-3897 or visit the [website](#).

## OSFA Training

With over 30 years of combined training, presentation, and facilitation experience, the Training and Information Unit within the Office of Student Financial Assistance provides training on a variety of financial aid and professional development topics. Individual classes or entire curriculums can be customized to fit the needs of your organization or staff. We provide both online and on-site training to suit your needs and schedule. Visit our [website](#) or contact an [Outreach Representative](#) in your area to schedule training you may need.

## NT4CM Wrap-Up

We cannot thank the following institutions enough for their willingness to host the 2011-12 National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM):

Ave Maria University

Keiser University – West Palm Beach

Indian River State College

American International University

Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts

Professional Training Center

St. Johns River Community College

Rasmussen College

Florida State University – Panama City

University of West Florida

Kudos for your outstanding commitment to the community!

For those counselors who missed this training opportunity, OSFA has scheduled an NT4CM webinar on March 4, 2011, from 9 to 2, (EST). You may register for any series of the NT4CM workshops by visiting the Florida Department of Management Services WebEx Training [website](#) and typing “NT4CM” into the search field. You may also download all of the workshop presentations and handouts by visiting our OSFA Training [website](#).

***OSFA trained approximately 319 counselors and mentors through the 2011-12 NT4CM Program!***

## Navigating Your Financial Future

As counselors and mentors, you understand the importance of early awareness and how it contributes to the success of the students we serve. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) understands this as well. Because of our common beliefs,

OSFA encourages you to become a Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF) Partner today! Contact your Outreach Representative to create your User Name and Password for access to our exclusive Partner log-in. Through our Partner log-in you can order NyFF supplies by completing our [Online Order Form](#).

NyFF supplies include:

- Brochures - Financial Aid, Career Planning, Repayment of Your Student Loan, School and Life Management, Managing Your Credit, Managing Your Budget, Private Student Loan Awareness, and the National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA's) Cash for College.
- Bookmarks - Loan Counseling (Entrance/Exit or NyFF Online Counseling).
- Posters - Financial Aid, Career Planning, Repayment of Your Student Loan, School and Life Management, Managing Your Credit, and Managing Your Budget.
- Student Loan Checklist - Entrance/Exit Student Loan Counseling.

## **The Office of Student Financial Assistance Wishes You a Prosperous & Happy New Year!**

### **Upcoming Calendar Dates**

- January 2011 – The 2011-12 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available.
- Remind students of approaching ACT & SAT testing dates and locations.
- February 2011 – College Goal Sunday workshops are available in your area.
- March 2011 – National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) Webinar

**Contact an OSFA Outreach Representative about your high school's needs.  
We'll be glad to help!**

The December 2010 NyFF E-News is available for your students.

Just visit [December 2010 Financial News for Students!](#)

In this month's E-News issue:

- December Graduates: Student Loan Reminders
- FAFSA Information
- State Scholarships and Grants Application
- Navigating Your Financial Future: Free resources for students

***Have you missed an issue of the  
OSFA News for Guidance Counselors?***

***Visit our [archives](#) for prior editions.  
Feel free to share our updates with faculty peers!***

## OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

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### **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!](#)