

OSFA News for Guidance Counselors

Florida Department of Education

July thru September
2011

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance would like to share with you the Bright Futures Legislative changes for 2011-12.

Senate Bill 2000 General Appropriations Act (GAA)

Specifies Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award amounts per credit hour in the 2011-12 academic year. See page 2 for 2011-12 Bright Futures Award Amounts.

Senate Bill 2150

Students are **now required to submit a complete, error-free FAFSA** for Bright Futures, Florida Resident Access Grant, and Access to Better Learning and Education Grant initial and renewal eligibility any time prior to disbursement. FAFSA = No \$

Increase in community service requirement (and hours increase for Florida Academic Scholars) for all three Bright Futures award levels. Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) during the 2011-12 academic year, and thereafter, must complete:

- FAS – 100 hours (up from 75)
- FMS – 75 hours (up from 0)
- GSV – 30 hours (up from 0)

The Florida Department of Education is required to approve home education community service hours for Bright Futures initial eligibility.

Increase in Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholars award test scores for high school students graduating in the 2013-14 academic year.

- 1050 increased to 1170 for SAT
- 23 increased to 26 for ACT
- 1100 SAT increased to 1220 and 24 ACT increased to 27 for home educated students.

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

Bright Futures 2011-12 Award Amounts

Chart A

**Memorandum: 2011 Florida Legislative Changes to
State Administered Programs**

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**Memorandum: 2011 Florida Legislative Changes to
State Administered Programs**

Page 2

Continuing Adult Education

Parents often inquire about how to find resources to continue their education. The Office of Student Financial Assistance has a wealth of information available on our [website](#) to answer all of those questions. We have audio presentations, online seminars, scholarship information, useful links to the Florida Department of Education and the U. S. Department of Education. We are your one stop shop to educational advancement!

List of Financial Aid Resources

www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid for Counselors provides financial aid information for middle school, high school, and TRIO counselors.

www.StudentAid.ed.gov

The United States Department of Education site provides students with information on federal aid programs, choosing a school, a scholarship search, and a career interest inventory.

www.students.gov

Students.gov is the student gateway to the U.S. government. In addition to college and career resources, this site provides information about the military, campus life, study resources, and information about the U.S. government.

www.collegegoalsundayusa.org

College Goal Sunday is offered in over 30 sites in Florida to help students and families learn about financial aid. Parents and students receive one-on-one assistance to complete the FAFSA.

www.collegeaccess.org

The National College Access Network functions as a site for counselors, and provides advisors and mentors with resources for college access in general.

www.finaid.org

This comprehensive website includes information about scholarships, loans, savings plans, and military aid. It also has information about other types of financial aid, applications, and financial aid calculators.

www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

The Federal Trade Commission website provides information on scholarship scams and provides an online complaint form.

The OSFA Outreach Team is on the Map!
(Representative Regional Assignment)
We've got you covered, Florida!

Upcoming Calendar Dates

- August 2011 – Welcome back students! Begin planning for your Financial Aid Nights for college bound students.
- September 2011 – Encourage your students to earn community service hours for Bright Futures eligibility.

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

The June 2011 [NyFF E-News](#) is available for your students. Provide them with the NyFF link for access to:

NPR's Financial Literacy Resources

The Simple Dollar Blog

"Investing" in Summer Fun

To read the full length newsletter click [NyFF](#). Select Current E-News! Follow the link to [subscribe](#).

***Have you missed an issue of the
OSFA News for Guidance Counselors?
You may visit the [archives](#) for prior editions.***

Feel free to share our updates with faculty peers!

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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 [website!](#)