

March 2011

# News To Know

## Florida Department of Education

### Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Social Media Presence!

The FLDOE, Office of Communications and External Affairs, is proud to announce the launch of the official social media presence! Our new outreach methods include:

- A Department of Education [Facebook page](#)
- A Department of Education [Twitter account](#)
- A Department of Education [blog](#)

FLDOE has launched these new outreach resources to improve the frequency and quality of our communication with Floridians throughout the state. We have already accumulated over 525 followers on Facebook, more than 200 followers on Twitter, and have logged more than 2,000 views across our blogs.

FLDOE is confident these new outreach techniques will provide worthwhile resources for Florida students, parents, and educators.

# Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) offers a series of *free* on-site workshops. Through *Navigating Your Financial Future* (NyFF), OSFA's Outreach Team is available to present the following topics to your students or staff:

Financial Aid

Financial Literacy

Managing Your Budget

Managing Your Credit

Repayment of Your Student Loan

School and Life Management

NEW Year Round Pell Grant

**Or**

**Feel free to suggest a topic of your choice!**

These sessions last approximately one hour (including a Q&A session) and can fit perfectly into your classroom curriculum.

OSFA also encourages you to check out our websites ([www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) and [www.navigatingyourfuture.org](http://www.navigatingyourfuture.org)). Each website has helpful information for students, parents, schools, and guidance counselors.

# State Scholarship & Grant Programs

## February

- February 1 – The *Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students* became available on the website via [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)
  - Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
  - Select **Apply Here**, then
  - Select **Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Students**

## February/March

- Term 2 refunds/reconciliation due to OSFA within 60 days after the last day of drop/add.

## March

- March 1 – Program compliance audits due from participating private institutions.
- Florida Legislative Session begins March 8. Follow session activities via **Online Sunshine** at [www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/).
- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program initial 7th semester evaluations and award notifications are posted to students' online Financial Aid Recipient History screens.
- March 15 – Program funds sent to eligible to quarter institutions for Term 3.

# Important Announcements

## New Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)

### Lender and Servicer Audit Guides

The United States Department of Education (ED), Office of Inspector General, published new audit guides for lenders and servicers participating in FFELP. The new audit guides are effective for fiscal years ending on or after June 30, 2011, and supersede the previous guides published in December 1996.

You may access the new audit guides through the following links:

- [\*The Lender Compliance Attestation Engagement Guide for Lenders Holding Federal Family Education Loan Program Loans\*](#)
- [\*The Lender Servicer Financial Statement Audit Compliance Attestation Engagement Guide for Lender Servicers Servicing Federal Family Education Loan Program Loans\*](#)

You may contact the non-federal audit team at [oinonfederalaudit@ed.gov](mailto:oinonfederalaudit@ed.gov) for questions related to the use of these guides.

## Trial 3-year Cohort Default Rate Released by ED

ED [released](#) a "trial" 3-year cohort default rate (CDR) for fiscal year (FY) 2008 to assist schools in understanding the impact of the new 3-year CDR calculation. ED notes that it is providing the trial rates for informational purposes only and no benefits or sanctions apply to the trial rates.

## NT4CM Webinar Series

If you were unable to attend the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) Workshops that we hosted this fall, please join us on March 4, 2011, for the NT4CM Webinar series. We have broken the day down into three different sessions to give participants the option of signing up for one, two, or all three sessions. We will also record the sessions and post them on our [NyFF website](#) for participants who are unable to attend that day.

These sessions are designed for counselors, mentors, and NEW financial aid staff. Please feel free to share this with anyone you believe may benefit from these FREE webinars!

[Session Information: NT4CM Part 1 Overview of Financial Aid & Applying for Financial Aid](#)

[Session Information: NT4CM Part 2 - Student Dependency & Expected Family Contribution](#)

[Session Information: NT4CM Part 3 - Searching for Scholarships & State Scholarships and Grants](#)

The three March sessions are scheduled and open for registration at <https://suncom.webex.com>.

## **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.