

May 2013

News To Know

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

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.

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 [here](#) 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

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 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.

Federal Student Aid Administration (FSA) Training Workshops Fundamentals of Federal Student Aid Administration

FSA would like to remind the community about instructor-led Fundamentals of Federal Student Aid Administration training workshops. Registration remains open and space is available for the majority of the workshops scheduled through September 2013. For more information, please see Dear Colleague Letter ANN-13-01 on the IFAP website at <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/ANN1301.html>.

Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA) Annual Conference

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-%2020130311.pdf for additional 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.