

NEWS TO KNOW



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

December 2017



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DATES to NOTE:

December 25: OSFA office closed .

December: Program funds sent to eligible PSIs for Term 2.

January: Term 1 semester and quarter refunds of BF dropped/withdrawn credits are due within 30 days of the institution's last day of the term.

Term 2 DERs are due 30 days after the last day of drop/add.

State Programs Guide:

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has reorganized the *Postsecondary Institution Guide to the State Student Financial Aid Database (SSFAD)*. Over the years, needs of financial aid professionals have changed.

OSFA will focus directly on those needs and provide guidance to the most frequently asked questions. Instead of one guide, financial aid professionals will find a series of "self-help" resources designed to guide the users through one facet of the SSFAD at a time.

These resources will be updated frequently (see the revision date in the footer of each resource) and resources will be added or deleted as necessary.

Email questions to OSFA@fldoe.org or call 888-827-2004.

Outreach Services Update

In the spring semester, the Outreach Unit will continue to coordinate FAFSA lab requests from high schools, organizations and other agencies at regional postsecondary institutions.

In addition, high school and transferring postsecondary students will be comparing financial aid award packages and finalizing their school choices. Reading through a financial aid award letter (hardcopy or electronic) can be confusing.

Most financial aid award packages may now contain student loans. The student will have the option to “decline” or “accept” student loans. If a student accepts the loans, he/she must understand it will need to be REPAID. Unlike scholarships and grants which do not have to be repaid, student loans follow the student throughout his/her adult life until paid in full.



The Outreach Unit will be offering webinars for students at all grade levels to help them understand the award letter, financial aid package details, and how to compare institutional financial aid award packages. If you would like to schedule a webinar for your students and/or families, please contact Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org or Jan.Smith@fldoe.org for more information.



Additional Training:

Do you have new staff members 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 OSFA Training 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.

RESOURCES FOR YOUR OFFICE

Postsecondary Resources: NavigatingYourFuture.org

Select Resources Tab - Free Materials and Publications:

- Order form for brochures, posters, bookmarks
- NyFF/OSFA publications

Downloadable Materials - PowerPoint Presentations

- Career Planning
- Managing Your Budget
- Managing Your Credit
- Repayment of Your Student Loan Debt
- Stay, Stop or Drop

Financial Aid Resources:

- Fastweb Scholarships, Internships, Colleges and More
- Florida Scholarships and Grants
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

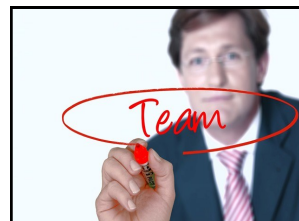
Florida-Sponsored Free Partnership Resources: MappingYourFuture.org

Select Resources Tab:

- Prepare for College
- Pay for College
- Manage your Money
- Explore Careers

Select Financial Aid Professionals:

- Regulatory and non-regulatory counseling sessions
- Training opportunities
- Educational materials



Be on the lookout for
upcoming FASFAA
Regional Workshops!

www.FASFAA.org



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: 888-827-2004

Email: OSFA@fldoe.org

Federal Loans: 800-366-3475

Locally: 850-410-5200

Email: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website at

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org