

NEWS TO KNOW

January 2006

Cohort Default Rate

The DRAFT Cohort Default Rate will be released in February 2006. Now is the time to verify that your institution is signed up to receive the CDR's electronically. To verify your school's enrollment status, go to www.fsawebenroll.ed.gov and click on the "Check Enrollment Status" icon. For questions about the SAIG mailbox, downloading files, and/or to identify your destination point administrator, please contact CPS/WAN Technical Support at 800-330-5947. Institutions should also ensure that the destination point administrator (i.e. person designated by your school to electronically receive the CDR's) is always current and that there is another staff person aware of this process (back-up).

After the DRAFT Cohort Default Rate has been released, institutions should review the [Cohort Default Rate Guide](#) to determine which challenges, adjustments, and/or appeals the school is eligible to submit to either appeal the accuracy of the rate and/or any sanctions associated with the rate. Chapter 3.1, School Strategies, contains a chart beginning on page 3.1-10 that outlines the various challenges, adjustments, and appeals that schools may consider. (Challenges apply only to draft rates, whereas adjustments and appeals apply to official rates.) For domestic schools, the time period for submitting adjustments and appeals begins on the sixth business day after the Department transmitted the cohort default rate notification packages to the SAIG destination points.

Note: Institutions have 45 days to submit incorrect data challenges!

Default Prevention and Management Plan

The USDOE either requires or strongly suggests institutions implement a default management plan to participate in the Title IV programs, under 34 CFR 668.14(b)(15). If you do not have a Default Prevention and Management Plan, or would like to review your current Plan, the sample Default Prevention and Management Plan located on the [IFAP website](#) provides institutions with activities, techniques, and tools to promote student and school success and reduce student defaults.

As your partner, we are here to assist you with your Default Prevention and Management efforts. For more information on how we can help you, please contact our Default Prevention Manager, Jacqueline Hill at 850-212-1108.

Web Enabled Front End System

OSFA has successfully implemented our new Web Enabled Front End System! In February 2006, Kelly Harrison (our Director of Training), will be hosting a teleconference to demonstrate how this system can benefit our institutional partners. If you are interested in signing up for this teleconference, please contact Kelly directly at 850-410-6820 or via email at: Kelly.Harrison@fldoe.org.

OSFA Spring Regional Workshops

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), is pleased to announce that we will be hosting Spring Regional Workshops throughout the state in March 2006. The locations that we are working to secure are: Marianna, Jacksonville, Kissimmee, Kendall, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers, and Tampa. Please keep your calendars open to attend these FREE one-day workshops! Topics will include state and federal financial aid, professional development, and more. *(Once locations are finalized, registration will be opened.)*

State Program Deadlines

January 2006

- ❑ Term 2 DER's due 30 days after the PSI's last day of drop/add
- ❑ OSFA begins collecting FAFSA/ISIR data from USDE
- ❑ *Florida Financial Aid Application for Teachers* available online for next academic year funding

February 2006

- ❑ 28 – Participating PSI disbursement deadline for FRAG for Term 2

February/March 2006

- ❑ Term 2 refund/reconciliation due to OSFA 60 days after the PSI's last day of drop/add

Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness/Tuition Reimbursement Program

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance currently administers two programs to assist employees in Florida publicly funded schools:

- ❑ The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program (CTS - LF) assists certified teachers who are teaching for their first year in a Florida publicly funded school in a critical teacher shortage area with loan repayment.
- ❑ The Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program (CTS - TR) provides certified employees of Florida publicly funded schools assistance to become certified in a critical teacher shortage area.

You may visit our [website](#) which provides details regarding each program. Select "State Grants, Scholarships & Applications," "Programs Offered," and then click on any of the programs listed to view the program's fact sheet.

State Disbursement Question

Can the school continue to disburse awards after 30 days after drop/add?

- ❑ Yes, late disbursements are acceptable. A PSI can continue to make disbursements throughout the year, until the funds are depleted. State Statute requires the school to report disbursements within 30 days of the last day of drop/add. The majority of disbursements must be reported within that timeframe. However, late disbursements can be reported as they occur.

MYF Reaches 5 Million Mark

Mapping Your Future (MYF) reached a major milestone this past week. A student from a school in Texas completed the 5 millionth Online Student Loan Counseling (OSLC) session available on the [MYF website](#). OSLC helps schools meet federal loan counseling requirements and student loan borrowers understand their rights and obligations. The interactive nature of

OSLC ensures students fully participate in learning about student loan management and aids in the prevention of loan defaults. Currently more than 2,400 schools in the United States and around the world use MYF's counseling services.

MYF released OSLC in 1997 and today offers ten different counseling sessions:

Stafford entrance counseling (English and Spanish); Stafford exit counseling (English and Spanish); Perkins entrance counseling; Perkins exit counseling; Stafford and Perkins combined entrance counseling; Stafford and Perkins combined exit counseling; Nursing entrance counseling; Nursing exit counseling

Mapping Your Future Chat Events

March 21, 7 PM Eastern

- ❑ Applying to and paying for college (including student loans)

May 16, 7 PM Eastern

- ❑ Financial aid and managing student loans and consumer debt

August 15, 7 PM Eastern

- ❑ Managing your student loans, including repayment options, consolidation, and cancellation

Through our sponsorship of Mapping Your Future (MYF), institutions may join MYF and use their products/services for FREE! If you would like more information on MYF, please contact your Outreach Representative or you may contact [CariAnne Behr](#) from MYF at (573) 634-8641.

