

May 2016

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Bright Futures College Entrance Exam Update

To assist students attempting to meet Bright Futures Scholarship requirements, the Office of Student Financial Assistance has updated Chapter 1 of the Bright Futures Student Handbook, regarding the redesigned SAT[®]. Find the handbook on the [Bright Futures website](#)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The state grants and scholarships section of the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) frequently sends memorandums to keep you informed of important legislative changes to programs offered by the state of Florida. In case you missed the recent announcements:

Effective immediately for Home-Educated High School Students who graduate in the 2015-16 academic year, i.e. between September 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

The bill amends s. 1009.531, *F.S.*, **eliminating the higher test scores for home-educated students to qualify for the Florida Medallion Scholarship**. Home-educated students graduating in 2015-16 and thereafter can qualify for a Florida Medallion award by meeting the following requirements:

- Must be registered as a home-educated student in the district where they live for both grades 11 and 12;
- Must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) online during the final year in a home education program (no later than August 31);
- Must earn a minimum 1170 SAT[®] combined score or earn a minimum 26 ACT[®] composite score (no later than June 30);
- Must complete at minimum of 75 community service hours prior to graduation date

Effective July 1:

- Florida Incentive Scholarship has been renamed Benacquisto Scholarship.

For more information regarding state grants and scholarships, please contact us at:

osfa@fldoe.org

or

1-888-827-2004



Connecting the Dots: Streamlining Events

Looking for a way to enhance college access activities for the senior class next year? Look no further!

The Florida College Access Network (FCAN) and OSFA offer programs sequentially to help you streamline important events for seniors:

FALL 2016: Apply for postsecondary education

Apply Yourself Florida is part of the American College Application Campaign, a national effort to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. This event helps high school seniors navigate the complex college admissions process and ensures that they apply to at least one postsecondary institution (2-year or 4-year college, certificate program, or vocational school). Contact: [Arianna Pineiro](#).

FALL 2016: Apply for financial aid (federal and state)

CGS!Florida events are FAFSA completion events designed to provide free assistance for students and families when completing financial aid applications for federal aid as well as state grants and scholarships. Each year, Florida students leave millions of dollars unclaimed because they do not realize they qualify to receive this money or feel the process is too complicated. Contact: [Lori Auxier](#) or [Jan Smith](#).

SPRING 2017: Celebrate postsecondary plans

Florida College Decision Day recognizes and celebrates high school seniors for their postsecondary plans and encourages all students to prepare early for college. Held around April 26th, it coincides with the date when seniors typically must inform colleges of their plans to enroll. Contact: [Arianna Pineiro](#).

As you can see, our organizations partner to provide you the best resources possible for helping students make the transition to postsecondary education. Together we are better!



COLLEGE

Monthly E-News for Students

The May 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 and select the **RESOURCES** tab to locate online publications available for you.



Upcoming Events in May

May 11-12
Florida College Access Network Summit, Orlando

May 19-20
Sunshine State Scholars gathering, Orlando

May 30
Memorial Day observed

Your feedback is important!

Please check your e-mail for a link to a survey about our products and services. If you did not receive the link via e-mail, you may access it below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2016CounselorSurvey>

OSFA'S OUTREACH TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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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. 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

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

Locally: **850-410-5200**

E-mail: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website at: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org