

July 2013

News To Know

Implementation of 2013 Legislation Affecting State Programs

All bills affecting state scholarship and grant programs have been signed by the Governor and are effective July 1, 2013. Memorandum Directive #14, pertaining to 2013-14 State Programs Appropriations and Award Amounts, was e-mailed to all Financial Aid Directors on June 12, 2013.

Changes to state scholarship and grant programs

- Bright Futures: Section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, was amended. Senate Bill 1076 repealed the requirement for students to file a completed *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) prior to receiving Bright Futures initial or renewal funding.
- Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) and Access to Better Learning and Education Grant (ABLE): Sections 1009.89 and .891, Florida Statutes, were amended. Senate Bill 1720 repealed the requirement for students to file a completed FAFSA prior to receiving a FRAG or an ABLE initial or renewal funding.

Loan Volume Reporting

SB1500, General Appropriations Act (GAA) proviso language, requires that all institutions receiving OSFA administered state scholarships and/or grant funds shall report to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) by September 1, 2013, total federal loan amounts disbursed and total number of students receiving federal loan funds by institution (in the format specified by the FDOE from the 2012-13 academic year). Additional instructions will be provided in a separate memorandum.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

The following items were added to our NyFF website:

- College Score Card (found under the Student Tab “Types of Schools”)
- Financial Aid Shopping Sheet (found under School Staff Tab “Additional Resources”)
- [Debtslapped.org](http://debtslapped.org) (found under Helpful Links “Budget” and “Credit” tabs)
- Resolving Disputes (found under Helpful Links “Repayment” tab)

To view all NyFF website selections, please visit

<http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/Home.aspx>.

If you are interested in accessing the partner login section, please [contact](#) your local OSFA Outreach Representative to request access to presentations and printed materials.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

July

- **July 1** – State of Florida fiscal year begins for state scholarship and grant programs.
- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program initial 8th semester evaluations and award notifications continue to be posted to students' Financial Aid Recipient History screens.

August

- State scholarship and grant financial aid programs begin funding in the fall and end in the spring. Students who only attend one term may receive a prorated amount of the annual award funding.
- **August 31** – The *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* closes. By this date, all school districts completed graduation (including summer session) for the prior 2012-13 academic year.
- **August 31** – Deadline for fall 2013 Mid-Year high school grads to file applications for mid-year evaluations.

Important Announcements

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), is a proud sponsor of Mapping Your Future (MYF). MYF is an award-winning, public service website that provides career, college, financial aid, and financial literacy information and services for students, families, and schools. OSFA also provides support to MYF. Several Outreach Team members serve on various MYF committees.

Be sure to take advantage of your State sponsored membership and all that MYF has to offer!

Schools can comply with exit counseling regulations by mailing MYF's exit counseling materials to those students who have failed to complete exit counseling.

Direct Loan regulation 34 CFR 685.304(b)(3) states that "if the student fails to complete the exit counseling, exit counseling must be provided either through interactive electronic means or by mailing written counseling materials to the student borrower." This also is true for Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) borrowers. Page 2-113 of Volume 2, Chapter 6 of the [2012-13 Federal Student Aid Handbook](#) indicates that schools can choose to mail or e-mail the counseling materials. If counseling materials are e-mailed, and the e-mail is returned as undeliverable, the materials must then be mailed.

MYF offers a [Direct Loan exit counseling guide](#), [Direct Loan and Direct PLUS combined exit counseling guide](#), and [Perkins exit counseling guide](#). These materials meet federal requirements for both the FFELP and the Direct Loan Program and can fill several different needs.

Seven Florida School Districts Receive Funding for Homeless Youth Education

Projects to assist homeless youth include tours of area colleges. Read more on the website at http://www.fldoe.orgnews/2013/2013_05_03.asp.

Mapping Your Future Offers Resource to Help Schools Comply with Perkins Exit Counseling Regulations

Schools now have an additional resource to help comply with Perkins exit counseling regulations.

Visit

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/Newsroom/newsroomarticle.cfm?7F54464242595E5C7043445F525D5478740B080006> for more 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.