

AUGUST 2017



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Welcome Back to School!

We hope that you have enjoyed your summer break and are ready to begin a new academic year.

Our *Back to School* issue covers many items of interest as you get back into the school routine, including:

- ◆ Legislative changes for Bright Futures
- ◆ Reminders for senior students
- ◆ Outreach Services update
- ◆ Important dates

We look forward to partnering with you and making a difference in the lives of students in Florida. Let's have a great year together!



Important Announcements



Alert your mid-year (December) graduates that they must complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) by August 31, 2017, if they wish to receive funding for spring term 2018. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this application deadline. If a student does not graduate mid-year as planned and wishes to apply as an end-of-year graduate, the student must submit the 2018-19 FFAA (which opens October 1).

Legislative Update:

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) will receive an award to cover 100% of tuition and applicable fees plus \$300 for both fall and spring semesters for additional college-related expenses. The Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 2, provides more details including which fees are covered.

REMINDERS for Staff:

Need training on the Online Transcript Entry and Evaluation System (OTEES)? Do you have new staff who need to be trained on state grants and scholarships?

Contact our Training Unit to schedule a webinar by calling 850-245-1890 or emailing Hortensia.Campbell@fldoe.org.

Mapping Your Future will be hosting three webinars regarding changes to the 2018-19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which includes the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT). For students and parents completing the FAFSA, the new version of the DRT will be available for the FAFSA this fall. Parents will no longer be able to see the data from the IRS.

Jennifer Martin, Director of Financial Aid Compliance at Johns Hopkins University, will be presenting. She will guide the attendees through the FAFSA, providing special emphasis on the changes from prior years.

This webinar will be offered on three dates. Select the date link below to register:

[Wednesday, August 30](#) at 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)

[Thursday, September 7](#) at 2 p.m. EST

[Wednesday, September 20](#) at 11 a.m. EST

Information on a separate FAFSA training for students/parents will be available at a later date.



Important Announcements



Initiatives to help your seniors:

- College Application Day—a specific day (or week) that focuses on seniors completing and submitting college applications.
- Decision Day—usually held in May, this day recognizes students by having them wear their chosen college apparel and announcing to the school where they plan to attend college next year.

For more information about planning these events, please contact Amy Bolick at Bolick@usf.edu or register for state initiatives at www.FloridaCollegeAccess.org.

FSA ID reminder:

Now is the time for students to complete the FSA ID username and password in preparation for the upcoming financial aid season starting October 1, 2017. YouTube tutorials from Federal Student Aid are available. Consider sending these links to students and families in preparation for financial aid applications:

- [How to Create an FSA ID - YouTube](#)
- [FAFSA and FSA ID Tips for Parents - YouTube](#)

RESOURCES for Parents:

Have you checked out the “high school” page of the Florida Students Achieve website?



There are many resources available such as Parent Guides, Life After High School Graduation, Fastest Growing Careers and more. Please visit www.FloridaStudentsAchieve.org. Be sure to spread the word about this great initiative.

Florida Student Achieves is a joint project between the Florida Education Foundation and the Florida Department of Education. The goal is to have every student emerge from public education as a young adult both with high aspirations and the full capability to pursue them. There are many resources for parents about the different ages and stages of a student's educational journey.

Outreach Services Update

The Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has had a busy summer of restructuring our Outreach Services offered for high schools and post-secondary institutions. We are proud to announce the following platform of free resources to assist you in planning your financial aid nights and FAFSA labs:

Speakers' Bureau

OSFA has partnered with local state colleges and universities to provide "in-person" financial aid presentations. Send an event request via the following [link](#) and we will do our best to accommodate the event via the Speaker's Bureau. If you have already submitted an event request, we have placed you on our master event list and have begun the matching process. You will be provided the speaker's contact information after confirmation of event details.



Financial Aid Overview DVD

We have recorded the financial aid overview presentation and plan to place it online as well as provide a DVD format for your convenience. This is a great way to work with smaller groups where an in-person presenter is not an option. OSFA staff will serve as points of contact for any questions parents/students may have. Simply have them email us at NyFF-Info@fldoe.org. Responses will be made within 48 hours.

Train-the-Trainer Sessions

Perhaps you have a staff member who is willing to be the presenter at your upcoming event. We will be glad to provide a train-the-trainer session to review the Financial Aid Overview presentation and answer any questions he/she may have.

Financial Aid Night/FAFSA Lab Coaching

OSFA staff will work with high schools and community groups to review our financial aid night or FAFSA lab online toolkits.



Webinars

OSFA will offer webinars on a variety of financial aid topics. Watch for notifications of upcoming webinars and plan to join us.

Have a comment? Suggestion? Question? Please contact us at:

- Pedro Hernandez, Outreach Services | 850-245-1821 | Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org
- Jan Smith, Outreach Services | 850-245-1822 | Jan.Smith@fldoe.org
- Lou Anne Standley, Director | 850-245-1983 | Louanne.Standley@fldoe.org
- Levis Hughes, Bureau Chief | 850-410-6810 | Levis.Hughes@fldoe.org



Calendar

Dates to Note:

August 29—State University System (SUS) Tour (University of South Florida)

August 30—SUS Tour (New College)

August 31—SUS Tour (Florida International University)

August 31—last day for mid-year high school graduates to apply for Florida Financial Aid to receive spring funding

September 1—SUS Tour (Florida Atlantic University)

September 4—Labor Day

September 6—SUS Tour (Florida State University—Panama City)

September 7—SUS Tour (University of North Florida)

September 8—SUS Tour (University of Central Florida)

October 1—Applications open for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

October 1—National College Fair (Ft. Lauderdale)

October 14—National College Fair (Jacksonville)

October 15—National College Fair (Orlando)

November 2—4 2017 Florida School Counselor Association (FSCA) Convention, Orlando

November 23—Thanksgiving Day





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 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**

Email: OSFA@fldoe.org

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

Locally: **850-410-5200**

Email: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org