



News To Know

Florida Department of Education

Update to 2013 Florida Legislative Session Tracking for State Scholarships and Grants

**2013
May**

The 2013 Florida Legislative Session commenced March 5, 2013. Well into the session, the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) tracked 48 bills out of over 1,800 bills that may affect state scholarship and grant programs or postsecondary institutions.

You may track all 2013 Florida Legislative bills via Online Sunshine at www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/. Filed bills usually are assigned to at least three committees. Once the bill is approved by each committee, the bill is presented for vote by the chamber (either House or Senate), and then moved to the next chamber for approval or denial. If a bill is passed by both House and Senate, the bill is presented to the Governor. He may sign the bill into law, let the bill become law without his signature, or veto the bill.

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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)



National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER) Announces Income-Driven Repayment Resources Now Available

<http://www.ncher.us/?page=e2148>

To assist in promoting student access and choice for postsecondary education, NCHER is providing new online resources. The Income-Driven Repayment Comparison brochure was updated and a PowerPoint presentation was developed as a companion piece to help explain Income-Based Repayment (IBR), Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR), and Pay As You Earn repayment plans. Both of these resource documents, developed by the NCHER Regulations Committee, may be used together or separately for both internal training and reference purposes. The PowerPoint also includes speaker notes and was developed especially for schools to explain income-driven repayment plans to students and borrowers.

NCHER will continue to keep both documents updated and available for your use. They can be found in the NCHER E-Library and under "Hot Topics" at www.ncher.us.



State Scholarship & Grant Programs

May

Grade and Hours Reports are due to OSFA 30 days after the last day of classes or June 30, whichever comes first. Renewal notifications are posted to students' financial aid history web pages.

- **May 1** – The *2012-13 Renewal Application for Institutional Eligibility* opens. The **Deadline** to file is June 7.
- **May 15** – Processing **Deadline** to file the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* for the Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund and the José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant for initial and renewal students via www.fafsa.ed.gov
- **May 30** – **Deadline** for current year Bright Futures reinstatement/restoration applicants to apply for the 2012-13 academic year via:
www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org
 - Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
 - Select **Apply Here**
 - Select **Reinstatement/Restoration Application**

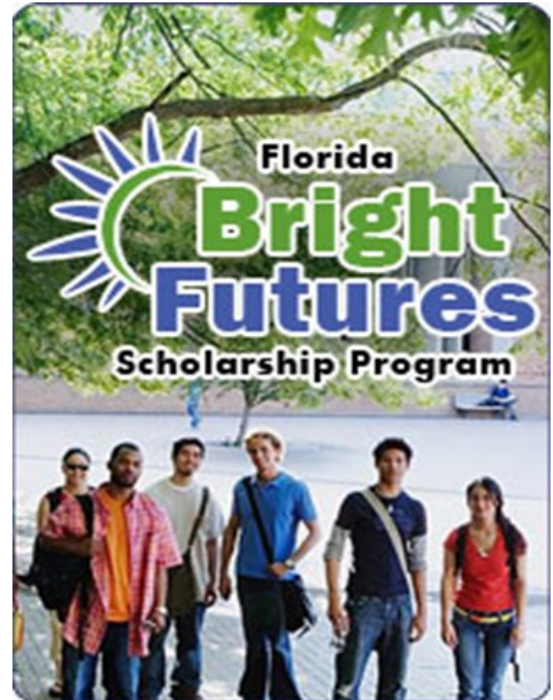
June

State scholarship and grant applicants' notifications of initial and renewal eligibility are viewable on students' Financial Aid Recipient History screens for:

- Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund
- José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant
- Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

Students may check the statuses of their financial aid programs and notifications posted from OSFA on the website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

- Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- Select **Application Status & Award History**
- **June 30** – State of Florida fiscal year ends for state scholarship and grant programs
- **June 30** – or 30 days after the last day of classes (whichever comes first) – Grade and Hours Report deadline



Visit our State

Programs

[Calendar!](#)



Important Announcements

Updated telephone contact information for FSA Ombudsman Group

All calls to the current Federal Student Aid Ombudsman Group phone number, (202) 377-3800, will be routed to the FSA Ombudsman Group call intake center.

Please refer those seeking FSA Ombudsman Group assistance to the toll-free number at (877) 557-2575, or to the online assistance form at www.studentaid.gov/ombudsman. The FSA Ombudsman call intake center is staffed by experienced student aid professionals who will take in the customer's contact information, provide knowledgeable assistance, and create a case record for follow-up.

If you need to contact the Washington, D.C. office directly, please call (202) 377-3881. Please update your contact information, website, and publications to reflect these changes.

Moving Forward

change
WILL DO
YOU
good

FASFAA

HYATT REGENCY COCONUT POINT RESORT & SPA
BONITA SPRINGS

The Annual FASFAA (Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) Conference is May 21 to May 24 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa. This year's theme is *Moving Forward, change will do you good!*

The 2013 Conference Committee has been working very hard to ensure that all attendees will have plenty of time to network with colleagues, learn a great deal, and enjoy 2013 Conference camaraderie.

Please visit the FASFAA conference website at <http://www.fasfaa.org/fasfaa2013-conf> for additional information about registration details, hotel accommodations, agenda, local attractions, and more.

The Community Service Project for this year is the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida. We are asking all schools and participants to begin collecting spare change and decorate a bank for our collecting change competition. Visit http://www.fasfaa.org/assets/2013_FASFAA_Conference/fasfaa%202013%20annual%20conference%20-%20charity%20bank%20flyer%20-%202020130311.pdf for additional information.

Important Announcements

Florida Department of Education

Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Setup

Beginning with the 2013-14 academic year, any postsecondary institution that is determined eligible for state scholarships and grants **will be required to utilize the OSFA FTP for file up/downloads** from the State Student Financial Aid Database (SSFAD). **Only files for your institution's students of record (per the SSFAD) will be provided.** If your institution does not need to up/download files from OSFA, an FTP account is not necessary, and you will continue to be able to determine eligibility and disburse students via the existing manual process.

On behalf of your institution, you may request that OSFA provide access capability to transmit files via OSFA FTP. Forms are available online. Visit our website at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm. Select the **Postsecondary Institutions** tab, and then access the forms under **Disbursement Reporting, Eligibility Determination Lists, or Institution Information**.

Please contact your [OSFA Outreach Representative](#) for additional information.

OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
561-357-6340, office
Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org

Isabel Acevedo
Outreach Representative
South Florida
305-364-3062, office
305-819-0652, fax
Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org

Robin Blank
Outreach Representative
Greater Palm Beach/Broward
561-357-4837, office/fax
Robin.Blank@fldoe.org

Pedro "Pete" Hernandez
Outreach Representative
Northeast Florida
850-245-1821, office
850-488-3612, fax
Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

Gerri McCormick
Outreach Representative
Greater Orlando
407-207-4944, office/fax
Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org

Reyonna Parrish
Outreach Representative
Northwest Florida
850-410-6830, office
850-488-3612, fax
Reyonna.Parrish@fldoe.org

Stephanie Rosh
Outreach Representative
Greater Tampa
727-771-4397, office
Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org

Jan Smith
Manager of Outreach Services
850-245-1822, office
850-488-3612, fax
Jan.Smith@fldoe.org

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, prompt 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.](#)