

# NEWS TO KNOW

## April 2007

### **OSFA Regional Workshops**

Thank you to everyone that helped us make the OSFA Regional Workshops a success! If you were unable to attend the workshop in your area, feel free to contact your OSFA Outreach Representative for a copy of the training materials.

### **“OSFA on the Web” Reports**

To see how our reports can help you effectively manage your Cohort Default Rate, contact your Outreach Team Representative today!

- Default Rate by Lender Report
- Defaulted Borrower Demographics Report
- Estimated Cohort Default Rate Report
- And more!

### **Entrance/Exit Counseling DVDs**

OSFA's Default Prevention Team is excited to announce the release and availability of the English, Spanish, and Creole versions of our entrance and exit counseling DVDS. Our Default Prevention Representatives will be contacting you to deliver our latest default prevention tool to your institutions. To order these DVDS online, please visit the *Navigating Your Financial Future* [website](#) or contact your [Default Prevention Representative](#) or [Outreach Representative](#) to place direct orders.

### **Questions?**

The *News to Know* is a valuable tool in learning about changes that occur in OSFA and FFELP regulations, policies, and

procedures. In the ever-changing world of Financial Aid, there are bound to be questions that you may need assistance in answering. We are here to help you! If you have a general FFELP question, please contact your [OSFA Outreach Representative](#) or e-mail OSFA directly at [osfastudentloans@fldoe.org](mailto:osfastudentloans@fldoe.org). If you have a FFELP policy question, you may e-mail Reitha Scott directly at [Reitha.Scott@fldoe.org](mailto:Reitha.Scott@fldoe.org).

### **2007-2008 Florida Student Assistance Grant Expected Financial Contribution (EFC) Cutoffs**

Public  
    -4110  
Private  
    -6080  
Postsecondary  
    -5542

The public EFC cutoff has increased to align with the new Federal Pell Grant maximum EFC. The other EFCs have increased by the same EFC amount (260). For more information, please refer to OSFA-State Memorandum #06-07:14.

### **2007-2008 Master Eligibility List (MEL)**

The Master Eligibility List (MEL) serves as the official authorization from OSFA to institutions to disburse funds to eligible students per specified programs. The 2007-2008 "Bright Futures Only MEL" became available February 1, and the 2007-2008 "All Programs MEL" will be available July 1. OSFA currently provides three mechanisms to access either MEL.

- State Student Financial Aid Database (SSFAD)
- OSFA File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Server (**NEW!**)
- Northwest Regional Database Center (NWRDC)

For more information on the MEL and how to sign up for the **NEW** FTP process, contact your Outreach Representative or the State Programs Unit directly at 1-888-827-2004.

## **State Programs Calendar**

### **April 2007**

–Term 3 Disbursement Eligibility Reports (DERs) due 30 days after the Postsecondary Institution's (PSI's) last day of drop/add

#### **April 1**

–FSAG uncommitted funds due to OSFA from the PSI for reallocation

–Application deadlines for next year's José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant, the Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund, and the Scholarship for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

#### **April 15**

–FSAG reallocation of uncommitted funds to participating PSIs reporting Otherwise Eligible (OE)

–Application deadline for next year's Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program

Need more info? Visit our [website](#)!

## **Mapping Your Future (MYF)**

Schools interested in using Mapping Your Future's Online Student Loan Counseling have a new resource on the MYF website to learn more about the service. The [new page](#) is linked from step one of the [financial aid professionals page](#). Schools

can learn about the regulatory requirements, how to test the counseling sessions from the student's perspective, the available counseling types, the steps student loan borrowers take to complete counseling, notification options and record retrieval, and customization options.

If you are interested in learning more about Mapping Your Future's **FREE** products and services, visit the Mapping Your Future website or contact your OSFA Outreach Representative.

### **MYF Chat Events**

General financial aid, student loan, and money management

April 10

July 17

All chats are held from 7-8 PM, EST

For more information, check out the [MYF website](#).

### **NCHELP**

The National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs, more commonly known as NCHELP, represents a nationwide network of guaranty agencies, secondary markets, lenders, loan servicers, collection agencies, schools, and other organizations involved in the administration of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). NCHELP members promote student access and choice for postsecondary education and training. Our Bureau Chief, Janie Westberry, is currently serving on the NCHELP Board of Directors as Treasurer. In addition, several OSFA staff are members of various NCHELP committees.

As your state guaranty agency, we are proud to be part of this nationwide network!

