

September 2014

News To Know

2014-15 College Goal Sunday (CGS!)

Interested in becoming a host site for **College Goal Sunday (CGS!) 2015?**

The main CGS events are slated for February 21 & 22, 2015, with additional dates available to best fit your community's needs.

The CGS!Florida team is now accepting applications through September 30, 2014. Sites will be selected and hosts notified by October 31, 2014.

APPLY and LEARN more [HERE!](#)

Got Questions? Ask your [OSFA Outreach Representative.](#)

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

NyFF Website Redesign

Phase “1” of our NyFF website transition is now complete!

To streamline the most important information used on our website, we cleaned out the clutter and got back to basics. Important changes that will hopefully make your life easier:

- The order form no longer requires a log in or password to access.
- The entire site may now be viewed easily on various devices such as mobile phones, tablets and PC screens.

Visit our website and tell us what you think – your feedback is most welcome and will be used in our Phase 2 planning.

Mapping Your Future Updates

Once just isn't enough: Students can complete counseling multiple times on Mapping Your Future Student loan entrance and exit counseling sessions come at some of the busiest times for students. Just when they are just starting out, they are bombarded with a lot of new information.

Financial literacy and non-regulatory counseling for students discussed at NASFAA conference

One of the common themes of many presentations and discussions at the NASFAA conference in Nashville a few weeks ago was the need for more financial literacy and non-regulatory counseling for students.

Mapping Your Future offers printable guide for parents considering PLUS loans

There are proposals under consideration now for Parent PLUS loan counseling, but, as of yet, there are no requirements for parents to receive counseling before obtaining a Direct PLUS loan for their child.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

OSFA Calendar September/October

- September/October — Term 1 Disbursement Eligibility (DER) Report is due to OSFA 30 days after the last day of drop/add
- September 30th — Grade and Hours Report deadline for current summer term for Bright Futures restoration eligibility

Thank you!

OSFA would like to thank you for the submission of your institution's Florida Loan Disbursement Report in a timely manner. This annual reporting requirement is set by the Florida Legislature. We appreciate your assistance in completing this requirement.

Did you know?

NEW! All memos are now posted to the website! If you have missed any information provided in a memo, you will now have it available. Simply log in and choose *Memorandums, Directives & Training* under the Publications heading.

Important Announcements

Title IV Updates

By David Bartnicki, Federal Training Officer, Federal Student Aid

150% DL Sub Limits and NSLDS Reporting

A lot of schools have been asking questions around the new reporting requirements in NSLDS due to the 150% DL Sub Limits. ED recently hosted two webinars providing detailed information on the new NSLDS Reporting Requirements. I am pleased to announce that the recordings of those webinars are now available for viewing. Please see Dear Colleague Letter ANN-14-16 (<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/ANN1416.html>) for specific instructions and links to view the recordings.

FISAP

For those schools participating in the Campus-Based programs, or for those schools contemplating getting into the Campus-Based programs, the application for the Fiscal Operations Report for 2013-2014 and Application to Participate for 2015-2016 (FISAP) is now available on the eCB Web site(cbfisap.ed.gov). Please note: the deadline for the electronic submission of the FISAP is 11:59 P.M. (ET) on **October 1, 2014**. Transmission must be completed by 12:00 midnight on October 1, 2014. Online training to complete the FISAP should be available on IFAP in the near future.

FSA Training Conference

I am happy to report that registration and lodging for the 2014 FSA Training Conference is now open at <http://fsaconferences.ed.gov>. This year's conference will be held in Atlanta at the Georgia World Congress Center, December 2 – December 5, 2014. Conference hotels fill up fast, so, if you have not made your reservations, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

New Experimental Sites

On July 31, 2014, ED published a federal register notice outlining new experimental site initiatives that schools could apply to participate in where the Secretary can waive certain statutory or regulation requirements for schools to test alternative methods of administering Title IV funds. The new experiments we would like schools to test are: prior learning assessments, competency-based education, limited direct assessment, and FWS for near-peer counseling. I know schools often talk about prior learning or

competency-based programs so now is your chance to help the Department understand these learning methods and how we might incorporate them into our Title IV rules and regulations. Letters of application to participate in any of the proposed experiments described in the notice must be received by the Department no later than September 29, 2014 in order for an institution to receive priority to be considered for participation in the experiment.

For detailed information about the experiments and the application process, please see the July 31, 2014 federal register (<http://ifap.ed.gov/fregisters/FR073114ExperimentalSites.html>).

Additional Guidance on the Supreme Court's Ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act

GEN-14-14 and GEN-14-15

ED published two recent DCLs that provided further guidance around the Supreme Court's ruling on the DOMA.

GEN-14-14 — ED clarified that a stepparent, who meets the definition of “parent” in 34 CFR 668.2, and who is of the same sex as the dependent student's biological or adoptive parent, may apply for a Direct PLUS Loan if the stepparent and parent were legally married in any domestic or foreign jurisdiction that recognizes the relationship as a valid marriage, regardless of where the couple resides.

GEN-14-15 — ED discusses section 135 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), which requires a state that receives assistance under the HEA not to charge a member of the armed forces who is on active duty for more than 30 days and whose domicile or permanent duty station is in the state more than the in-state tuition rate for attendance at a public institution of higher education. Section 135 also provides that the spouse or dependent child of such a service member may not be charged more than the in-state tuition rate.

You may read the details via the links provided above.

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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.