

# News to Know

## Florida Department of Education

July 2010

### Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

#### Claims Processing Automation

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. In adhering to our mission, it is with great pleasure that we announce major improvements in one area of service to students.

We have been working diligently with our partners to move forward with electronic claim submission in accordance with the Common Claim Initiative (CCI). Allowing our partners the option of electronic request for claim reimbursements moves OSFA into the future, while reducing costs and increasing efficiency. As we continue to shape our services based on the specific needs of our partners, we see the opportunity to streamline the claims submission and reimbursement process while providing continued customer service to our partners.

## Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

### Navigating Your Financial Future

The NyFF [website](#) is designed to provide guidance to students regarding financial issues that they may face. From seeking financial aid, to budgeting and managing credit, we have FREE resources available to assist students in making good financial decisions.

The following **FREE services and resources** are provided by NyFF Outreach Representatives:

- Budget Management Workshops (for postsecondary students)
- Default Prevention Programs (for financial aid staff)
- Student Loan Repayment Workshops (for student loan borrowers)
- Financial Literacy Training Materials (for postsecondary institutions, students, adult learners, and parents)

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) can help your institution promote financial literacy! Contact your local Outreach Representative is available to assist you.

## **Online FFELP Reports**

OSFA's new Claim Received Date (Claim Recd Date#) column in the Delinquency Loan Details Report is a great resource for our institutional partners. This new column can be an integral part of your institution's late-stage delinquency efforts and hopefully assist students avoid default.

On the *Delinquent Loan Details Report and Denominator Subset - Delinquent Borrower Details Report*, the total number of borrowers and the total number of loans have been added at the end of each report. Our new column, Claim Recd Date#, is located between the Days Delinquent and the Current Payment Amount columns. View this and many other valuable reports at our Online FFELP Reports [website](#). Contact an OSFA Outreach Representative for login information.

# **State Scholarship & Grant Programs**

## **2010-11 Critical Teacher Shortage (CTS) Student Loan Forgiveness and Tuition Reimbursement Program Funding**

This year's legislative session appropriated no budget for the 2010-11 year for two programs that assisted employees in Florida publicly-funded schools with educational funding: the CTS Student Loan Forgiveness program and CTS Tuition Reimbursement program. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) will therefore not be

providing awards to initial or renewing teachers for their CTS teaching service.

Listed below are additional financial assistance programs for teachers that may be of interest to the teachers.

### **Loan Forgiveness:**

- The Florida Department of Education, OSFA continues to administer the **Stafford Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers** to assist with educational funding which may provide up to \$17,500 to teachers in principal and interest on Federal Family Education Loans and/or Direct Loans for teaching for five consecutive years in a designated low income school. Contact OSFA Customer Service at [OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org) or call our toll-free number at 1-800-366-3475, or visit the Federal Student Aid [website](#) for qualifications and a listing of eligible low-income schools.
- There is a new **Federal loan forgiveness program for public service employees**. Under this program, the amount forgiven is the remaining outstanding balance of principal and accrued interest on an eligible *Direct Loan* for a borrower who is not in default and who makes 120 monthly payments on the loan after October 1, 2007. The borrower must be employed full-time in a public service job during the same period in which the qualifying payments are made and at the time that the cancellation is granted. Visit the Federal Student Aid [website](#) for more information about Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employees and a listing of eligible public service jobs.

### **Tuition Reimbursement:**

- Through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Congress created the **Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program** that provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. Visit the Federal Student Aid [website](#) for additional information on this federal program and eligibility requirements prior to contacting an institution's financial aid office. Questions regarding the unfunded Florida CTS programs, may be directed to Catherine Hall via e-mail at [Catherine.Hall@fldoe.org](mailto:Catherine.Hall@fldoe.org) or call toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

# Important Announcements

## College Goal Sunday (CGS)

Florida's CGS Taskforce has selected February 20, 2011, as the date for the next CGS event. Sign up to host the 2011 event. Remember, February is Student Financial Aid Awareness Month.

Students will:

- Get **FREE** on-site professional assistance to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA),
- Talk to financial aid professionals about financial aid resources and how to apply,
- Get information regarding statewide student services, admission requirements, and more!

For more information, please visit the CGS [website](#).

## EExpress Training to Process Direct Loans

The next online training session will be held at 2:00 p.m. EST, on July 26, 2010. This webinar will provide a complete overview of the EExpress Direct Loan module for Windows, to process Direct Loans.

This session includes information about the following software functions and processes:

- Setup,
- Loan Origination,
- Disbursements,
- Exporting Origination and Disbursement Records,
- Modifying Disbursement Information,
- Multiple Entry, and
- Reports.

For further details and for the link to register, please visit [ANN-10-25](#).

## **National SMART Grant Program's List of Eligible Majors for Award Year 2010-11**

GEN-10-12 provides the list of academic majors eligible for the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant Program for the 2010-11 award year. The final regulations for the National SMART Grant Program, which were published on October 29, 2007, provided a mechanism for institutions of higher education to request that additional majors be designated as eligible majors for which otherwise eligible students could receive a National SMART Grant. Additionally, final regulations published on November 23, 2009, provide a process by which an institution may request designation of a qualifying liberal arts curriculum as a National SMART Grant-eligible major. For additional information please visit [DCL ID: GEN-10-12](#).

### **OSFA's Outreach Team New Contact information**

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