

April 2017

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IRS Data Retrieval Tool NOTICE

Many students applying for federal financial aid to attend college are experiencing an unwelcome surprise during the application process. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) is currently unavailable to import tax information on www.FAFSA.gov. Without this important option, families are in panic mode about how to get their tax information reported on the application.

Good news! Families can still enter the information manually and submit the application. The IRS has more guidance for obtaining tax information [HERE](#).

One more FAFSA update:

The verbiage below is located at the bottom right of the FAFSA home page in very tiny print.

Due to scheduled site maintenance, FAFSA on the Web will be unavailable every Sunday from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Eastern Time). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Important Announcements



Best Wishes...

Lori Auxier, Director of Outreach Services for the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), will be stepping down from OSFA on March 31 and moving on to another chapter in her professional life. She has worked for 13 years at OSFA and worn many hats throughout the years. Lori will be remembered for the positive impact she has had on students and families in Florida by helping them to gain access to higher education through financial aid awareness.

Lori will be greatly missed and we wish her well on her new journey!



Bright Futures 7th Early Evaluation Update for 2016-17 High School Seniors

Please refer to the email sent on March 6 referencing **OSFA-STATE: #16-17:14** for the latest updates and reminders for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. This document contains important information pertaining to:

- 7th semester transcripts
- Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Award
- Industry Certifications Substitutions
- Students Enrolled in a Home Education Program
- Reporting International Baccalaureate Service Hours



Financial Literacy Summit Livecast

April 12, 2017

9:00 AM—1:15 Eastern

Register for this informative telecast and hear speakers from all around the world discuss innovative ways financial education is brought to different demographics. *(It is a lengthy broadcast which might not be conducive to your busy day with interruptions from students. We recommend accessing the recorded presentation and viewing it in segments as your schedule allows.)* Register for this free event [HERE](#).



FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

April is designated by the U.S. Government as Financial Literacy Month. This is a great opportunity to promote financial wellness for students.

Ideas:

Consider hosting a “Lunch and Learn” where students can use their lunch period to ask questions about financial topics of interest. This may prompt future meetings once you see what students are truly concerned about when it comes to managing finances.

Plan a day of financial awareness with trivia questions/prizes, guests from local banking institutions and credit unions offering free student checking accounts. Emphasize the importance of saving for college.

You can locate financial presentations, brochures, and other resources by visiting www.NavigatingYourFuture.org.

Free Tax Assistance

Families in your community need assistance filing taxes? We wanted to let you know about a great program that a statewide nonprofit collaboration, Florida Prosperity Partnership (FPP), and its partners have made available to Floridians called www.FreeFLTaxSites.org.

With this website, anyone in the state can find a convenient location with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or a Facilitated Self Assistance website link to do their tax return from the comfort of their own home with IRS certified volunteers standing by to answer their questions. Most free services are available to people who make \$64,000 or less per year, although, some do not have income restrictions.





Calendar

April 1- 30	Financial Literacy Month
April 12	Financial Literacy Summit Livecast
April 16	Easter
April 22	Earth Day

REMINDERS

- ⇒ Students should update schools listed on the federal and state financial aid applications (FAFSA/FFAA).
- ⇒ Early evaluation notifications for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program are currently being posted to the Florida Financial Aid Application student accounts. Remind students to check their account often for the latest communication.



OSFA'S OUTREACH TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 available on the Counselors page of the website www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Previous editions may be viewed on the [Archives](#) page.

Contact OSFA

Tallahassee, FL

OSFA Customer Service: [1-888-827-2004](tel:1-888-827-2004)

Email: OSFA@fldoe.org

Federal Loans: [1-800-366-3475](tel:1-800-366-3475)

Locally: [850-410-5200](tel:850-410-5200)

Email: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org