

November 2012

News To Know

Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 2-year and FY 2009 3-year Official Cohort Default Rates

In September, the Operations Performance Division (OPD) initiated the release of the Official Cohort Default Rates (CDRs). This year the U.S. Department of Education (Education) released both the fiscal year (FY) 2010 Official 2-year CDRs as well as the official rates for the FY 2009 3-year CDRs.

After the appeal process, OSFA's 2-year draft rate decreased from 8.9% to the official rate of 8.5%. OSFA's overall Default Aversion/Default Prevention objective is to ensure maximum efficiency in educating borrowers, prior to and during delinquency, on the benefits of keeping their loans in good standing and preventing default. As a result, OSFA's CDR continues to show a steady drop.

Please contact your OSFA [Outreach Representative](#) for additional information or if you would like to receive a copy of the FY 2010 2-year and FY 2009 3-year official data manager newsletter.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

The NyFF partner download section has been recently updated with new and revised presentations.

There are three new presentations that provide training for new financial aid staff members. The topics are:

- Understanding Cohort Default Rate
- Financial Aid Overview
- Understanding 90/10

All presentations have been updated to reflect current data and new legislation. Please visit the [Partner Login](#) section of Navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org to review the [updated presentations available for your use and place an order for the FREE corresponding brochures.](#)

If you are unable to present the information, please do not hesitate to contact your local OSFA [Outreach Representative](#) to conduct these important workshops on your behalf.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

Annual Review of User Security and Contact Maintenance for the State Student Financial Aid Database (SSFAD)

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) automatically deactivates User ID's after 90 days of no activity. In an effort to ensure the highest level of security, OSFA is requesting that a security designee at your site review existing school SSFAD users.

Online Webinars

Please take advantage of our online training sessions provided now through May 2013. These training sessions are interactive with a live trainer. You may visit our secure website to see webinars offered or click [here](#) and choose the "Training Center" tab and then the "Upcoming" tab to register for any of our online webinars.

Important Announcements

New Report Notes Florida's Progress Preparing Students for College and Careers

Florida is making marked progress when it comes to preparing students for college and careers according to a new [study](#). The *Closing the Expectation Gap 2012: 50-State Progress Report* from Achieve, an independent, nonprofit education reform organization, shows that Florida is aligning policies and practice with the demands of college and careers. The report looks at progress on key college and career-ready policies, including how states match standards, graduation requirements, assessments, and data and accountability systems to the expectations of postsecondary institutions and employers.

“In today’s economy, jobs often demand specific skills, and there can be a gap between what employers are seeking and the skills people have,” said Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart. “Aligning Florida’s college and career goals with employer needs helps prepare our students to pursue higher education and join the workforce.”

In 2005, Florida was one of 13 states to join the American Diploma Project, an effort to address low graduation rates and students graduating from high school unprepared for the demands of college and careers. Since then, the Achieve-sponsored initiative has grown to include 35 states. Achieve surveys all 50 states and the District of Columbia annually to assess states’ progress toward meeting key college and career-ready goals intended to better prepare students for the future.

Highlights of the *Closing the Expectation Gap 2012: 50 State Progress Report* are below.

Florida is making college and career readiness a priority for all students by adopting academic standards aligned with college and career-ready expectations, adopting the Common Core State Standards, and by adding college and career expectations to graduation requirements.

Florida is one of only 18 states assessing students while they are still in high school to address college and career readiness gaps and to determine higher education placement decisions. Additionally, Florida provides a score on state assessments that identifies student college and career readiness.

Florida's longitudinal data system satisfies all ten essential Data Quality Campaign elements, providing a foundation for strong student-level data collection and use.

Important Announcements

FSA Announces Implementation of the MyStudentData Download Button on NSLDS

Federal Student Aid announced that the new "MyStudentData Download" button is now available on the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Student Access website. As initially announced on August 16, the MyStudentData Download button allows students to download their loan, grant, enrollment, and overpayment information from NSLDS into a machine-readable, plain text file so it can be viewed, printed, and saved to a hard drive. In the future, online tools, mobile apps, and other resources will be available for students to upload their data and receive customized information relating to their educational goals.

The FSA Senior Management Team Provides Guidance For Postsecondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) Programs

The Program Integrity regulations published on Oct. 29, 2010, included the new definition of a clock hour program. These regulations became effective on July 1, 2011. Based on the new definition, the PSAV programs should have been administered as clock hour for Title IV purposes beginning on in July 2011.

The School Participation Division-Atlanta will not require the schools to recalculate aid using clock hours for the 2011-12 award year. However, this information was available to the schools prior to the beginning of the Fall 2012 term. Therefore, all the schools should have awarded and disbursed Title IV aid for these programs according to the applicable clock hour regulations beginning with the 2012-13 award year, including Fall

2012. If any schools continue to award aid for these programs for the 2012-13 award year via converted credits, those awards must be recalculated and all applicable clock hour rules must be followed.

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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.