



News To Know

Florida Department of Education

**Happy Holidays from the
Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance**

**2011
December**

Special Direct Consolidation Loan Information - High-Level Overview for FFEL Lenders and Lender Servicers

The [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\)](#) website posted an October 26, 2011, Electronic Announcement, first of a series of communications to inform the financial aid community about the availability of a short-term Special Direct Consolidation Loan opportunity through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program. This special consolidation opportunity will be offered to eligible borrowers by the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) from January - June 30, 2012.

In "Getting Started — High-Level Overview," the Department addresses:

- What is the Special Direct Consolidation Loan process, and how will FFELP lenders and lender-servicers fit into that process?
- What form will FFELP lenders and lender-servicers use to verify loans for the Special Direct Consolidation Loan process?
- What will be different about the special Loan Verification Certificate FFELP lenders and lender-servicers will use?

You will be kept informed through subsequent communications on the [IFAP](#) and [Financial Partners Portal](#) websites. Generally, these communications will be Electronic Announcements that include the words "Special Direct Consolidation Loan Information" in the subject line.

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The OSFA mission is to facilitate higher education access and services by providing exemplary customer attention, comprehensive financial aid information, and convenient and efficient products.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)



Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

NyFF offers a variety of free financial literacy products and services to students, parents, and institutions. Brochures are available in print or you can download directly. Contact Jan.Smith@fldoe.org.

Searching for Scholarships



The [Searching for Scholarships brochure](#) provides vital information for seeking scholarships, avoiding scholarship scams, and writing an effective essay.

Stay, Stop, or Drop?



The [Stay, Stop, or Drop brochure](#) provides helpful information for students facing the decision of staying in school, stopping out for a term, or dropping out completely.



*your dream, your plan, **your future***

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

December

December 1 – The *2012-13 Florida Financial Aid Application* for next award year funding is available on the website via:

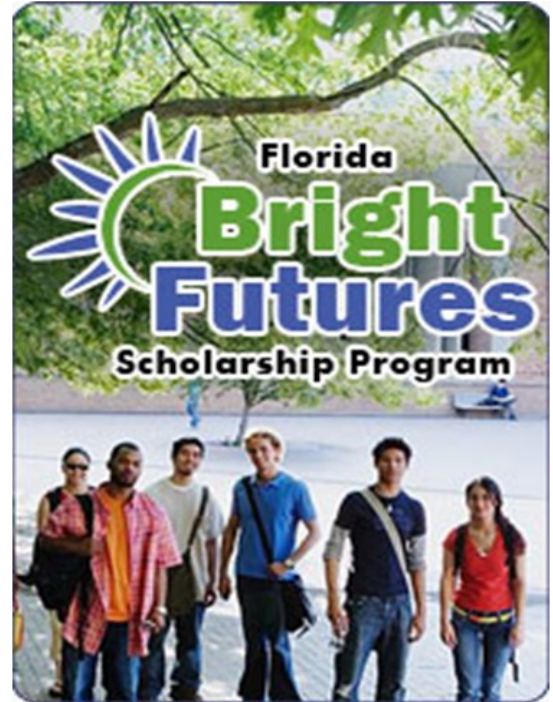
- www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org
 - Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
 - Select **Apply Here**, then
 - **Initial State Student Application**
- Students check the status of their financial aid application and correspondence received from OSFA on the website via: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org
 - Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
 - Select **Application Status & Award History** to view program status, check on certifications, and view all notifications.

February

February 1 – The *Reinstatement/Restoration Application* will be available on the website via: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

- Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- Select **Apply Here**
- Select **Reinstatement/Restoration Application**

This application is for students who were eligible, but not funded the last academic year or for students who lost their scholarships and wish to restore eligibility.



Visit our State

Programs

[Calendar!](#)



Important Announcements



FAFSA Line-by-Line Training

Join us for a Webinar on January 11, 2012

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/374340358>

Mapping Your Future will be providing a 2012-13 FAFSA line-by-line training for financial aid professionals and others who assist students complete the FAFSA. Our presenter, Andrea Cross, Associate Dean for Financial Aid at Saint Joseph's College (Standish, Maine), will review the FAFSA and provide special emphasis on the changes from prior years. After registering you will receive a confirmation e-mail providing information about joining the Webinar.

Title:	<i>FAFSA Line-by-Line Training for Financial Aid Professionals, Others</i>
Date:	Wednesday, January 11, 2012
Time:	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Eastern 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Central 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Mountain 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Pacific

System Requirements

PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

Macintosh®-based attendees

Required: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer



Important Announcements

College Goal Sunday

Need Money for College? We can help!

Applying for financial aid involves filling out complicated applications. College Goal Sunday makes the process easier. Students can attend College Goal Sunday for free assistance filling out their *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). They can start off on the right track by learning how to pay for college.

Save the Dates: February 11th and 12th.

Encourage your students to attend.

Become a volunteer. Every person's help makes a difference!



OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

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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, better 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** is now available on the [Policy, Regulations, and Guidance](#) page of our website. Previous editions may be viewed on our [Archives](#) page.

Contact OSFA

Tallahassee, FL

Toll-free State Programs: 1-888-827-2004

E-mail: OSFA@fldoe.org

Toll-free Federal Loans: 1-800-366-3475

Locally: 1-850-410-5200

E-mail: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

[Click here to contact an OSFA Outreach Representative about your institution's needs.](#)