

March 2018



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Stay, Stop or Drop

Students often lose financial aid due to making uneducated decisions regarding their enrollment. The key is to reach these students before the difficult decisions are made. OSFA's "Stay, Stop or Drop" information campaign addresses key issues that students need to consider prior to making decisions that may impact their pursuit of higher education.

- *Students who lose an average of between \$1,500 and \$2,000 of financial aid dollars are three percentage points more likely to leave college when compared to their peers.*
- *Students who lose an average of \$4,000 of financial aid dollars are more than four percentage points more likely to leave college when compared to their peers.*
- *Students who lose over \$10,000 financial aid dollars are nineteen percentage points more likely to leave college when compared to their peers.*

See the *Stay, Stop or Drop? Navigating Your Educational Future* [brochure](#) for additional information.

Meet your organization's college access objectives with Mapping Your Future

Increasing the number of students that complete a postsecondary education is a worthy goal. To maintain or increase enrollment is a goal shared at the federal and state levels and postsecondary institutions.

Mapping Your Future provides resources and services to help support efforts to reach college access and success goals. These services can be customized for a particular state or organization.

- **Resources for students and families**, including career selection, early awareness, college planning, and money management tools. These resources encourage students to look at all sources of free funding before considering a student loan. The goal is to help students and families to prepare by providing current, accurate, and complete information about options to pay for a higher education and to help guide them through the process of determining their best options. Mapping Your Future can also provide webinars, content, and other services customized for a specific state or institution.
- **Information and education for the hot topics of higher education and financial literacy.** Many are trying to determine if a higher education is worth the expense and debt. The questions they are asking include:
 - Is higher education worth it?
 - How am I going to pay for it?
 - If I choose to seek higher education and need to borrow money, how can I manage the debt and maintain a good quality of life?

Mapping Your Future provides many online services to assist students and families as they consider these questions.

Higher education institutions and industry organizations want to inform parents and families about higher education and financial aid, which is the mission of many of our organizations.

As you include communications and outreach as a part of your planning, be sure to include Mapping Your Future to help accomplish your strategic goals.

For more information on including these resources in your strategic planning, contact Cathy Mueller at cathy@mappingyourfuture.org or call 940-497-0741.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



2018-19 FASFAA Training

Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA)

⇒ FASFAA Annual Conference May 29-June 1 (Naples, Florida)

For more information, visit www.fasfaa.org.

2018 NASFAA Training

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

⇒ NASFAA Annual Conference June 24-27 (Austin, Texas)

⇒ Leadership & Legislative Conference February 26-28 (Washington, D.C.)

For more information, visit www.nasfaa.org.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF) Website

The NyFF [website](#) will be undergoing major changes in the next 4-6 weeks. Stay tuned for a whole new look! The OSFA Outreach Team will also be adding a variety of new resources to help the students and families you serve as they pursue higher education.



Bright Futures Summer 2018 Funding

The 2017 Legislature provided specific appropriation to fund Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) during summer 2018. Please update communication with students so they are properly notified how to enroll in approved courses and receive funding.

Key Elements for Preparing for the Summer 2018 Term

- Initial allocations will be provided to institutions submitting a Summer Allocation Request Form by the stated deadline in the timetable below.
- Supplemental funds will be provided to institutions that reconcile by the deadline.
- Students disbursed as FAS at your institution during Term 2 will populate on your summer Master Eligibility List (MEL).

Transient students must have prior approval by the “Home” institution to receive funding. The “Home” institution, where the students are degree-seeking, will receive funding.

Timetable for Implementation

- March 5 – OSFA to send instructions to FAS students to notify financial aid offices if they intend to enroll in approved courses during the summer (see attached).
- April 2 – OSFA to populate students on the summer MEL (SAISUMMERMELD1718999.txt).
- April 6 – Summer Allocation Request Forms are due to OSFA.
- April 16 – OSFA to send allocations to postsecondary institutions.
- June 22 – The reconciliation deadline for requesting additional funds.
- August 10 – Summer DER closes (all subsequent changes must be sent to OSFA).

Forms and Resources

- [Bright Futures Summer 2018 Funding – Questions and Answers](#)
- [Letter sent to 2017-18 Florida Academic Scholars](#)
- [Bright Futures Summer 2018 Allocation Request Form](#)



OSFA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note from Jan Smith:

To all of the wonderful postsecondary financial aid professionals, I just want to say what a privilege it has been to work with you these past 9 plus years! Your dedication to serving students is inspiring to so many around you.

On February 2, 2018, I ended my time with OSFA to move to a new state with new responsibilities working directly with students in the area of college access.

I accepted a position in Richmond, Virginia and am working exclusively with first generation, low-income, minority teens by providing college access awareness (i.e. financial aid and financial literacy initiatives).

I am excited to take this next step in my journey and will always remember my time in Florida fondly because of amazing people like you!



Jan



March

- ⇒ Term 2 refunds/reconciliation due to OSFA within 60 days after the last day of drop/add.
- ⇒ Program compliance audits due from participating private institutions by March 31, 2018.
- ⇒ Program funds sent to eligible PSIs for Term 3.