

**May 2018**

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## 2018 Legislative Changes to Florida Bright Futures

Governor Scott signed into law [Senate Bill 4](#), which makes the following changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program:

### Florida Academic Scholars

- Provides 100 percent tuition and specified fees
- Provides \$300 each fall and spring terms for educational related expenses
- Provides funding for summer enrollment

### Florida Medallion Scholars

- Provides 75 percent tuition and specified fees
- Provides funding for summer enrollment, beginning in the 2019 summer term

## Certification for José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund (José Martí) Applicants

The José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund is a need-based merit scholarship that provides financial assistance to eligible students of Hispanic origin who will attend Florida public or eligible private institutions.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is preparing for the 2018-19 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 for all José Martí applicants. District guidance coordinators or public high school principals, and Florida private high school principals are required to complete student certification by **May 15, 2018**.

### Certification Instructions

To access certification pages online:

- Go to <http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm>.
- Select **High Schools** and **Log in** with your State Student Financial Aid Database User ID and Password.
- Select **Certification Reports** and report the unweighted 7th semester GPA for the students from your school/district who have applied. (If your district electronically submitted a transcript, which included a 7th semester unweighted GPA, the GPA field will be pre-filled.)

Please note that all User IDs and Passwords are deactivated after 150 days of inactivity. If you forgot your password or your access has been deactivated, please contact the security designee at your school/district to reset your password or reactivate your User ID.

- Public schools: District Guidance Coordinators
- Private schools: High School Principals

The online Florida Financial Aid Application must be completed error-free by April 1, 2018 to be considered for an initial award. Applicants will be ranked by their application submission date, if necessary.

- Undergraduate applicants must apply during their senior year of high school.
- Graduate students may apply; however, priority for the scholarship is given to graduating high school seniors.

The online Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students is available February 1, 2018 and must be completed by April 1, 2018, to be considered for reinstatement or restoration.

## New Scholarship for 2018-19 Funding

### Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship (FFSS) Program

The 2018 Florida Legislature created the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship (FFSS) Program, Chapter 2018-4, Laws of Florida. This new program will provide up to 50 scholarships for farmworkers and the children of farmworkers beginning with the 2018-19 academic year. Each scholarship will cover 100 percent of tuition and specified fees at a public postsecondary education institution in Florida.

To be eligible for the FFSS scholarship, a student must:

- Submit the [Florida Financial Aid Application \(FFAA\)](#);
- Be a farmworker or child of a farmworker, as defined in [section 420.503, Florida Statutes](#);
- Complete an error-free [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#);
- Earn a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 for all high school courses creditable toward a diploma;
- Complete a minimum of 30 service hours;
- Achieve a 90 percent attendance rate and not have had any disciplinary action brought against him or her, as documented on the student's high school transcript;
- Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen; and
- Enroll at a Florida public institution in at least 12 semester credit hours per term.

*Students who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes are not eligible for an award.*

If you have students who meet the initial eligibility requirements, please contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) by phone at 888-827-2004 or email at [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org).



# Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

Currently, over 5,000 students statewide have met the academic requirements for the scholarship but have not submitted an FFAA. Please encourage your students to complete the FFAA as soon as possible so that they may receive an Early Evaluation for Bright Futures.

Students who completed the federal application (FAFSA) still need to complete the FFAA if they want to be considered for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. Students who return to Florida after going out-of-state must have completed the FFAA before graduating from high school (August 31 of graduating year) to be eligible for a scholarship.

If a student does not apply for the scholarship by the deadline, a student cannot receive the scholarship.

OSFA will continue to run Early Evaluations for 2018 seniors through the end of May. You may continue to submit complete transcripts for 7th semester evaluations until the evaluation period closes. Please review students' Bright Futures Evaluation Reports to make sure student transcripts are not missing any courses they have taken or are in-progress of taking.

Students can take the ACT<sup>®</sup>/SAT<sup>®</sup> exams through June 30, 2018, to qualify or improve eligibility status. Students attending a private high school must indicate a public college or university on the exam registration form to ensure OSFA receives the exam scores.



## DID YOU KNOW?



### Crops in Season

Fresh is best. Consumers around the world look for and value the “Fresh From Florida” label. Knowing when items are in season is the key to knowing what to look for when shopping.

Why eat seasonally? Products are fresher and tastier, and nutritional value is optimized. Plus, eating seasonally encourages a diverse diet, is often more economical, and harmonizes with nature’s production cycle.

[Monthly Fresh Florida Produce Shopping List](#)

### 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

- ⇒ May 4, 2018: Florida Farmworker Scholarship applicants must notify OSFA.
- ⇒ May 15, 2018: Complete certifications of GPA for students applying for the José Martí Scholarship.
- ⇒ August 31, 2018: Deadline for students to fill out the FFAA to be eligible for Bright Futures Funding.

## Contact OSFA

**Customer Service: 888-827-2004**  
**Email: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)**

**Federal Loans: 800-366-3475**  
**Email: [OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org)**

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

### Contact Information

Pedro Hernandez  
[Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org](mailto:Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org)  
850-245-1821