

News to Know
Florida Department of Education
March 2010

2010 Florida Legislative Session Tracking Programs

The 2010 Florida Legislative Session commenced on March 2, 2010, and is scheduled to end April 30, 2010. Currently there are over 2,000 bills. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is tracking 74 that may affect state scholarship and grant programs or postsecondary institutions. Of these 74 bills, the following 23 bills may be of specific interest to you:

1. Florida Colleges

- HB255 (Chestnut) and SB208 (Oelrich): Provides for a maximum \$6 per credit hour transportation access fee for all community colleges.
- HB245 (Bernard): Renames Seminole Community College to Seminole State College of Florida and Palm Beach Community College to Palm Beach State College.
- SB436 (Baker): Renames Seminole Community College to Seminole State College of Florida.

2. State Universities

- HB505 (Schenck) and SB778 (Constantine): Provides for a renewable energy fee of \$1 per credit hour.
- HB547 (Rouson) and SB894 (Jones): Authorizes University of South Florida Board of Trustees to increase aggregate sum of activity and service, and athletic fees to exceed the 5% cap on annual increases to such fees for the 2010-11 academic year.

3. General Higher Education for Public Postsecondary Institutions

- HB723 (Sachs): Creates a tuition waiver at state universities and community colleges for full-time public school instructional personnel.
- HB1363 (Glorioso) and SB1148 (Rich): Clarifies existing fee exemption for students adopted from the Department of Children and Families.
- SB1760 (Thrasher): Requires public institutions to provide tuition transparency via the student catalog, application packet, and student invoice.

4. Residency

- HB1243 (Tobia) and SB2398 (Ring): Revises definitions of dependent and parent;

revises required documentation and reclassification.

- SB248 (Wilson): Re-defines dependent child; clarifies reclassification and adds eligibility for eligible employees of international multilateral organizations and certain students under section 8, United States Code.

5. State Scholarship and Grant Programs

- HB667 (Tobia): Revises requirements for student repayment of dropped/withdrawn Bright Futures courses.
- HB699 (Precourt): Amends Bright Futures to require students to repay their Bright Futures funding or by working in Florida.
- HB685 (Nehr) and SB1046 (Thrasher): Expands First Generation Matching Grant institutional eligibility from state universities to independent SACS accredited postsecondary institutions.
- HB1409 (Dorworth) and SB1960 (Bennett): Creates the Talent & Economic Advancement Matching Grant Program. Pairs Florida businesses with eligible private postsecondary institutions to provide scholarships from state matching private contributions dollar for dollar.
- HB1415 (Tobia) and SB2642 (Baker): Revises Bright Futures initial eligibility; creates 5 levels of awards which would fund specified percentages of tuition and fees.

You may track all 2010 Florida Legislative bills via Online Sunshine at www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/.

Navigating Your Financial Future

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program was established to encourage individuals to enter and continue in full-time public service employment by forgiving the remaining balance of their William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program loans (Direct Loans SM) after the borrowers have made 120 qualifying monthly payments (beginning any time after October 1, 2007) while employed full-time by a public service organization. Individuals must be employed full-time by a public service organization ([see Q&A #26](#)) when they make each of the required 120 monthly loan payments on the Direct Loan and at the time they apply for loan forgiveness (after making the last of the 120 payments). Question and answers are available along with a fact sheet and power

point presentation on the NyFF [Web site](#).

Outreach Services

On-Site Assistance

Your OSFA [Outreach Representatives](#) are available to assist you with Campus-based Open Houses and Orientations, High School Financial Aid Night Requests and Default Prevention/Financial Literacy Seminars. Let us know how we can help you!

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

2010-11 FSAG Expected Family

Contribution Memorandum

March 1, 2010

The maximum Expected Family Contributions (EFC) for FSAG Public, Private, and Postsecondary sectors remains unchanged for the 2010-11 academic year. Please continue to use the EFC maximums listed in the table below.

Sector	2010-11 EFC
Public	4617
Private	6080
Postsecondary	5542

At this time, we anticipate maintaining current FSAG allocation policy that awards 90% of your current year disbursements to create a baseline allocation for 2010-11. We will then distribute any appropriation balance according to your prorated sector share of eligible FSAG students. All final allocations are dependent upon an approved legislative budget. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Sandy Shimp, Need Unit Director toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

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Bright Futures

Bright Futures award notifications have begun. Check the Master Eligibility List online.

Calendar

March 1: Program compliance audits due from participating private institutions.

March 15: Program funds send to eligible PSIs for Term 3.

March/April:

- Term 2 quarter refunds of Bright Futures dropped/withdrawn course funds are due within 30 days of the institution's last day of each term.
- Term 3 DER's are due 30 days after the last day of drop/add.

Important Announcements

FASFAA 2010 Annual Conference

Don't miss out!

All Hands on Deck: Destination Student Success

Save the Date.

The next Annual Conference will be at the Doral Marriott in Miami, June 1st - 4th, 2010. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. For more information about the conference please [click here](#).

Stafford Loan Rates Are Falling

The current rate on Stafford subsidized loans for the 2009-10 academic year is a fixed 5.6%. However, it is expected to drop to 4.5% for the 2010-11 academic year, and to 3.4% for the 2011-12 academic year, [*The Wall Street Journal reports*](#). The decrease is part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, which includes a pledge to incrementally lower the interest rate on undergraduate subsidized Stafford loans distributed through July 1, 2012. Beyond 2012, the future of subsidized Stafford loan rates is uncertain. As of now, rates are set to rise to 6.8% for the 2012-13 academic year.

Year-Round Pell Training

The OSFA Outreach Team has created a training module for the new Year-Round Pell Program which is now available at specified locations. Please contact your OSFA Outreach Representative for additional information.