

January 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| UP NEXT | 1 |
| Important Announcements | 2 |
| Financial Literacy Month | 3 |
| Calendar/ Contact Information | 4 |
| OSFA Philosophy | 5 |

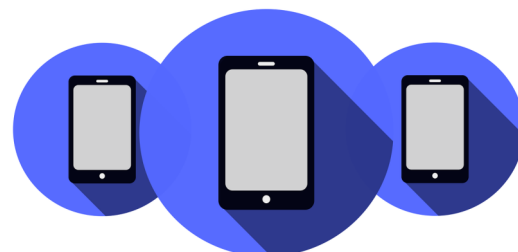
UP NEXT—Mobile Messaging

Designed with students in mind the **Up Next** mobile messaging campaign helps college bound students stay on track with their planning as well as providing motivational interaction with social media. Targeting young people ages 14-19, **Up Next** gives students and families FREE support via text messages.

These customized text reminders serve as “nudges” to follow up on registering for ACT/SAT exams, completing college applications, financial aid awareness and more! To learn more about **Up Next**, please visit [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

How does a student sign up for the Up Next program?

Text “COLLEGE” to 44044.



Important Announcements



NEW Items Added to Navigating Your Financial Future's Website:

[Outreach Representative Calendar](#)

Each week the Outreach Team will provide updates to our calendar of events. You will be able to locate school events such as financial aid nights, *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) labs and webinars scheduled by various team members. Search by county, type of event or outreach representative. We look forward to providing these free services for you in 2017.

[Financial Aid Overview SPANISH](#)

Recently added to the Resources section of our website, the Financial Aid Overview Spanish is very helpful to families who need to hear the information in their native language. Our bilingual outreach representatives, Isabel Acevedo and Pedro Hernandez, are available to provide additional assistance to Spanish speaking families as well.

[Bright Futures Initial Eligibility Presentation](#)

This informative PowerPoint presentation explains the basic requirements to qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

[Federal Student Aid \(FSA\) ID Overview](#)

The FAFSA now requires users to set up a username and password for each student and parent (if applicable) filing the FAFSA. This presentation provides step by step information on the set up process.

Gold Seal Vocational vs. Gold Seal CAPE—The Real Scoop

Rumors are swirling that the new Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award replaces the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. **This is NOT TRUE.** The awards are two separate awards with distinguishable differences in their initial eligibility requirements.

For more information about these two awards, please visit pages 6 and 7 of the [Bright Futures Student Handbook—Chapter 1](#).



Financial Literacy Month—April 2017

After the holidays many students focus on New Year's resolutions to become more physically fit and to eat better. But what about financial fitness? Do students understand the basics of money management?

Each year, the U.S. government proclaims the month of April as Financial Literacy Month. This is a great opportunity to promote financial fitness to your students. Here are some ideas to consider as you plan ahead for April:



- Invite a local credit union or bank to visit for a day of opening free student savings accounts.
 - * Statistics from the Brown School of Social Work (Washington University, St Louis) show that students with a savings account balance of \$1 to \$499 are 2.5 times more likely to attend college than those who do not have an account.

Other ideas to consider for April:

- Host money workshops or “Lunch ‘n Learn” meetings to discuss budgeting and credit.
- Promote financial awareness by featuring a “money fact” or “money trivia” in the school’s daily announcements.
- Have students submit a personal finance article. The winner can be posted in the student newspaper or on the school’s website.
- Host a Financial Wellness poster contest. Provide gift cards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.



A New Resource for Families

A new website was launched this month by the Florida Department of Education in partnership with the Florida Education Foundation. FloridaStudentsAchieve.org is the “go to” site for helping families understand more about Florida’s college and career ready standards, as well as school and district level data.

Resources are provided for children of all ages, from a newborn all the way to college. Parents and students will be able to make informed decisions about school as they progress through Florida’s educational system. Be sure to let the families in your community know about this important resource.



Calendar

- January 02 OSFA's office closed
- January 16 OSFA's office closed
- January 31 Service Hours and Test Score deadline for Bright Futures Early Evaluation
- March 07 Florida Legislative General Session begins



Best wishes for a great year in 2017!

OSFA'S OUTREACH TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
561-389-6346, office
Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org

Jan Smith
Manager of Outreach Services
850-245-1822, office
850-488-3612, fax
Jan.Smith@fldoe.org

Isabel Acevedo
Outreach Representative
305-364-3062, office
305-819-0652, fax
Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org

Robin Blank-Pernice
Outreach Representative
561-357-4837, office/fax
Robin.Blank@fldoe.org

Pedro "Pete" Hernandez
Outreach Representative
850-245-1821, office
850-488-3612, fax
Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

Gerri McCormick
Outreach Representative
407-207-4944, office/fax
Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org

Stephanie Rosh
Outreach Representative
727-771-4397, office/fax
Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org



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

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