

February 2016

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### FAFSA Resources

This is the season to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Many schools will be hosting a FAFSA Lab in February.

As Outreach Representatives, we hear many of the same questions that you do. They concern which documents are needed to complete the FAFSA, the FSA ID process, how to understand the Student Aid Report and how to seek help for special circumstances that are not reflected on the FAFSA.

We have informational resources available to assist with these questions. The following links can be posted on your school's website or printed as a handout to give to senior parents/students:

- [What To Bring](#)
- [FSA ID](#)
- [FAFSA Follow Up](#)
- [On-Call Resources](#)

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CGS!FL (FAFSA) EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

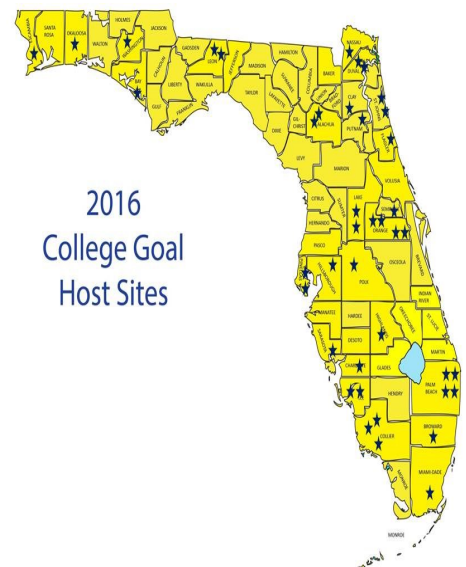
02 Flagler High School	Florida Southwestern College
06 University of West Florida Leesburg High School	Florida State University
14 St. Johns River State College — Orange Park	St. Johns River State College — Palatka
16 Boynton Beach High School	22 John I Leonard High School
18 Tallahassee Community College	Forest Hill High School
20 Webber International University	Palm Beach Lakes High School
City College — Gainesville	23 Westside Tech
The Academy — Charlotte Co.	25 Mid Florida Tech
Avon Park High School	Choice Technical
Dunbar High School	27 Palmetto Ridge High School
Miami Dade College — Hialeah	Orlando Tech
Avalon Tech	Immokalee High School
St. Petersburg College	28 Lake Mary High School
21 Sarasota High School	Gulf Coast State College
Golden Gate High School	State College of Florida
Santa Fe College	Keiser University — Jacksonville
Florida State College of Jacksonville	
Florida State College — Nassau	
University of Tampa	
	<b>TBA:</b> Lake Sumter State College
	Polk State College

## WAYS TO HELP AT A CGS!FL EVENT

Your help is needed with the free FAFSA completion events held across our state through the CGS!FL (College Goal) initiative.

You can help by:

- Advertising sites near your school that offer free assistance in completing this important financial aid form to students and families.
- Offering to volunteer at a site near you — they will certainly appreciate having your help with families who attend this event. You may register as a volunteer through the following link: [www.tinyurl.com/CGSFL-Volunteers](http://www.tinyurl.com/CGSFL-Volunteers).



# NyFF Online Training



Online learning is an easy way to help parents and students learn more about the financial aid process. Audio presentations, as well as online modules, are available for virtually every aspect of the financial aid process (obtaining aid to repayment of student loans).

Visit [www.NavigatingYourFuture.org](http://www.NavigatingYourFuture.org) and select the Training tab to see all topics. The most recently updated audio presentations include:

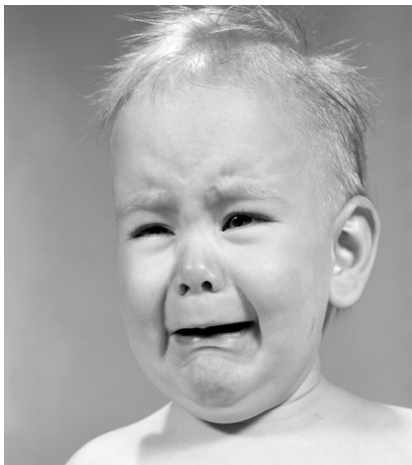
- Financial Aid Overview
- Managing Your Budget
- Repayment of Your Student Loan Debt
  - Chapter 1
  - Chapter 2
  - Chapter 3
- Searching for Scholarships
- Stay, Stop, or Drop?



The newest presentations are offered in a PDF format or Flash format for your convenience. (Note: If the PDF does not work on your computer, please try the Flash format.)

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## National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) Binders are Available



Missed the NT4CM event near you?

Don't be sad!

We have **EXTRA** binders that you may request for yourself or for a new counselor in your office.

