

# NEWS TO KNOW

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



November 2015



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## 2014-15 Annual Report to the Commissioner

The 2014-15 Annual Report to the Commissioner, provided by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), is now available [online](#). The Annual Report provides statistical information about state scholarship and grant programs funded by the Florida Legislature and federal programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

OSFA administers state- and federally-funded programs that provide Florida's students access to postsecondary education. These programs provide funds to students who may not otherwise be able to afford a college education and the opportunity to pursue a career in technical and academic fields of their choice.

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **GEN 15-03**

Provides information regarding the wind-down of the Federal Perkins Loan Program. It also provides information regarding schools' limited authority to continue to make loans to certain students beyond September 30, 2015.

## **Strengthening Student Loan System to Better Protect Borrowers**

On Oct. 1, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education released a new report outlining a series of statutory, regulatory, and administrative recommendations to safeguard student borrowers. The report, developed in consultation with the Department of the Treasury and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, builds on years of work to help Americans manage their student loan debt and protect the most vulnerable borrowers.

Among the key recommendations in the report to protect federal student loan borrowers:

- Increase borrower protections in the federal student loan program
- Update debt collection and offset
- Enhance federal data-sharing to improve the federal student loan borrower experience
- Strengthen federal student loan servicing

The report also proposes several steps to protect borrowers of private student loans, which do not offer consumers the same protections and benefits as federal loans.

## **Training Offered by Federal Student Aid**

Provides information on Federal Student Aid staff presentations at professional development conferences and training on financial aid. Scholarship Application Strategies and Resources and Understanding the New FSA ID are among the topics offered.

Federal Student Aid also offers a Professional Resources channel on YouTube. Video topics include helping your students with FAFSA completion and how to embed FSA's Twitter feed into your website.

To learn more, click [here](#).



## Calendar Events

⇒ Term I Disbursement Eligibility Reports are due to OSFA 30 days after the last day of drop/add

For additional calendar events, visit the [State Programs Business Calendar](#).

### National Training for Counselors and Mentors

OSFA is pleased to announce the Outreach Team will be hosting a series of NT4CM workshops throughout the state of Florida. This FREE one-day workshop is ideal for new staff members.

To find a location near you, click [here](#).

To register, click [here](#).

## OUTREACH TEAM CONTACT INFO

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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

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| State Programs: | 888-827-2004   |
| E-mail:         | <a href="mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org">OSFA@fldoe.org</a>   |
| Federal Loans:  | 800-366-3475   |
| Local:          | 850-410-5200   |
| E-mail:         | <a href="mailto:OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org">OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org</a>                 |
| Website:        | <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org</a> |

*[Click here](#) to contact  
an OSFA Outreach  
Representative about  
your institution's  
needs.*