

OSFA News
for
School Counselors
April thru June
2014

Legislative Session 2014

The Florida 2014 Legislative Session commenced March 4. The Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance will be monitoring a number of proposed bills that may affect programs currently administered through our department. As information becomes available at the end of session, OSFA will announce any changes pertinent to state scholarships and grants.

CGS!Florida Update

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is a strong advocate for College Goal events in our state. This year, OSFA served as state coordinator in partnership with Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA) serving as the fiscal agent.

Florida was fortunate to have 44 host sites covering the state in January and February. Preliminary data shows that CGS!Florida was able to serve 1,143 students and families with Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) assistance. Records received to date also indicate that 866 FAFSAs were completed, with many more in various stages of completion. The 2014 participation nearly tripled last year's attendance, and we are on track to exceed these numbers for next year. Special thanks to the many sponsors who donated goods and services to assist

host sites with refreshments, office supplies, door prizes, and more: Publix, Subway, Florida College Access Network, Gilly Vending, school districts, universities, and state colleges.

In addition to receiving assistance with FAFSA completion, 80 students were chosen to win CGS!Florida scholarships worth a total of \$13,000.00! Way to go Florida!

Florida's Top FAFSA Completers

Florida College Access Network's [latest update to the Florida FAFSA Finish Line](#) features new, easy-to-view charts of public high schools with the highest FAFSA completion rate, as well as schools demonstrating the greatest biweekly improvement through March 14, 2014. Assess your school's performance then contact your [Outreach Representative](#) for additional assistance to increase your school's FAFSA completion rate.

College Preparation Checklist

As a high school counselor, you play a major role in preparing students for higher education. Certainly you have been asked, "When is it time to plan for college?" The answer is as early as elementary school. Federal Student Aid, an office of the U. S. Department of Education, has a wonderful [College Preparation Checklist](#) that you may use as a resource and share with your parents. It provides tips to both students and parents in preparation for college readiness.

Spring Events

- April 2014– Financial Literacy Month
- May 2014 – Graduation Season
- June 2014 – Final High School Transcripts due for Bright Futures consideration
- June 2014 – SAT and ACT test scores are accepted through June 30 for a Bright Futures evaluation

The April 2014 NyFF E-News is available for your students.

Just visit [April 2014 Financial News for Students!](#)

In this month's E-News issue:

- Financial Capability Month
- Financial Skills Assessments
- Resources to shore up Financial Education

Please visit 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

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
561-357-6340, office
404-393-6340, fax
Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org

Isabel Acevedo
Outreach Representative
South Florida
305-364-3062, office
305-819-0652, fax
Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org

Robin Blank
Outreach Representative
Greater Palm Beach/Broward
561-357-4837, office/fax
Robin.Blank@fldoe.org

Pedro "Pete" Hernandez
Outreach Representative
Northeast Florida
850-245-1821, office
850-488-3612, fax
Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

Gerri McCormick
Outreach Representative
Greater Orlando
407-207-4944, office/fax
Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org

Reyonna Parrish
Outreach Representative
Northwest Florida
850-410-6830, office
850-488-3612, fax
Reyonna.Parrish@fldoe.org

Stephanie Rosh
Outreach Representative
Greater Tampa
727-771-4397, office
678-606-1445, fax
Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org

Jan Smith
Manager of Outreach Services
850-245-1822, office
850-488-3612, fax
Jan.Smith@fldoe.org

