

NEWS TO KNOW

December 2006

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ernest Smith, OSFA's Director of Market Development, on his recent retirement. Ernest's last day with OSFA was December 15th. We wish him all the best!

Happy Holidays!

The staff at OSFA wishes you a very happy Holiday Season!

NYFF Testimonials

Learn how Navigating Your Financial Future, our comprehensive Default Prevention program, helped out these students, parents and financial aid professionals!

[Parents -](#)
[Students and Borrowers -](#)
[Financial Aid Professionals](#)

OSFA on the Web Reporting Enhancements

The Defaulted Borrower Demographic Report has been enhanced to break down your default population by age, lender and county. Phase II of this report will include enrollment status, grade level, loan type, and more!

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

State Programs Calendar

January

- Term 2 DER's due 30 days after the PSI's last day of drop/add
- OSFA begins collecting FAFSA/ISIR data from USDE for 18 months

-Florida Financial Aid Application for Teachers available online for next academic year funding

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

Thank You

Thank you to the following companies for making our Tampa based Default Prevention Workshop a huge success!

- St. Petersburg College, Host
- R&B Solutions, Continental Breakfast and Lunch

MYF Chat Events

General financial aid, student loan, and money management

- January 9
- April 10
- July 17
 - o All chats are held from 7-8 PM, EST

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

MYF Introduces Federal Health Professions Student Loan Exit Counseling

Mapping Your Future (MYF) now offers Federal Health Professions Student Loan (HPSL) exit counseling as part of Online Student Loan Counseling (OSLC). Schools that have an existing OSLC account and would like to add HPSL exit counseling (or other types) to their participation categories should contact [Beth Ziehmer](#) at (573) 796-3730. Schools not currently participating in OSLC should sign up [online](#).

MYF Introduces Grad PLUS Exit Counseling

Mapping Your Future (MYF) now offers Grad PLUS exit counseling as part of Online Student Loan Counseling (OSLC). Schools that have an existing OSLC account and would like to add Grad PLUS exit counseling (or other types) to their participation categories should contact [Beth Ziehmer](#) at

(573) 796-3730. Schools not currently participating in OSLC should sign up [online](#).

MYF Receives Gold Award

The MarCom Creative Awards recently recognized Mapping Your Future with a Gold Award for [Show Me the Future™](#), its online life skills and financial literacy game. Show Me the Future™ is an interactive feature, designed for middle and high school students. It teaches life skills and money management and helps students understand that the decisions they make today can have a life-long impact. For more information, contact [CariAnne Behr](#) at (573) 634-8641.

2007-2008 SAR Comment Codes and Text Reference Guide

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the posting of the [2007-2008 SAR Comment Codes and Text Reference Guide](#). The reference guide is designed as a stand-alone guide as well as a companion to the 2007-2008 EDE Technical Reference. It includes the 2007-2008 SAR comment text and the 2007-2008 SAR Acknowledgement comment text.

Certifying Higher Loan Limits

The November 1 regulations now allow schools to certify loans to the full, increased amount scheduled to go into effect on July 1, provided that those loans, carrying the annual loan increase, are not disbursed prior to July 1. Presumably, a school may perform all administrative loan functions as long as the increased amounts are not disbursed until July 1, 2007. For more information, please review the entire [announcement](#) on the NASFAA website.

Common Manual Website

The *Common Manual* is pleased to provide the Integrated *Common Manual* to give you the most up-to-date (November 2006) policy information available. The Integrated *Common Manual* is updated monthly with policies approved by the Governing Board the previous month. The *Common Manual* is now available on it's own [website!](#) Bookmark this favorite today!

Cohort Default Rate Release Dates For Draft And Official FY 2005 Cycles

The **Draft** FY 2005 Cohort Default Rates will be calculated by NSLDS on January 6, 2007 and released to all schools, that have one or more borrowers that entered into repayment during the FY 2005 period, on February 12, 2007. The **Official** FY 2005 Cohort Default Rates will be calculated by NSLDS on July 28, 2007 and released to all schools, that have one or more borrowers that entered into repayment during the FY 2005 period, on September 10, 2007.

For more information on how OSFA can help you effectively manage and lower your Cohort Default Rate, contact your [Default Prevention Representative](#) today!

NASFAA Webinar

On December 13, 2006, NASFAA and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid offered a Web-based presentation, or Webinar, on ACG and SMART Grants. Titled "ACG/SMART Grants: An Update with ED on Reporting Payment Data, Drawing Down Funds, and Awarding Transfer Students," the Webinar emphasized reporting through COD and NSLDS. To view the Webinar, or other resource materials referenced in the Webinar, click [here](#).

Title IV Credit Balance Requirements

With the advent of the Grad PLUS program, more graduate students will have Title IV credit balances on their student accounts. This [article](#) is a reminder of the Title IV credit balance requirements found in the cash management regulations.

Make Every Day a Good Day!

What's it like at your workplace? Is every day a Monday? A Friday? The "feel" or organizational climate of a business, or even a department, can make a huge difference in how employees feel about their jobs. As a manager or supervisor, you can create a more energetic and productive environment by practicing positive environmental management. [More...](#)

Dates to Remember

FASFAA **Clock Hour Workshop**

- Crystal River, FL
- February 7-9, 2007

SASFAA **Annual Conference**

- Nashville, TN
- February 11-14, 2007

NASFAA **Best Practices Symposium**

- Charlotte, NC (*other locations available*)
- March 29-30, 2007

Need more info? Check out their 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.

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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](#).