## **NCHHELP Update**

As attention continues to focus on higher education, NCHHELP has provided some context to link recent events. Proposed preferred lender lists and inducement rules offered by the U.S. Department of Education might lead to a view that higher education finance is "broken" and that "fixes" are being proposed for situations that might occur sometime in the future. For more information, please review the [NCHHELP Daily Briefing](#) dated March 22, 2007. As more information becomes available, we will keep you updated.

## **Negotiated Rulemaking**

The third round of Negotiated Rulemaking (NegReg) on loan issues concluded during the week ending March 16, 2007, without reaching consensus. The Department has decided to extend negotiations for a fourth session, tentatively scheduled for April 18-20.

To learn more about NegReg, visit the following websites:

- [General Information](#)
- [Proposed Regulatory Language](#)
- [Negotiating Team](#)

## **NASFAA Talking Points**

NASFAA has begun reaching out to the national press, policymakers, and others to help correct false and exaggerated impressions of our profession by condemning any unethical behavior between lenders and schools, placing those few instances of unethical behavior in proper perspective, and promoting the ethical standards to which virtually all aid administrators adhere. NASFAA has also prepared some quick

[talking points](#) on this subject to help you conduct a better interview should your local media contact you directly to provide a local angle on the story. If you need further help or support, please contact [Mindy Kaplan Eline](#), NASFAA's Director of Marketing.

### **FAFSA4caster**

Federal Student Aid (FSA) is pleased to announce our newest tool to help students and their families plan for college. The [FAFSA4caster](#) provides students with an early estimate of their eligibility for federal student financial assistance. Effective April 1, 2007, students considering furthering their education beyond high school can use this FREE tool to:

- Calculate their eligibility for federal financial aid, including grants

- Reduce the time it will take to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the qualifying form for all federal financial aid

### **Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Library**

The IFAP online [library](#) contains technical publications, regulations, and policy guidance on the administration of the Federal Student Aid programs. Visit the IFAP website today!

### **Federal Student Aid Training Announcements ANN-07-04**

[ANN-07-04](#) announces a series of one-day workshops covering implementation of the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART). The workshop scheduled in Florida is scheduled as a FASFAA pre-conference activity on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at the Embassy Suites Downtown Tampa Hotel. While this training is free of charge, you must

register to attend through the [ED Training Website](#). *Please note: This is a separate registration process from the FASFAA Conference registration.*

### **Dear Colleague Letter FP-07-03**

[FP-07-03](#) announces approval of the revised Federal Consolidation Loan Application and Promissory Note and related documents for use in the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

### **Dear Colleague Letter FP-07-04**

[FP-07-04](#) reminds program participants of the statutory and regulatory provisions that student and parent borrowers may choose an FFEL Program lender.

To view all Dear Partner (Colleague) letters published in the last thirty days, click [here](#).

### **Dates to Remember**

[FASFAA](#) Region II Workshop  
–April 13, 2007

[FASFAA](#) Region I Workshop  
–April 17, 2007

[FASFAA](#) New Aid Officer's Workshop  
–April 18-20, 2007

[FASFAA](#) Region V Workshop  
–April 25, 2007

[FASFAA](#) Spring Conference  
–May 23-25, 2007

[NASFAA](#) Conference

–July 8-11, 2007

Need more info? Visit the FASFAA [website!](#)

### **Mission Statement**

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) serves as a guarantor for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), and the administrator of Florida's scholarship and grant programs. 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.

### **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 concerns. Earnings generated from OSFA's loan programs are used to help fund scholarship and grant programs, financial aid workshops and publications, and to provide better services for our participants. When schools and students choose to use the OSFA guarantee for student loans, they are actually helping countless other needy and deserving students by investing in education programs. So, if a participant has a problem or suggestion, OSFA management listens and does whatever it takes to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve that kind of accountability in education finance.

### **OSFA Team Contact Information**

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**TBA**

Default Prevention Representative, South  
(Please contact one of the other representatives until this position has been filled.)

**Finally**

Confidence in the institution's ability to determine our integrity, character, and truthfulness is of the utmost importance to OSFA. The Office of Student Financial Assistance wants to know and deliver what you seek in a partner. You have the right to choose. Together, we have the power to make a difference. Trust the Office of Student Financial Assistance to help you help your students. They are our future.

**News to Know on the Web**

The News to Know is now available on the [Policy, Regulations, and Guidance page](#) of our website. Previous editions may be viewed on our [Archive Page](#).