

News To Know

Florida Department of Education

College Goal Sunday 2014

2014

April

On behalf of the student and families who attended this year's CGS! Florida event, we would like to thank the 726 volunteers who dedicated their time and energy into making the 2014 CGS!Florida a success.

We would also like to thank the 44 sites who volunteered to host the CGS! Florida event. Our preliminary data shows that CGS!Florida was able to serve 1,143 students and families by providing assistance with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Records received to date also indicate that 866 FAFSAs were completed with many more in various stages of completion. Thank for your time and support in making this year's event a success!

In addition to receiving assistance with FAFSA completion, students also had the opportunity to enter a drawing to win a CGS!Florida scholarship. Via the post-event student survey, 80 students were chosen to win CGS! Florida scholarships worth a total of \$13,000.

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Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)



April is Financial Literacy Month

During the month of April, your institution is encouraged to host a financial education “day” on campus to promote topics such as budgeting, managing credit, and student loan debt management. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) offers free brochures to support school efforts in getting educating students about these important money management skills. The April E-News for students provides links to various financial literacy assessments and online learning options for those who wish to increase their money management skills.

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

Mapping Your Future Offers Various Financial Literacy Tools

By Beth Ziehmer

April is financial literacy month and is just around the corner. Mapping Your Future has several tools to help you educate your students all year, especially during financial literacy month.

Check out the [Mapping Your Future Newsroom](#).

The President’s Advisory Council for Financial Capability for Young Americans

The President’s Advisory Council for Financial Capability for Young Americans met in March to introduce themselves to the general public and express their vision for improving the state of financial education in our nation. Appointed members are from a variety of backgrounds and have a passion for helping toddlers to young adults learn important money management skills. We are excited to see what develops in the months ahead with this advisory council . Learn more about the counsel members [here](#).

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

April

The **Master Eligibility List (MEL)** is open. The “All Programs” MEL for 2014-15 state scholarship and grant programs will be populated with only eligible Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (BF) students after 7th semester (early) evaluations. Later, as the high school academic year ends, the MEL will populate with eligible BF students from the 8th semester (final) evaluations.

On **July 1, 2014**, the MEL will display **all** eligible students for each centralized program – Scholarships for Children/Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans, José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant, Rosewood Family Scholarship Program, and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships.

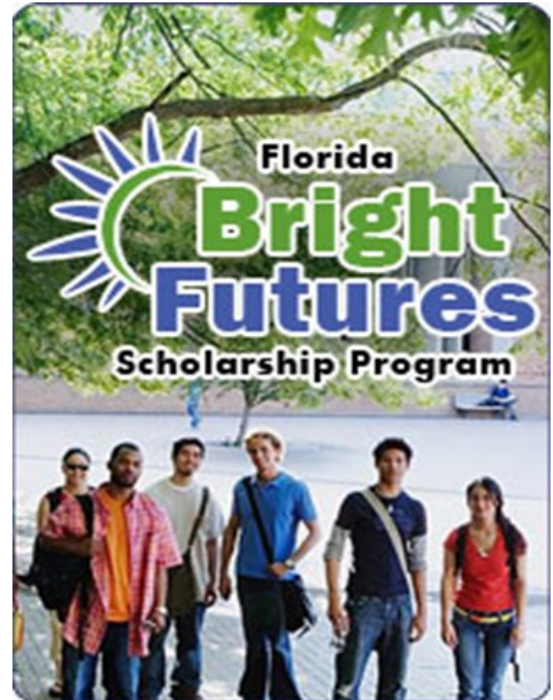
This is the first year of the 1170 SAT test score requirement for BF Florida Medallion Scholarship eligibility. Your institution should anticipate fewer BF eligible students than in past years.

May

The Grade and Hours (G&H) Report will be available for institutions to report student GPA and hours earned for state scholarship and grant renewal. Notifications are posted to students’ Financial Aid Recipient History screens.

May 15 is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) processing deadline for José Martí and Rosewood renewal students.

May 30 is the deadline for Bright Futures students to file the *2013-14 Reinstatement/Restoration Application*.



Visit our State

Programs

[Calendar!](#)



Important Announcements

Mapping Your Future Updates Verification Worksheets

By Beth Ziehmer

Mapping Your Future recently made minor updates to some of the 2014-15 V1 and V5 [verification worksheets](#) to exclude reference to the student's spouse if the form was designated to be for dependent students. The updates do not reflect any regulatory changes, but were to alleviate confusion for parents and students completing the form on behalf of a dependent student.

Schools can access these worksheets by logging into their secure Mapping Your Future [Access Area](#).

Since the worksheets are available as a service to Member schools and schools in Sponsored states, non-member schools are encouraged to learn more about the benefits of Membership at mappingyourfuture.org/Membership/membershippart.htm.

Reducing Stress in the Financial Aid Office

Students aren't the only ones feeling stressed on campus these days—so are those who work in the financial aid office. The issues financial aid professionals face aren't limited to simply working with students and their families. Today's challenges also include learning and complying with new regulations, as well as juggling ongoing deadlines to service an ever-growing number of students. In a recent study, Inceptia unveiled the top stressors that affect financial aid office leadership and staff. Learn about these stressors and some simple steps you can take to relieve them; ultimately making an impact on the well-being of staff, and in turn, the students and parents the financial aid office serves.

This free webinar, presented by Inceptia, is hosted by Kenneth C. (Casey) Green, senior researcher for Inside Higher Ed and founder of The Campus Computing Project, and features Megan McClean, Director of Policy and Federal Relations for NASFAA, and Sue Downing, Vice President of Marketing at Inceptia.

Captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing is provided by CaptionAccess. The transcript is available upon request.

[Access this pre-recorded webinar](#)

Important Announcements

Is your school taking advantage of the OSFA-sponsored Mapping Your Future (MYF) benefits?

By Beth Ziehmer

Sponsors help underwrite MYF and provide schools located within the state they sponsor with the following benefits:

- 22 types of Online Counseling sessions
- School portal for data retrieval, management, and reporting
- Storage of archived records
- ExitExpress and SchoolExpress (automated retrieval)
- Default prevention tools, which include:
 - Ability to enable website integration of counseling
 - Ability to enable website integration of calculators
 - Retrieval of updated student data (from counseling)
 - Customized counseling (adding some school-specific content, determine questions, regulatory required information)
- Counseling instruction flyers
- Educational games
- Printable exit counseling materials
- Servicer information sheet
- 2014-15 verification worksheets
- Ability to subscribe to the MappingXpress documentation collection service for an additional low fee

Please take advantage of your MYF benefits sponsored by the State of Florida, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

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, 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.](#)