

NOVEMBER 2017

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Financial Aid Application Kick-Off:

Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA):

Students may apply for state – funded scholarship and grants by submitting this application. Before accessing this application, students should review the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#) and the [Application Essentials](#). The materials available within these handbooks provide detailed information about state-funded programs and help with the application submission process.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

The new 2018-2019 FAFSA (including the ready-to-use IRS Data Retrieval Tool) is here! FYI: Some states and schools have limited funds, so don't delay!

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool will remain unavailable for the 2017-2018 FAFSA form.

Important Announcements



Up-to-Date Hurricane Information: <http://www.fldoe.org/hurricaneinfo>

Financial Aid application season opened OCTOBER 1 for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA).

Counselor Resources:

[NavigatingYourFuture.org](http://www.NavigatingYourFuture.org)

Click Resources Tab: Free Materials and Publications:

- Order brochures, posters, bookmarks
- NyFF/OSFA Publications
- Downloadable Materials – Presentations
- How to Host a Financial Aid Night
- How to Host a FAFSA Lab

Financial Aid Resources:

- Fastweb Scholarships
- Florida Scholarships and Grants
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Additional Free Resources:

Mapping your Future: www.MappingYourFuture.org

- Middle and High School Students
- Parents
- Middle School/High School Counselors:
 - ⇒ Prepare for College
 - ⇒ Pay for College

REMINDERS for Staff:

Do you 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.





FORM
YOUR
FUTURE

Form Your Future Florida is your access to free FAFSA Completion events in Florida.

Form Your Future Florida events will be held October 1 through November 30, 2017.

Every student needs access to free assistance in FAFSA completion.

Thank you to everyone who registered. We are excited to see many new schools participating this year. Form Your Future Florida will have a total of 48 sites of which 28 are high schools. This is exciting!



Please spread the word about free FAFSA completion events offered near you. Many students and families are nervous about completing this form and end up avoiding it altogether not realizing that they may have qualified for federal financial aid. Research from the Florida College Access Network (FCAN) has shown that Florida students leave millions of dollars on the table by not completing this important financial aid application.

For a current map and detailed listing of Form Your Future dates, times, and locations please visit: www.NavigatingYourFuture.org and select the FYF Florida tab.

For more information, please contact:

Jan Smith | 850-245-1822 | Jan.Smith@fldoe.org

Pete Hernandez | 850-245-1821 | Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

Sponsored by the National College Access Network (NCAN), Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA), Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), in partnership with the Florida College Access Network (FCAN).

Outreach Services Update

The Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) Outreach Services will continue to offer high schools the following 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 and FAFSA lab assistance. 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.

(New) Financial Aid Overview is now online

We have recorded the financial aid overview presentation and placed it online for your convenience. This is a great way to work with smaller groups where an in-person presenter is not an option or posting on your websites. 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 or a staff member 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 or provide guidance in assisting with a FAFSA Lab. We at OSFA will still assist in answering any questions the students have.

(New) 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 located at www.NavigatingYourFuture.org.



Calendar

October 1—November 30

Form Your Future events

November 2—4

Florida School Counselor Association (FSCA) Convention, Orlando

November 5

Time change

November 10

OSFA closed. Veterans Day observance.

November 23—24

OSFA closed. Thanksgiving holiday.





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