

NEWS TO KNOW



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AUGUST 2017



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- LEGISLATIVE UPDATES..... 1
- OUTREACH SERVICES..... 2
- DATES TO NOTE..... 3
- TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES 4
- OSFA PHILOSOPHY..... 5

Legislative Updates

Florida financial aid professionals are actively implementing legislative changes effective July 1, 2017. Updates are provided on OSFA’s website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Select the State Grants, Scholarships & Applications tab and then, “What’s New” to read about the changes.

Many postsecondary institutions have contacted our office requesting guidance on the new student loan debt information requirements found in Section 1009.45, Florida Statutes. On July 10, 2017, a memorandum was provided to financial aid directors with a Frequently Asked Questions attachment to explain the requirements of this new legislation. To view the information online, from the State Programs Home page, select Postsecondary Institutions on the blue menu bar and login. Under Publications, choose Memorandum Directives and Training. Refer to OSFA-STATE: #17-18:06 and the attachment.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Carol Bailey at Carol.Bailey@fldoe.org or 888-827-2004.



OUTREACH SERVICES UPDATE

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has had a busy summer of restructuring our Outreach Services for high schools and post-secondary institutions. We are proud to announce the following platform of free resources to assist you with the upcoming financial aid season.

Speakers' Bureau

OSFA has partnered with local state colleges and universities to provide in-person financial aid presentations. If you have staff members who would like to be part of the Speakers' Bureau, please have them [register here](#). Training will be provided. Speakers will be matched to local high schools or community groups requesting a financial aid overview.



Financial Aid Overview DVD

The financial aid overview presentation has been recorded and will soon be available online as well as in DVD format for your convenience. OSFA staff will serve as the contacts for questions from parents and students. Parents and students may email us at NyFF-Info@fldoe.org. Our staff will respond within 48 hours.

Train-the-Trainer Sessions

We will be glad to provide a train-the-trainer session to review the Financial Aid Overview presentation and answer questions.

Financial Aid Night/FAFSA Lab Coaching

OSFA staff will work with high schools and community groups to review our financial aid Night or FAFSA Lab online toolkits.

Webinars

OSFA will offer webinars on a variety of financial aid topics. Watch for notifications of upcoming webinars and plan to join us.



Do you have a comment, suggestion or question? Please contact us at:

- Pedro Hernandez, Outreach Services | 850-245-1821 | Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org
- Jan Smith, Outreach Services | 850-245-1822 | Jan.Smith@fldoe.org
- Lou Anne Standley, Director of Claims | 850-245-1983 | Louanne.Standley@fldoe.org
- Levis Hughes, Bureau Chief | 850-410-6810 | Levis.Hughes@fldoe.org



Dates to Note

Loan Volume Disbursement Reporting: Have you submitted your data? Please review the July 5, 2017, memo (OSFA-STATE: # 17-18:02), which includes technical guidance.

Other items of interest:

August 29	State University System (SUS) Tour (University of South Florida)
August 30	SUS Tour (New College)
August 31	SUS Tour (Florida International University)
September 1	SUS Tour (Florida Atlantic University)
September 4	Labor Day
September 6	SUS Tour (Florida State University—Panama City)
September 7	SUS Tour (University of North Florida)
September 8	SUS Tour (University of Central Florida)
October 1	Applications open for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)
November 23	Thanksgiving Day

FSA ID reminder:

Now is the time for students to complete the FSA ID username and password in preparation for the upcoming financial aid season starting October 1, 2017. YouTube tutorials from Federal Student Aid are available. Consider sending these links to students and families in preparation for financial aid applications:

- [How to Create an FSA ID - YouTube](#)
- [FAFSA and FSA ID Tips for Parents - YouTube](#)



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

FOR NEW STAFF:

Do you have new staff who need to be trained on state grants and scholarships? Are there other financial aid topics for which you or your team need refreshers? Contact our OSFA Training Unit to schedule a webinar for your team. Hortensia Campbell is our OSFA trainer. She may be reached by calling 850-245-1890 or by email at Hortensia.Campbell@fldoe.org.

FOR ALL FINANCIAL AID STAFF:

Mapping Your Future will offer FAFSA training in August and September.

Financial aid professionals, who assist students with the FAFSA or manage the verification process, should be aware of changes to the 2018-19 FAFSA. The training includes how the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) works. For students and parents completing the FAFSA, the a new version of the DRT will be available for the FAFSA this fall. Parents will no longer be able to see the data from the IRS.

Jennifer Martin, Director of Financial Aid Compliance at Johns Hopkins University, will be presenting. She will guide the attendees through the FAFSA, providing special emphasis on the changes from prior years.

This webinar will be offered on three dates. Click the date link below to register:

[Wednesday, August 30](#) at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)

[Thursday, September 7](#) at 2:00 p.m. EST

[Wednesday, September 20](#) at 11:00 a.m. EST

The training will be provided via a GoToWebinar, which can be attended from any computer. Please check with your technical staff if you are unsure if your network will allow you to access GoToWebinar. If others in your office would like to also view the webinar, you may share the same computer and phone connection. In this scenario, only one staff member needs to register. However, the registration login may only be used on one computer, not at multiple computers simultaneously.



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

Customer Service: 1-888-827-2004

Email: OSFA@fldoe.org

Federal Loans: 1-800-366-3475

Locally: 1-850-410-5200

Email: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website at

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org