

March 2018

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Spring Semester

Now that the holidays are over, it is time to provide checkpoint meetings with juniors and seniors for the following action items:

JUNIORS

- Set up a FSA ID.
 - ⇒ Counselors may provide computer lab time for students to set up their own FSA ID. Students can teach parents to do the same at home.
- Review the Seeking Financial Aid and the Bright Futures brochures.
 - ⇒ Counselors may order these for all of their junior students at www.NavigatingYourFuture.org/resources.aspx.
- Review the Seeking Financial Aid Overview audio presentation found at www.NavigatingYourFuture.org.
 - ⇒ Counselors may schedule group question and answer sessions with Outreach Services representatives, see page 4.

SENIORS

- Submit Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA).
- Submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Apply for admission to a postsecondary institution.
- Apply for financial aid via institution's website.
- Complete eligibility requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship.

Important Announcements



Updates for Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Report

All districts have access to the FFAA Completion Report. Some districts have signed an agreement to gain additional access to the FAFSA Completion Report. New enhancements have been made for clarification when interpreting report results.

Note: If your school district has not signed an agreement to participate in FAFSA reporting, encourage your district counselor to pursue this option to aid in the college access process.

You may contact Pedro Hernandez for more information:
850-245-1821 or Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org.

Report Explanations

- **Populating on the Report:** Student transcripts must be submitted on or after September 1 of the student's senior year to populate on the report.
- **FAFSA Matching:** Students must have a valid Social Security number (SSN) on the transcript submitted to the Online Transcript Entry and Evaluation System (OTEES) to match to a FAFSA.

FFAA Status Codes

- **B** The student has an FFAA on file and has requested an official Bright Futures eligibility evaluation.
- **A** The student has an FFAA on file; however, the preliminary evaluation did not estimate the student to be eligible for Bright Futures.
- **52** The student is either ineligible to participate (answered "yes" to the felony question) or has requested that his/her transcripts not be evaluated for Bright Futures.
- **N** The student does not have an FFAA on file or the FFAA on file has information in one of the matching fields differing from the

FAFSA Status:

- Complete (Error Free)
- Incomplete (With errors, needing corrections.)
- None
- No SSN

Link to HELP SCREEN:

https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/help/SAWHSLIST_help.pdf

RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS

Consumer-action.org offers free publications in MANY LANGUAGES* and TOPICS to empower consumers through financial education.

One such publication will resonate with students:

[What's Not To Like?](#)
[Protecting your privacy on social media](#)

Students may not be aware their social media activity is reviewed by potential employers, college admissions, and others who may make a decision based on a student's "liking" controversial topics or posting derogatory rants.

Identity thieves also can put together personal information based on account profiles and posts.



Materials are available in PDF form or you may choose to order a number of supplies for your students.

Check it out!

*Languages include English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, Tagalog, Japanese, Cambodian, Armenian, Hmong, and Laotian.

Local America Saves Campaigns

Looking for additional activities to promote financial well-being on campus?

Create stronger communities and improve lives by encouraging individuals and families to reduce debt and save money.

Encourage Financial Action: Raising awareness is the first step, but getting people to set up automatic savings is key.

Raise Awareness: Using available resources for spreading the word about the importance of saving automatically can help raise financial awareness.

For additional information and resources see [Local America Saves Campaigns](#).



Outreach Services Update

Effective February 5, Pete Hernandez will be the central contact person for all things Outreach related. Be sure to contact him to coordinate speakers for your upcoming financial aid awareness events, NyFF materials for students, webinars for staff training, and more. Pete can be reached at 850-245-1821 or Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org.

In addition, Hortensia Campbell is available for questions and training at 850-245-1890 or Hortensia.Campbell@fldoe.org.

Best Wishes and Good Luck to Jan on her New Adventure

Note from Jan Smith:

To all of the wonderful school counselors and mentors, I just want to say what a privilege it has been to work with you these past 9 plus years! Your dedication to serving students is inspiring to so many around you.

On February 2, 2018, I ended my time with OSFA and moved to a new state with new responsibilities working directly with students in the area of college access.

I accepted a position in Richmond, Virginia and am working exclusively with first generation, low-income, minority teens by providing college access awareness (i.e. financial aid and financial literacy initiatives).

I am excited to take this next step in my journey and will always remember my time in Florida fondly because of amazing people like you!

Jan

