

June 2018

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### 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, August 31st at the latest.

The ACT/SAT exams may be taken through June 30, 2018.

### 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, 2018. 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](#)

# Important Announcements



## **OSFA-STATE HS: #17-1:07 Bright Futures 8th Final Evaluation for 2017-18 High School Seniors**

Final (8th semester) transcripts for seniors may be sent electronically or online to OSFA. Final transcripts should include all coursework, final grades, total service hours, industry certifications, and graduation dates for your seniors. Please note, for 2018 seniors, the FASTER address value is 1881. After May 18, 2018, transcripts sent to the FASTER address for Early evaluation (7th semester) will be rejected and the submission will receive an error message. After May 18, 2018, private high school counselors may begin copying transcripts from Early to Final evaluation.

Seniors may continue testing through June 30, 2018. Official test scores for college entrance exams are verified by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) repository.

We encourage counselors to submit Final transcripts, including the high school graduation date, as soon after graduation as possible. A student will be evaluated as 'Ineligible' if no high school graduation date is on the student's Final transcript. Districts and counselors will be able to see students' evaluations in the Online Transcript Entry and Evaluation System (OTEES). OSFA will begin posting notices for eligible students in July. International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma students will receive notices after OSFA receives official files from these two organizations in late summer and early fall.

NOTE: Please resend any final transcripts if you see the transcripts remaining in Early evaluation.

Encourage eligible students who have not completed the 2018-19 FFAA to do so by August 31, 2018. Students who do not have an FFAA on file will not be eligible to receive an award. Students choosing to go out of state for postsecondary study should still fill out an application in case the student decides to attend a Florida postsecondary institution within two years of graduating.

## **Reports**

We encourage counselors to use the *Students Summary Statistics Report* to assist with Final evaluations of 2018 high school graduates. This report provides comprehensive information of students' potential award and application statuses. (Available on the OTEES website.)



## Statutory Responsibilities for Public Districts/Schools

School district's responsibilities for Bright Futures are outlined in Florida Statute (F.S.). Please review again these responsibilities.

### [Section \(s.\) 1009.531\(4\), F.S.](#)

- Annually provide each high school student a complete, accurate Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Evaluation Report and Key.
- Disclose (on Student Report Card) that Bright Futures grade point average (GPA) may differ from the GPA on the report card.

### [Section \(s.\) 1009.534\(1\)\(e\), F.S.](#); [s. 1009.535\(1\)\(e\), F.S.](#); [s. 1009.536\(1\)\(e\), F.S.](#);

Develop processes, approved by the district, so that students may document service hours earned.

OSFA assists districts and private schools in providing the required Evaluation Report and Key, which can be found on OTEES. To facilitate OSFA in providing the reports for public high school students, districts are requested to send their student transcripts via FASTER three times per year to the Florida Department of Education.

## Role of the School Counselor

Parents, the press, administrators and the general public often wonder just what it is that school counselors do on a daily basis. Gone are the days of school counselors sitting in their office simply handing out college applications, making schedule changes for students who want to drop a class or waiting for a crisis to occur.

Today's school counselors are vital members of the education team. They help all students in the areas of academic achievement, career and social/emotional development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow. [Learn more](#) about the school counselor's role.

### **Videos for Administrators**

[How School Counselors Contribute to School Success](#)

[What Does a School Counselor Do?](#)

[Parents and School Counselors - Partners for Student Success](#)

[Life After High School: How School Counselors Help Students with Career and College Planning](#)

[Bullying in Schools](#)

[Cyberbullying in Schools](#)

Additional resources are available at Navigating Your Financial Future at [www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/Resources.aspx](http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/Resources.aspx).



## DID YOU KNOW?



### OTEEES Communications and Training Resources and Bright Futures Course Table

OSFA encourages districts and counselors to utilize the resources provided on the OTEES website.

The *Communications and Training Resources* tab allows districts and schools access to all memoranda sent from our office this year.

The [Bright Futures Course Table \(BFCT\)](#) on the Bright Futures website has useful information to assist school personnel with course information concerning State University System admission requirements and high school graduation requirements. This table does not contain all courses offered in our state.

In order to assist with advising students as to coursework in high school, we recommend school personnel utilize the Additional Resources links at the bottom of the BFCT page.

### Free Materials and Publications

Order Financial Aid brochures for juniors to prepare for next year at Materials Order Form,

[www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/Resources.aspx](http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/Resources.aspx).



## Calendar



### Upcoming Deadlines

- ⇒ All ACT/SAT tests must be taken by June 30, 2018 for 2017-18 graduates to qualify for Bright Futures.
- ⇒ August 31, 2018, Deadline for students to fill out the FFAA to be eligible for Bright Futures Funding.
- ⇒ November 2-3, 2018, [Florida School Counselor Association Convention](#), Orlando, FL

## Contact OSFA

Customer Service: 888-827-2004

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

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