

**Florida Department of Education
News To Know
April 2009**

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OSFA Ranked Top 10 in Volume Increases FY 2008

Based on data provided by the Department of Education, The Office of Student Financial Assistance is in the top 10 guarantors as ranked by percentage increase in the volume of loan commitments in FY08 (Volume in millions of dollars). We would like to take this time to thank all of our institutional and lender partners for helping us to reach this wonderful goal. This achievement will go a long way towards funding additional grants and scholarships for Florida students. OSFA aspires to continue to provide up to date comprehensive financial aid information, community outreach services, exemplary customer service and institutional oriented products and services.

February 2009

Integrated Common Manual Available

The Common Manual announces the availability of the February 2009 Integrated Common Manual in an effort to provide the most up-to-date policy information available. Go to www.commonmanual.org, for the Common Manual website. You may view and print the Integrated Common Manual, including the summary of changes approved Feb. 19, 2009, by the Common Manual Governing Board. Please be aware that this is a rather large file and could take up to 5 minutes to complete the downloading process. Some changes that have been changed include:

- Social Security Numbers on Individual Checks and Master Check Transmittals.
- Elimination of the Child Care Provider Loan Forgiveness Program.
- Revisions in Permitted and Prohibited Activities.
- Student Consumer Information.
- Extenuating Circumstances in Adverse Credit Determinations.
- In-School and Post-Enrollment Deferments for PLUS Loans.
- Loan Forgiveness Program for Service in Areas of National Need.

Read the summary of changes for more details.

Default Prevention in Full Force

While our Nation is experiencing some tough economic times, it suffices to say that it is in the best interest of all of us to learn the keys to making the most out of what we have. The Office of Student Financial Services has been working tirelessly to educate our great state one student at a time. From July 2008 through March 27, 2009, OSFA has conducted 582 default prevention workshops with 10,880 students in attendance, of which 1,357 requested and received individual counseling. We offer Financial Literacy, Default Prevention, Managing Your Credit, Managing Your Budget and Career Planning workshops.

We are discussing tough issues that may have directly or indirectly affected all of us. We are committed to doing our part to build our students, our State and our Nation through Providing comprehensive, high-quality programs, quality products and dedicated service students and families in budgeting and financial management related to student loans. Visit our web site to find a [workshop](#) in your area our contact your [Outreach Representative](#) for details on how to schedule an event in your region.

OSFA Committed to the FFELP Program

So many changes are taking place within the banking industry that sometimes it can be difficult as a school administrator to determine the availability of lenders. OSFA has your solution. **The Loan Originator** is a list of lenders that participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). list of lenders also have participation agreements with the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) and wish to have their names published to originate student loans. Publication copies are available on our Loan Originator Archives. (Must be viewed with Adobe Acrobat Reader.)

“We are committed to doing our part to build our students, our State and our Nation through quality products and dedicated service.

- Office of Student Financial Assistance

College Goal Sunday: Florida Update

On **February 21- 22, 2009**, high school seniors, college students, and families in Florida were offered free expert assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at 33 sites throughout Florida. Students were offered scholarship incentives for completing the FAFSA on site. With the help of university and community college financial aid office staff, volunteers, school district staff, and community-based organizations, ENLACE Florida is proud provide you with the following program outcome estimates*:

***Estimates are based on reporting from 70% of sites.**

Total Number of Sites: 33

Total Number of Families Served: 1,580

Total Number of Volunteers: 562

Total Number of Scholarship Incentives Awarded: 25

Average Value of Scholarship Awarded: \$300

College Goal Sunday Florida is supported by Lumina Foundation for Education and USA Funds; ENLACE Florida serves as the state coordinator and fiscal agent. For more information on College Goal Sunday Florida, please visit: www.collegegoalsundayusa.org

Contributed by Braulio Colón, Assistant Director

ENLACE Florida

2009 Electronic Announcements

Federal Register / Vol. 74, No. 50 / Tuesday, March 17, 2009 / Notice announce the notice of the 2009-2010 award year deadline dates for the campus-based programs: Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Programs. Click for deadlines dates.

Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) ID: ANN-09-05 announces the newly redesigned FSA COACH, an introductory self-paced Web-based tutorial on federal student aid administration. The new and improved editions of FSA COACH, is for both for domestic and foreign schools as has been redesigned and fully updated for the 2008-2009 Award Year. The courses are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/ifap/fsacoach.jsp>.

The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-185) provided a tax credit against 2008 tax liability to most taxpayers based on income and tax liability information reported on 2007 federal income tax returns. Section 101(a) of Public Law 110-185 amends section 6428 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the economic stimulus payments to taxpayers, however, section 101(d) provides that the value of a stimulus payment is not considered as income or as a resource in determining an individual's eligibility for any program financed with Federal funds. Therefore, the Department has determined that any amounts of stimulus payments received last summer, are excluded from the EFC calculation. Applicants for Federal student aid should not report these stimulus payments either as income or untaxed income on their 2009-2010 FAFSA. Click [here](#) or deadlines dates.

FASFAA Spring 2009 Conference

The FASFAA Spring 2009 Conference theme this year is "Hitting a Home Run for Students". Conference dates are May 27th - May 29th, 2009 at the beautiful Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa, a Marriott Resort. This year, new Aid Officers will learn how to "Understand the Financial Language"; Calculating the EFC– Understanding the Needs Analysis formula; and Professional Judgment– What you can do and what you do special condition review and dependency overrides just to name a few. Also, do not forget to participate in this year's service project. Community Connections of Jacksonville has been serving the needs of homeless and low income women, children and families in Jacksonville since 1911.

Online FFELP Reports

The Office of Student Financial Assistance has a wonderful reporting tool to assist schools and Lenders in managing their Cohort Default Rate and monitoring their OSFA volume.

[Default Prevention/Aversion Reports](#) - Information about borrowers who are withdrawn, graduated or delinquent. These reports can be used for mailouts.

[Defaulted Borrower Reports](#)- These reports provide detailed information regarding a borrower and their defaulted loans. Use Name and address reports for letter campaigns.

[Cohort Default Rate Reports](#)- Information for calculating estimated cohort default rates. Borrowers in the numerator and denominator have been broken into smaller subsets for additional research and resolution.

[Lender Reports](#)- These reports include summary information associated with the loan guarantee process. They provide a snapshot of FFELP volume by school and by loan program type

[Entrance & Exit Counseling Reports](#)- These reports include a list of students who have completed their required entrance or exit exam.

[NyFF Workshop Reports](#) -These reports include a list of students who have participated in various NyFF workshops. Contact your regional [OSFA Representative](#) for details.

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 concerns. Earnings generated from OSFA's loan programs are used to provide financial aid workshops, publications, and better services for our participants, and to help fund scholarship and grant programs. 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.

State Scholarship and Grant Programs Calendar

April 1 – **Deadline** to apply for the Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund, José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant, and Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Servicemembers.

April 15 – **Deadline** to apply for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program.

2008-09 Institutional Reporting Responsibilities

- Continue to submit your Disbursement Eligibility Reports for all programs for the remaining academic year terms.
- Continue reconciliation activities within your institution's 60 day timeframe.

2009-10 Institutional Verifications and Application Information

Institutional Certification Deadlines

- Continue to review and update professional degree and course certifications by term for the Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness and Tuition Reimbursement Programs.
- Go our [Web site](#).
- Select "Postsecondary Institutions." Under "Initial/Renewal Reporting Certification Reports" select "Teacher."

Visit our State Programs [Calendar](#).

Dates to Remember for April

15th - Tax Completion Deadline

15th- OSFA's TSH6AA will be discontinued. For details e-mail.
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2009 Florida Legislative Session Tracking for State Scholarship and Grant Programs

The Office of Student Financial Assistance is tracking 57 of 2,100 bills that may affect state scholarship and grant programs or postsecondary institutions. You may continue to monitor the bills progress by clicking on the [Online Sunshine logo](#) and search for the bills using the memorandum distributed to postsecondary institutions on March 13th and March 20, 2009.

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.

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News to Know Archives

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](#).