



News To Know

Florida Department of Education

**The Office of Student Financial Assistance
Wishes you a Happy New Year!**

**January
2010**

Federal Family Educational Loan Program Undecided?

Currently, no decision has been made regarding the future of the Federal Family Educational Loan Program (FFELP). Leaders in Congress said they would consider student aid legislation after healthcare reform is passed, or combine it with a health care bill if Congress cannot pass healthcare through the normal legislative process.

A [letter](#) was sent to Secretary Arne Duncan, U. S. Department of Education (ED), from three of the four House Democratic lawmakers who voted against H.R. 3221 (which authorizes the termination of FFELP in favor of the Direct Loan Program). The letter did not mention the July expiration of the Department's ability to purchase FFELP loans through the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (ECASLA); however, the three lawmakers strongly expressed their support for FFELP. "We remain skeptical of the proposal (H.R. 3221) and its prospects in the Senate are unclear. Many aspects of the current system have skillfully served students and schools for many years and it is important to us and our constituencies that the FFELP private infrastructure be preserved. Incorporating existing facets of the FFELP would minimize risks of a disruption in the availability of loans to students, minimize the costs borne by schools that would be required to transition to a new system, and maintain retail market competition as a means of promoting innovation and customer service excellence."

ED communicated to over 3,000 postsecondary institutions, encouraging schools to prepare for the transition to the Direct Lending Program. Given that Congress has not issued a final word on the Administration's proposal, the lawmakers requested a response from ED on how ED intended "to restore confidence in the currently authorized system."

You may [contact](#) your congressional representative and senators to voice any concerns you may have about the 2010 Federal Budget proposal and FFELP.

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The OSFA mission is to facilitate higher education access and services by providing exemplary customer attention, comprehensive financial aid information, and convenient and efficient products.

Navigating Your Financial Future



National Training for Counselors & Mentors (NT4CM)

The 2010-11 National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) had a great start. NT4CM provides free training and support for counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. During November and December, over 170 Florida guidance counselors, postsecondary financial aid professionals, and mentors in North and South Florida attended sessions.

For upcoming dates and locations visit the OSFA training [Web site](#).

Additional information and **NT4CM presentation material** can also be found on our NyFF [Web site](#). To receive a log-in please contact your OSFA Outreach Representative.



*your dream, your plan, **your future***

College Goal Sunday

Every year in Florida, millions of Pell grant dollars are left unclaimed simply because Pell-eligible students fail to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). College Goal Sunday provides on-site expert assistance to students completing the FAFSA. Limited-income and first generation college students will have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of having access to and completing their college education. For additional questions regarding this event, contact Braulio Colón, Assistant Director of ENLACE at (813) 974-3897. We encourage students to attend College Goal Sunday sessions in their area! Visit collegegoalsundayusa.org/.



Important Announcements

General Appropriations Act (GAA) Requirement for Institutions Receiving Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Funds

Financial Aid Directors and Florida Student Assistant Grant (FSAG) Contacts at postsecondary institutions participating in state scholarship and grant programs please take note of the following requirement.

Specific Appropriation 67 (Section 2 - Education, page 17) of the 2009 General Appropriations Act specifies that any institution participating in the FSAG program report to the Department prior to February 1, 2010, the following information for each Stafford and PLUS loan in the format specified by the Department:

- guarantor
- lender
- number amount
- overall total of loans to date for the 2009-10 fiscal year

Within the next two weeks, FSAG participating postsecondary institutions will receive a request and a file layout to assist designated staff in reporting this information by the February 1, 2010 deadline.

If OSFA is used as a guarantor, the postsecondary institution will be able to access OSFA's Online FFEL Reporting and download the excel version (adding other guarantor information, if necessary) to submit on the institution's behalf. If the postsecondary institution currently does not have access to OSFA's Online FFEL Reporting, the Financial Aid Director or FSAG Contact should call or e-mail the local OSFA Outreach Representative for access. Designated staff may also complete the file layout manually and submit it via e-mail to lori.auxier@fldoe.org or fax it to 561-292-6002.

If you have any questions regarding these reporting procedures, please do not hesitate to contact Lori Auxier at 850-212-2997.



Visit our State Programs

[Calendar](#)

for January Events!

Important Announcements

Trial three-year Cohort Default Rates (CDRs) released from the U. S. Department of Education (ED)

To assist schools in preparing for the transition to the three-year CDR, ED is releasing "trial" unofficial three-year CDRs for FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. These rates are provided for information only. No benefits or sanctions apply to these trial rates. Because these are unofficial rates and serve as preview data only, postsecondary institutions may not submit challenges or appeals that normally apply to draft and official rates. These rates do not reflect certain adjustments that may be made for official rates (fewer than 30 borrowers in a cohort, low participation, mergers, recalculations due to appeals or adjustments, etc.).

Postsecondary Institutions can access their trial CDRs and request a Loan Record Detail Report (LRDR) for each calculation through the [National Student Loan Data System](#) (NSLDS). In addition, postsecondary institutions will be able to compare these trial rates with their official two-year rates for the relevant cohort years. On December 14, 2009, these trial rates (with enrollment information) were posted publicly on the [Federal Student Aid Data Center](#). To view the entire ED announcement on three-year cohort rates, please visit the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals](#) Web site.

To receive your OSFA trial three year CDR visit OSFA [Online Reports](#). If you need a sign-on, please contact the local OSFA Outreach Representative.



Important Announcements

Pell Advanced Funded Schools

Beginning with the 2010-11 Award Year and forward, the earliest number of days for Pell Advanced Funded schools to submit actual disbursement data ('true') will be 7 days prior to the actual disbursement. This is a change from 30 days and brings Pell into alignment with other Title IV programs.



Parent PLUS New In-School Deferment

A parent can receive the new in-school deferment for a student (who otherwise meets all requirements) regardless of the student's dependency status. The student for whom the parent PLUS loan was taken can be a dependent or an independent student.

Holidays

January 1, 2010
New Years Day

January 18, 2010
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



The OSFA Philosophy

As a public agency, OSFA has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few guarantors can; the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific needs and concerns. Earnings generated from OSFA's loan programs may be used to provide financial aid workshops, publications, better services for participants, and help fund scholarship and grant programs. When schools and students choose to use the OSFA guarantee for student loans, they actually help countless other needy and deserving students. 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 Web site. Previous editions may be viewed on our [Archives](#) page.

Contact OSFA

Toll-free State Programs: 1-888-827-2004

Toll-free Federal Loans: 1-800-366-3475

Locally: 1-850-410-5200

E-mail: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our Web site at

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

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