

# OSFA News for School Counselors

July thru September  
**2013**

## Florida Legislative Session 2013

The 2013 Florida Legislative Session ended May 3, 2013, and passed bills that affect state-funded financial aid programs administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Some of the changes are as follows:

- **CS/CS/SB 1076 (Legg)** Effective July 1, 2013. **Signed by the Governor on April 22, 2013. Repeals FAFSA requirement for Bright Futures** funding.
- **SB 1720 (Conforming Bill)** Effective July 1, 2013. *Waiting for Governor's action. Repeals FAFSA requirement from Bright Futures, FRAG, and ABLE.* (See also, this bill under Higher Education bills).
- **CS/CS/SB 1076 (Legg)** Effective July 1, 2013. **Signed by the Governor on April 22, 2013.** Provides for **baccalaureate degrees specified by Florida Colleges to cost no more than \$10,000.**
- **SB 1500 (General Appropriations Act)** Effective July 1, 2013. *Waiting for Governor's action.* State scholarship and grant programs saw a one percent decrease overall. However, Florida saw an increase in award amounts for Bright Futures, Florida Student Assistance Grant, Florida Resident Access Grant, and Access to Better Learning and Education Grant for the 2013-14 academic year.
- **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (BF)** – \$309,413,826 Specifies BF award amounts per credit hour for the 2013-14 academic year. This represents a 3% increase from last year's per credit hour award amounts.

**2013-14 Award Amounts per Credit Hour  
Florida Bright Future Scholarships**

**2013-14 Award Amounts**

		<b>Semester Hour Award</b>	<b>Quarter Hour Award</b>	<b>Clock Hour Award</b>
<b>Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)</b>				
	4 year	\$103	\$69	
	2 year	\$63	\$42	\$2.10
	Florida Public Colleges/Baccalaureate Programs	\$71		
	Career/Technical Centers	\$52	\$35	\$1.73
<b>Academic Top Scholars (ATS)</b>				
	4 year	\$44	\$29	
	2 year	\$44	\$29	\$1.47
	Florida Public Colleges/Baccalaureate Programs	\$44		
	Career/Technical Centers	\$44	\$29	\$1.47
<b>Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)</b>				
	4 year	\$77	\$51	
	2 year	\$48	\$32	\$1.60
	Florida Public Colleges/ Associate Degree Programs	\$63		
	Florida Public Colleges/Baccalaureate Programs	\$53		
	Career/Technical Centers	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
<b>Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)</b>				
Renewed Students Only	4 year	\$77	\$51	
Renewed Students Only	2 year	\$48	\$32	\$1.60
Renewed Students Only	Florida Public Colleges/Baccalaureate Programs	\$53		
<b>*Renewed and Initial Students -</b>	<b>Career Certificate Program (PSAVs)</b>	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
<b>*Renewed and Initial Students -</b>	<b>Applied Technology Diploma Program (ATDs)</b>	\$39	\$26	\$1.30
<b>*Renewed and Initial Students -</b>	<b>Technical Degree Education Program (AS, AAS, CCC)</b>	\$48	\$32	\$1.60

\*GSV Initial students, as of 2012-13, and Initials and Renewals thereafter, are ONLY eligible to receive funding in these vocational education categories.

# 2014-15 National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) Workshops

Presented by the Florida Department of Education

Watch the OSFA [training website](#) for updates.

## Tips for Planning Financial Aid Nights!

**Start Planning Early** – OSFA Outreach Representatives schedule events on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Avoid Conflicts** – Please verify that your school will not have an event that would impede participation, e.g., sports events, holidays, or testing.

**Technology** – Make sure that all needed equipment is in working order. Remember to verify with your IT administrator that there are no potential firewalls that may block needed websites.

**Advertise** – Many students indicate they did not know about the event until the last minute. Use various mediums to get the word out. (Facebook, radio, Twitter, E-mail).

**Transportation** – If transportation is a barrier for some of your students, consider holding the event during school hours so that students are able to use school or city transportation to go home.

**Refreshments** – Let's face it, food is an excellent incentive for participation.

Use these tips and others provided by the [National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators](#) to coordinate your events. Contact your [Outreach Representative](#) for additional suggestions on how to provide a successful **Financial Aid Night**.

## Upcoming Calendar Dates

**July 2013** – Final SAT and ACT scores from tests taken through June 30 are considered for Bright Futures final evaluation for 2012-13 high school graduates.

**August 2013** – Students return to classes. Start planning now for **Financial Aid Nights** with your OSFA Representative. Availability is limited.

**September 2013** – Order free educational material from **Navigating Your Financial Future** website to promote Financial Literacy and college success.

## The July 2013 NyFF E-News is available for your students.

Just visit [July 2013 Financial Aid Focus for Students!](#)

In this month's E-News issue:

- Stay, Stop, or Drop?
  - Where to go for assistance.
  - What to do in case of an emergency.

Please visit [www.NavigatingYourFuture.org](http://www.NavigatingYourFuture.org) and select "Current E-News" to access this vital information.

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

You may visit the [archives](#) for prior editions.  
Feel free to share our updates with faculty peers!  
Contact an OSFA Outreach Representative  
about your high school's needs.

# OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

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