

SEPT—OCT 2017

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HURRICANE IRMA RESOURCES

Now that Hurricane Irma has passed, the Florida Department of Education is in contact with school districts, state colleges and universities for updates and to provide the assistance they need to reopen safely. District, college and university leaders are assessing the damage caused by Hurricane Irma and sharing reopening information.

Students and their families are encouraged to pay close attention to information sent through their institutions' normal notification process and to heed the guidance of state and local officials.

fldoe.org/Irma

Important Announcements



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

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](#)

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](mailto:bolick@usf.edu) or register for state initiatives at www.FloridaCollegeAccess.org.

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.



All interested schools or organizations are more than welcome to use the **Form Your Future Florida** logo and access the free English/Spanish resources. The [event toolkit](#) includes marketing flyers, social media verbiage, and more!

Register as a host site by September 29 [HERE](#). All registrants will be able to participate in the 2017 Form Your Future Florida campaign **HOWEVER** only a limited number of host sites will receive access to an administrative budget and a student scholarship. You will be notified by October 2 if your site has been selected to receive the budget and scholarship funding.

Sites not selected for financial funding will need to secure your own:

- Administrative budget to cover snacks, promotional items, etc.
- Volunteers—check with a local state college or university’s financial aid office near you to seek FAFSA experts for your event as well as local high school guidance staff.

We encourage all high schools to partner with the [FAFSA Challenge](#) initiative hosted by the Florida College Access Network (FCAN) to track your FAFSA completions.

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) 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:

Rescheduled

October 5—SUS Tour (University of North Florida)

October 6—SUS Tour (University of Central Florida)

Other

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

October 1—Form Your Future Florida campaign begins

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