

**News to Know**  
**Florida Department of Education**  
**Office of Student Financial Assistance**  
**January 2009**

## Special Legislative Session Convened

- ◉ Jeff Atwater, President of the Florida Senate, and Ray Sansom, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, presided over a special legislative session from January 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, which addressed an estimated shortfall of \$2 billion in the current fiscal year's budget.

Read the memorandum for more [details!](#)

## **National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)**

Thank you to all of the institutions that assisted OSFA in making the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) program a success! With your help, OSFA was able to provide 35 free training sessions during the past two years throughout the state of Florida.

## College Goal Sunday – February 22, 2009

- More than 200 volunteers will help college-bound Florida students and their families complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) during statewide College Goal Sunday events on Sunday, February 22, 2009.
- College Goal Sunday is sponsored by Lumina Foundation, and is a collaborative effort of the YMCA in partnership with ENLACE FLORIDA. This national program is designed to increase the number of Florida residents who continue education beyond high school to earn postsecondary degrees. The FAFSA must be completed by students seeking financial aid, including grants, loans, and many scholarships.
- As more details become available, we will share them with you so that you can do your part to make this annual event a huge success!
- To learn more, please visit the national College Goal Sunday Web site at [www.collegegoalsundayusa.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org), or the Florida Web site at <http://www.myspace.com/collegegoalsundayflorida>

Check event locations, dates and times for your specific [area](#).

# State Scholarship and Grant Programs Calendar

- ◉ **January 1 – The 2009-10 Initial Teacher Florida Financial Aid Application** opened online January 1, 2009. Participating institutions certify applicants' degree status for the Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program (July 15, 2009, deadline) and applicants' courses taken for the Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program (September 15, 2009, deadline).
- ◉ **Terms 2 and 3 Program Disbursement Eligibility Reports (DERs)** are due 30 days after the last day of drop/add. Semester institutions participating in the Florida Resident Access Grant have a February 28th deadline.
- ◉ **Term Refunds** are due to OSFA no later than 60 days after the last day of the term's drop/add date.
- ◉ **A Special Florida Legislative Session**, was held January 5<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, to address an estimated shortfall in the state's current budget.
- ◉ **Compliance Audits** are due from private institutions participating in state scholarship and grant programs for the 07-08 year by March 1, 2009.

Do you want to know what other activities and important deadlines are on the calendar? Visit our [Web site!](#)

## 2009-2010 Federal School Code List

- ◉ The updated electronic 2009-2010 Federal School Code List of Participating Schools will be available **February 2, 2009**, on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#). It will also be posted on the [National College Access Network \(NCAN\) Web site](#).

## Deadlines Quickly Approaching for Needed Comments for Submission for OMB Review

- The U.S. Department of Education has issued a *Federal Register* [notice](#) that requests comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements associated with the revision of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) Deferment Request Forms.
- Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>.
  - › Select "Browse Pending Collections" link
  - › Click on link number 03916
  - › Click on "Download Attachments"
- Written requests for information should be addressed to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-401-0920.
- **All comments must be submitted by January 26, 2009.**

## U.S. Treasury and IRS Issue Notice on Section 529 Accounts

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued a notice establishing a special rule under which qualified tuition programs can permit investments in a section 529 account.
- In 2009, these investments may be changed twice, which is more frequently than the current rules stipulate. (This will allow families to adjust their asset allocations in response to turmoil in the stock market.)
- Under the Notice, section 529 programs and their participants may rely on the rule pending the issuance of final regulations.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the IRS are requesting comments on the special rule and any other comments relating to section 529.
- This special rule will be instituted during 2009 only and is not a permanent change.
- Notice 2009-1 can be viewed online at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-09-01.pdf>. Under this notice, section 529 programs and their participants may rely on the rule pending the issuance of final regulations.



## **ED Issues Intent to Establish Negotiated Rulemaking Committees for HEOA Regulations**

- The U.S. Department of Education (ED) intends to establish five negotiated rulemaking committees to prepare proposed regulations in order to implement changes made to the Higher Education Act by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) (HEOA).
  
- The National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), Education Finance Council (EFC), Consumer Banking Association (CBA) and Student Loan Servicing Alliance (SLSA) are working on a common slate of nominations, as the deadline for submission of nominations is January 23, 2009.
  
- More information is available online at:  
<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/122408NomrequestHEOA08final122308.html>.

## Education and Labor Committee Republicans Unveil Legislative Priority List

- ◉ Republican members of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee issued a list of legislative priorities that are designed to help students, workers, and families in this struggling economy. Led by Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), Committee Republicans pledged to pursue "an agenda of economic growth and educational innovation."
- ◉ Rep. McKeon outlined the following priorities of the Committee:
  - Improving teacher quality;
  - Simplifying college financial aid;
  - Strengthening job training to bolster the economy;
  - Protecting workplace democracy;
  - Enhancing health care and retirement security for workers; and
  - Providing flexibility for working families.

Read more in the [IFAP](#) Announcements.

## Entrance and Exit Counseling Information

- ◉ The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) includes several changes to the entrance and exit counseling provisions. To assist schools in complying with these changes, the "School Issues Workgroup" of NCHELP's Program Regulations Committee produced two comprehensive lists of counseling requirements, including regulatory and statutory requirements.
- ◉ The lists are drawn from the HEOA of 2008, effective August 14, 2008, and are in bold for easy identification.
- ◉ The lists may be shared with schools either electronically or printed as a single page, front and back, and are also available in NCHELP's E-Library at:  
<http://www.nchelp.org/elibrary/index.cfm?parent=63>.
- ◉ Many thanks to the NCHELP Regulations Committee for the development of these lists.

## OSFA Training

- ◉ With over 30 years of combined training, presentation, and facilitation experience, OSFA's Training and Development Section provides training on a variety of financial aid and professional development topics. Individual classes or entire curriculums can be customized to fit the needs of your organization or staff. We provide both online and on-site training to suit your needs and schedule. To learn more about OSFA Training, visit our [Web site](#) today!

# Navigating Your Financial Future Spotlights Financial Aid

- ◉ The Financial Aid [Brochure](#) provides information about options to pay for college. Most students apply for loans to supplement the cost of their education. There are a variety of loans available through the federal government and private institutions. Federal loans have low interest rates, and can be repaid after graduation. This brochure outlines financial aid in the form of student loans, scholarships, grants, and other gifts that may cut back on the amount borrowed.
- ◉ Do you want to learn more? Visit our [Web site!](#)

## We Can Help With Your New Year's Resolution!

- ◉ Do you need to get a better handle on your finances and are not sure how to get started?
- ◉ Are you tired of dragging the weight of debt?
- ◉ Financial Literacy workshops and Managing Your Credit workshops are being conducted in an area near you.
- ◉ To view scheduled events, please visit our [Web site](#).

## FASFAA 2008-2009 Regional Workshops

- ◉ FASFAA Regional Workshops are under way.
- ◉ If you missed the previous FASFAA Regional Workshop in your area, you still have time to register for one of the remaining workshops.
  - › Region 1 – February 13, 2009  
Gulf Coast Community College
  - › Region 4 –February 18, 2009  
St. Petersburg College

[Register today!](#)

## **KUDOS Announcement!**

- ◉ OSFA recognizes the following Financial Aid Administrator for her contribution towards enhancing OSFA's products and services by offering valuable comments and suggestions.
  - › Mercedes Amaya, Miami-Dade College



## 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 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.

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## **And 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 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](#).