

NEWS TO KNOW

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



March 2016

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Perkins Loan Extension Act

On February 17th, the U.S. Department of Education released [DCL ID: GEN-16-05](#) to offer guidance on the Perkins Loan Program. The Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 extended the Perkins Loan Program through September 30, 2017, but included significant program changes. DCL ID: GEN-16-05 supersedes DCL GEN 15-03.

FSA Ombudsman

Effective February 28, 2016, the FSA Ombudsman may be contacted via the following methods:

Telephone: 877-557-2575

Fax: 606-396-4821

Mail: FSA Ombudsman

PO Box 1843

Monticello, KY 42633

Online: [Click here](#)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



2017-18 Early FAFSA and Prior-Prior Year

This Electronic Announcement is the second in what will be a series of announcements providing the community with important information about the development and implementation of the FAFSA changes announced by President Obama on September 14, 2015 (see [Early FAFSA Electronic Announcement #1](#)). If you would like to share your thoughts, ideas and concerns as these changes are being implemented, please mail EarlyFAFSAfeedback@ed.gov. Although not all emails will receive a direct response, all messages will be carefully reviewed.

Federal Student Aid (FSA) Training on Specific Functions

FSA has recently posted new webinar recordings on “Verification and Unusual Enrollment History” and “Cash Management Regulations.” For more information regarding these webinars (and others), visit [FSA Training](#). FSA is also hosting a series of “Regional Drive-In Workshop Series.” (Note: the nearest workshop location is Atlanta.) For more information regarding these workshops, visit [DCL ID: ANN-16-03](#).

2016 Training Opportunities

FASF AA Region I Workshop (Panama City, FL)	March 18
FASF AA Region II Workshop (Gainesville, FL)	March 29
FASF AA Region III Workshop (Orlando, FL)	April 1
FASF AA Region IV Workshop (Ft. Myers, FL)	March 3
Florida College Access & Success Summit (Orlando, FL)	May 11-12
FASF AA Cash Management/Business Office Workshop (Bonita Springs, FL)	May 23-24
FASF AA Annual Conference (Bonita Springs, FL)	May 24-27
NASF AA Annual Conference (Washington, DC)	July 10-13

To learn more about these training opportunities, click [here](#).

OSFA INFORMATION



Calendar Events

- ⇒ Program compliance audits due from participating private institutions.
- ⇒ Program funds sent to eligible PSIs for Term 3.
- ⇒ Term 2 quarter refunds of Bright Futures dropped/withdrawn course funds are due within 30 days of the institution's last day of the term.
- ⇒ Term 3 DERs are due 30 days after the last day of drop/add.

2015 Florida Legislative Financial Aid — Expanded Reporting Requirements

In order to fulfill the expanded reporting requirements, the Florida Department of Education is requiring ALL institutions participating in state scholarship and grant programs to provide all grant, scholarship and award information on a student-level basis for any student who received state aid during the 2014-15 academic year. This report is due **APRIL 29, 2016**.

2016 Florida Legislative Mid-Session Tracking

The Office of Student Financial Assistance is currently tracking various bills that may affect state grants and scholarship programs. These proposed bills still have committee stops and must be passed by both the House and Senate before being signed into law by the Governor.

2016-17 Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The maximum EFC for FSAG Public, Private and Postsecondary sectors remains unchanged for the 2016-17 academic year.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Statistical Reports

This website provides a comprehensive history of annual Bright Futures statistics from the program's inception in 1997 to the present.

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

State Programs:	888-827-2004
E-mail:	OSFA@fldoe.org
Federal Loans:	800-366-3475
Local:	850-410-5200
E-mail:	OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org
Website:	www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

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