

MAY 2017

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## IRS Data Retrieval Tool—Latest Update

Last month, a joint announcement was made by Federal Student Aid and the Internal Revenue Service that the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) is offline until the next Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) season which begins October 1, 2017.

More recently, another update stated that there has been a security breach and possibly 100,000 FAFSA filers may have been impacted. The IRS is working to secure the data retrieval tool and notifying students who are directly impacted.

How can potential FAFSA filers move forward in light of this situation?

Students can continue to file the FAFSA and manually input their 2015 tax information. Immediately request a tax transcript and be prepared to provide this to the institution if requested. Transcripts may be obtained through: [www.irs.gov/transcript](http://www.irs.gov/transcript) or call 1-800-908-9946 to order a copy to be mailed to you.

# Important Announcements



## REMINDERS for Senior Students:

Time is running out to complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)! Please encourage all seniors to apply PRIOR to graduation.

The ACT/SAT exams may be taken through June 30.

Any remaining service hours must be submitted to the counselor's office prior to graduation.

## REMINDERS for Junior Students:

Now is the time to help junior year students complete their FSA ID in preparation for the early FAFSA season which begins October 1. A great tutorial from Federal Student Aid can be found on YouTube. Consider sending these links to students and families in the junior class and help them have a head start on next year's financial aid applications:

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

## José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund

Please refer to the email sent on April 10th referencing **OSFA-STATE: #16-17:15** for the high school certification process for 2017-18 José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund (José Martí) Applicants.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is preparing for the 2017-18 award year application evaluations for José Martí and needs your certification for these applicants. Certification of the 7th semester unweighted grade point average (GPA) is required. District guidance coordinators or public high school principals, and Florida private high school principals are required to complete certification by **May 15, 2017**.

# Scholarships

High school senior scholarships are still available and waiting for students to apply. Don't let MONEY FOR COLLEGE go unclaimed!

<http://www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-high-school-seniors>

Also check out the following links for additional scholarships:

Health and Human Services: [www.HHS.gov](http://www.HHS.gov)

National Service: [www.NationalService.gov](http://www.NationalService.gov)

Military/Veterans: [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov)

Unusual Scholarships: [www.FinAid.org](http://www.FinAid.org)



## Free Financial Aid Webinars and Individual Counseling for Students and Families

Sometimes families are too busy to come to an event at the school but have time to listen to a presentation from the convenience and comfort of their own homes. Our team will be glad to provide a financial aid overview in a webinar setting for students and their families with time for Q&A to address any of their specific issues pertaining to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA).



Refer students and families to your regional Outreach Representative contact info found on page 5 of this publication or families may request to schedule a webinar or individual financial aid counseling via this e-mail:

[NyFF-Info@fldoe.org](mailto:NyFF-Info@fldoe.org)



## Calendar

- May 15 FAFSA deadline for Jose Marti Scholarship and Rosewood Family Scholarship
- May 19-20 Sunshine State Scholars recognition event Orlando

### Students looking for summer employment?

Consider referring students to these two links:

[Goodwill.org](http://Goodwill.org) is more than a retail store. There are jobs available for cooks, custodians, drivers, bookstore clerks, and more.

[Indeed.com](http://Indeed.com) lists full-time, part-time, and summer employment opportunities that may be of interest to students. Many include summer camp counselors, lifeguards, day care, and internships to gain experience in certain fields.

## 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 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

OSFA Customer Service: **1-888-827-2004**

Email: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

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

Locally: **850-410-5200**

Email: [OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org)

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