



OSFA News for Counselors

FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

YOU SHOULD KNOW JULY THRU SEPT 2014

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 [Website!](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2014 Legislative Summary	1
Florida Incentive Scholarship	2
NyFF Getting a New Look	3
State Website	3
NT4CM	4
NyFF June E-News	5
Contact OSFA	5

2014 Legislative Summary

The 2014 Florida Legislative Session ended May 2, 2014 and passed bills that affect state-funded financial aid programs administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

- The Rosewood Family Scholarship was amended to increase the number of awarded students from 25 to 50 and to increase the award amount from a maximum of \$4,000 to \$6,100.
- The 2014-15 Florida Bright Futures award amounts remain the same as the 2013-14 award year. Click to review the [chart](#).
- New Florida Incentive Scholarship instituted. (See page 2)
- The Florida Resident Access Grant award maximum is \$3,000.
- The Access for Better Learning Education Grant award maximum is \$1,500.





Florida Incentive Scholarship Program

Information Page for 2013-14 High School Graduates

The Florida Incentive Scholarship Program is a merit scholarship for Florida high school graduates who achieved the National Merit® or National Achievement® Scholar designation.

Enrollment Requirements

- Be a Florida resident. (*Residency status is determined by the institution.*)
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalency, complete a home education program, or earn a non-Florida diploma while living outside of Florida with a parent on public service assignment.
- Enroll in an eligible, regionally-accredited*, public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Enroll full-time (*minimum 12 credit hours per term or quarter equivalency*) in a baccalaureate degree program.
- Initially enroll during the fall academic term following high school graduation.

Scholarship Length

- This program will provide funds for 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete a baccalaureate degree program, or until completion of a baccalaureate degree program.
- A student enrolled in a 4-year program is eligible to receive an award for a maximum of 8 semesters, while a student enrolled in a 5-year program is eligible for a maximum of 10 semesters.

Award Amounts

- Eligible students will receive an annual award equal to the institutional cost of attendance (COA), minus the sum of the Bright Futures (BF) award and National Merit/Achievement Award® (NM)

$$\text{Florida Incentive Scholarship Award} = \text{COA} - (\text{BF} + \text{NM})$$
- The highest institutional COA, as reported by the Board of Governors of the State University System, will be used in the calculation of awards for students who attend an eligible, four-year independent postsecondary institution.
- The award may not be used to pay for remedial coursework or developmental education. The award is not available to fund summer coursework.

Scholarship Renewal

- An application is not required to renew the award.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester, third quarter, or the equivalent of each academic year.
- A student must earn credit for hours enrolled each term.
- A student must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- A student who does not earn the required credit hours or maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA will be ineligible to continue in the program.

If the renewal requirements are not met, the award will be lost and cannot be restored.

*Regional accreditors are identified as such by the United States Department of Education and consist of:

- Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

NyFF is Getting a New Look!!



Be on the lookout for changes on the *Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)* website. The first of three phases will go into production in July.

One important update is that you will no longer need a *NyFF* account to order literature. Our vision is to streamline the website for easier access for students, schools and community-based organizations.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance is always looking for ways to better serve you!

Look for the new State Scholarships and Grants Programs website changes!

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has a new look for the 2014-15 academic year that we are sure will:

- Provide clarity
- Simplify language
- Make things quick and easy to find
- Allow your students to navigate the web more easily
- Provide a more user-friendly site for parents, students and counselors

Be sure to visit <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm> to become familiar with the new, exciting look!

National Training for Counselors and Mentors 2015-16

Free Training Coming Soon to your Area

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) provides **free** training and support for counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. Professional trainers provide comprehensive up-to-date information regarding federal and state student aid programs, scholarship searches, and financial aid fraud. Participants learn how to access **free** resources such as fact sheets, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations to help them help their students. After the training, participants will receive ongoing information and support.

Watch for more details available via our listserv and on our training [website](#). If you are not on the counselor listserv, contact your [Outreach Representative](#) for assistance.



EVENTS

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR STUDENTS' EVALUATIONS!

- **August 2014** – 2014-15 mid-year graduates must apply for Bright Futures by August 31.
- **September 2014** – National Training For Counselors and Mentors registration opens.

Contact an OSFA [Outreach Representative](#) about your high school's needs. We'll be glad to help!

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

Visit [June 2014 NyFF E-News](#)

Topics:

- Rent The Runway
- Summer Jobs
- Refinancing Your Student Loan Debt Update

Students may visit www.NavigatingYourFuture.org and select "Resource" to access this vital information.

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

You may visit our [archives](#) for prior editions.

OSFA's Outreach Team Contact Information

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
561-389-6346, 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