NASFAA's 2006 Best Practices Symposium

NASFAA members may register now for the 2006 NASFAA Best Practices Symposium. The topic of the 2006 Symposium is Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Participants will examine and discuss the politics and problems of SAP policy development, evaluation, and implementation that reach far beyond the basic regulatory and statutory requirements. The symposium will target intermediate and advanced aid administrators (e.g., directors, associate directors, assistant directors, and experienced counselors) and is a good resource for other campus officials responsible for the institution's academic policies. Locations and dates are: Las Vegas, NV: February 16-17; Cambridge, MA: March 17-18; and Chicago, IL: April

28-29. For more information, visit the Best Practices Web site at <http://www.nasfaa.org/BestPractices.asp> for additional details.

NASFAA's 2005-06 Self Evaluation Guide

Ten additional sections of the twenty-first edition of the NASFAA Self-Evaluation Guide for Institutional Participation in Title IV and Other Federal Programs have been posted on [NASFAA's website](#), for a total of 21 sections now available. The Self-Evaluation Guide serves as an in-house self-assessment tool to help institutions prepare for required audits of the institution's administration of ED and HHS student financial assistance programs during the 2005-06 award year.

Clarification on 12-Consecutive-Month Rule for Preparatory Coursework

In response to Member questions, NASFAA recently obtained additional clarification from ED on the issue of Stafford Loan borrowing by students who have not been admitted to an eligible program but who are taking preparatory coursework for the purpose of admission. This article updates and supersedes a November 2, 2005 article on the same subject. For more information, visit the [NASFAA website](#). (*The Web Id and Password to access the article is: 122666.*)

EAC Conference Presentations

The US Department of Education has posted the PowerPoint presentations from the general, interest, and technical track sessions of its 2005 Electronic Access Conferences. PDF versions of the sessions will be available from ED in late January. To view the presentations that are currently available, please visit the websites below:

- [General sessions](#)
- [Interest sessions](#)
- [Technical Track sessions](#)

ED Express Basics

The US Department of Education is pleased to announce the first release of EDEXpress Basics, the web-based training product that teaches users the basic skills needed to access and navigate the 2006-07 EDEXpress and EDConnect software. This module covers Application Processing using FAA

Access to CPS on the web. Additionally this release contains a module designed for continuing users, showing only the 2006-2007 changes to the system. To access both modules, go to:

- <http://fsa4schools.ed.gov/edexpressbasics>.

Office Depot Web Café

Office Depot offers free web based seminars that focused on successful business strategies.

Topics include:

- Easy Ways to Keep Track of the Money
- What You Need to Know About Data Security
- Shape Up Your Office with the Five-Day Makeover Plan
- From Bad to Great: Transforming Your PowerPoint Presentations

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

ELM Update

ELM is pleased to announce that Jacqui Fraiser is the new Priority Services Specialist for the region that includes Florida. Jacqui can be reached at 866-524-8198, extension 1851 or via email at: jfrasier@elmresources.com. If you are an ELM participant and have any questions regarding the ELM process, Jacqui is here to assist you! ELM has also posted their Client Workshop schedule on their [website](#). If you are an ELM participant and would like to take advantage of these free online training opportunities, check out the [ELM Resources Page](#) today! If you would like onsite training, please contact Victoria Lenderman, Elm Resources Training Specialist, at 1-866-524-8198, extension 1814 or via email at: victoria@elmresources.com.

FASFAA Update

Check out the new [FASFAA website](#) and bookmark it in your internet favorites today. *(Members, don't forget to verify and update your contact information, if needed!)*

Additionally, if you are a FASFAA member and have not joined the FASFAA list serv, please subscribe to the Members list by sending an email to:

- LISTSERV@LISTS.UFL.EDU With the following text in the body of the message:
 - SUBSCRIBE FASFAA-MEMBERS-L FIRST NAME LAST NAME

As always, substitute the "First Name Last Name" with your first name and last name, and make sure the subject line is blank.

Dates to Remember

FASFAA Clock Hour Schools Workshop
February 8-10, Mt. Dora, FL

SASFAA Annual Conference
February 12-15, Greensboro, NC

FASFAA New Aid Officers Workshop
February 22-24, Safety Harbor, FL

FASFAA Experienced Aid Officers Workshop
March 1-3, Safety Harbor, FL

FASFAA Graduate/Professional Workshop
March 3, Safety Harbor, FL

FASFAA Region III Workshop
March 14, Orlando

2006 **SFA** Spring Conference
April 5-7, San Antonio, TX

FASFAA Region I Workshop
April 6, Tallahassee, FL

FASFAA Region V and VI Workshop
April 11, Miami Gardens, FL

FASFAA Spring 2006 Conference
June 7-8, Ft. Myers, FL

Need more information? Check out their websites!

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

Ernest Smith
Director of Market Development
850-322-6498
Ernest.Smith@fldoe.org

Lori Auxier
Manager of Outreach Services
850-212-2997
Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org

Kelly Bernhardt
Outreach Representative
850-294-8299
Kelly.Bernhardt@fldoe.org

Robin Blank

Outreach Representative
850-264-6008
Robin.Blank@fldoe.org

Stephanie Durdley
Outreach Representative
850-322-6219
Stephanie.Durdley@fldoe.org

Armando Salas-Amaro
Outreach Representative
850-321-6882
Armando.Salas-Amaro@fldoe.org

NYFF Team Contact Information

Jacqueline Hill
Manager of Default Prevention Services
850-212-1108
Jacqueline.Hill@fldoe.org

Geoffrey Wynn
Default Prevention Representative, North
904-294-6896
Gwynn@randbsolutions.net

Margaret Joffe
Default Prevention Representative, West
727-458-9718
Mjoffe@randbsolutions.net

Eddie Serrano
Default Prevention Representative, East
407-334-9942
Eserrano@randbsolutions.net

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.