Each binder contains the following:

- PowerPoint slides
- Supplemental handouts
- Additional Resources for Financial Aid

Reserve yours today by e-mailing [Jan.Smith@fldoe.org](mailto:Jan.Smith@fldoe.org) (specify which type of binder you prefer — spiral bound or 3-ring binder). Binders will be shipped on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

## State Scholarship and Grant Calendar

“When will I find out about my scholarship?” At this time of year, questions like this pop up on a daily basis.

Parents and students can learn more about the state programs timeline by viewing the [State Scholarship and Grant Calendar](#).

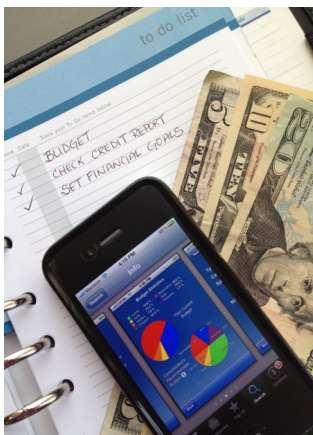
The calendar lists the months for application, evaluations and awards for certain state grants and scholarships.

Feel free to post the link on your website or provide printouts in your office for easy access.

## April: Financial Literacy Month

It may seem far away, but April will be here before you know it. Think about ways that your school can participate in this national initiative. Ideas include:

- Hosting a financial education day on campus — have all lessons for one day pertain to money.
  - English — write an essay on a money topic.
  - History — explore the history of money.
  - Science — discuss how money is made and how science factors into the security features that prevent counterfeiting.
  - Math — problem-solve compound interest as it pertains to student loans; discuss how to create a budget.
  - Economics — how to check a credit score/report; behavioral economics and how it impacts our economy; marketing that focuses on teens.
- Inviting local banks or community outreach programs to provide information on establishing a savings/checking account, credit reports and FICO scores.
- Discussing financial apps students can use on their Smartphones to manage money.



COLLEGE

## Monthly E-News for Students

The February issue of the monthly E-News for Students is now available.

Print, download or e-mail this financial well-being newsletter monthly as an additional resource for your students.

The E-News provides important information pertaining to preparing for college access:

- Scholarship Searches
- State Scholarships and Grants
- Money Management Tips

Visit [www.NavigatingYourFuture.org](http://www.NavigatingYourFuture.org) and select the **RESOURCES** tab to locate online publications available for you.



## FASTWEB Update

A parent asked how to answer two questions on the website [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com). The questions pertained to school name and LOAN AMOUNT.

As it turned out, the questions were an advertisement for a private student loan, in the middle of the web page! The parent was advised to have his daughter seek scholarships by setting up a profile and going through the official matching process.

Please be sure to inform parents and students that there are advertisements on this website. This is a national scholarship database. Scholarship applications do NOT request a loan amount.

Sometimes we take it for granted that families know these things when actually they do not. Let's err on the side of "too much information" just to make sure everyone is on the same page.

## OSFA'S OUTREACH TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Lori Auxier  
Director of Outreach Services  
561-389-6346, office  
[Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org](mailto:Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org)

Isabel Acevedo  
Outreach Representative  
305-364-3062, office  
305-819-0652, fax  
[Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org](mailto:Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org)

Robin Blank-Pernice  
Outreach Representative  
561-357-4837, office/fax  
[Robin.Blank@fldoe.org](mailto:Robin.Blank@fldoe.org)

Pedro "Pete" Hernandez  
Outreach Representative  
850-245-1821, office  
850-488-3612, fax  
[Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org](mailto:Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org)

Gerri McCormick  
Outreach Representative  
407-207-4944, office/fax  
[Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org](mailto:Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org)

Stephanie Rosh  
Outreach Representative  
727-771-4397, office/fax  
[Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org](mailto:Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org)

Jan Smith  
Manager of Outreach Services  
850-245-1822, office  
850-488-3612, fax  
[Jan.Smith@fldoe.org](mailto:Jan.Smith@fldoe.org)



## THE OSFA PHILOSOPHY



The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few public agencies can, the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific needs and concerns. OSFA provides financial aid workshops, publications, prompt services for participants, and helps fund scholarship and grant programs. If a participant has a problem or suggestion, the OSFA management team listens and makes every effort to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve the kind of accountability OSFA provides in financing education.

The News to Know for Counselors is now available on the Counselors page of the website [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org). Previous editions may be viewed on the [Archives](#) page.

### Contact OSFA

Tallahassee, FL

Toll-free State Programs: **1-888-827-2004**

E-mail: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

Toll-free Federal Loans: **1-800-366-3475**

Locally: **850-410-5200**

E-mail: [OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org)

Visit our website at: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)