

News to Know

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
March 2009

Northwest Regional Data Center Security Upgrade

- OSFA's mainframe provider, Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC), recommends that your password include at least one number and one letter. Forthcoming information will be provided to your institution.
- **Shortly after April 15, 2009, "TSH6AA" will be discontinued.**
- For more information, please contact Reitha Scott, Policy Manager, by e-mail at reitha.scott@fldoe.org or by calling (850) 410-6846, **or**
- Marguerite Matthews, Database Consultant by e-mail at marguerite.matthews@fldoe.org or by calling (850) 410-5242.

NASFAA Announces March Webinar

- **"Summer Aid: Challenges and Considerations" Webinar**
March 17 at 1:30 p.m. EDT.
 - Processing aid for summer periods can strike fear in the heart of even the most seasoned financial aid professional. But help is on the way! NASFAA's upcoming Webinar will give you the information you need to beat the summer enrollment heat.
 - The site license for this Webinar will be \$189 for members and non-members.

How to Review and Appeal Cohort Default Rate Information

- Download the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Electronic Loan Record Detail Report (LRDR).
- Collect and review any relevant enrollment and repayment data from applicable internal and external offices. Such data should include the following:
 - Records from the financial aid office or the registrar's office.
 - Student Enrollment Confirmation Reports
 - Transfer requests (New and former students)
 - National Student Loan Data System borrower enrollment history or borrower aid history.
 - Lender or servicer records.

How to Review and Appeal Cohort Default Rate Information

- Create a spreadsheet with data about borrowers in the cohort and when they entered repayment, based on your school's data. The OSFA Online FFELP Cohort Report assists administrators by:
 - Easily managing and analyzing your Cohort Default Rate.
 - Estimating your Cohort Default Rate by Fiscal Year.
 - Identifying and targeting borrowers before they affect your rate.
- Administrators may generate reports to specifics as follows:
 - **Denominator Subset – Previously Delinquent Details**
 - Loan details of borrowers who enter repayment during the fiscal year.

Please contact your OSFA [Outreach Representative](#) for details.

How to Review and Appeal Cohort Default Rate Information

- **Denominator Details** – Loan details of borrowers who enter repayment during the fiscal year. Excludes PLUS loans. Select by fiscal year.
 - Example: 2004 is federal fiscal year 03-04.
- **Denominator Subset – Delinquent Borrower Demographics** – Names and contact information for borrowers who enter repayment during the fiscal year and are currently at least 60 days delinquent. These borrowers could potentially impact the numerator. Excludes PLUS loans. Select by fiscal year.
 - Example: 2004 is federal fiscal year 03-04.

These reports are generated in Adobe PDF or Microsoft Excel per administrator preferences.

How to Review and Appeal Cohort Default Rate Information

- **Denominator Subset - Delinquent Borrower Details** Loan details of borrowers who enter repayment during the fiscal year, and who are currently at least 60 days delinquent. These borrowers could potentially impact the numerator. Excludes PLUS loans. Select by fiscal year.
 - Example: 2004 is federal fiscal year 03-04.
- Disbursed, Grace, or Guaranteed status and who were previously Delinquent. Excludes CONS and PLUS loans. Select by fiscal year of repayment date.
 - Example: 2004 is federal fiscal year 03-04.
- Compare the institutional data against the data on the Loan Record Detail Report (LRDR). Based on the internal data, you should dispute incorrect LRDR data.

These reports are generated in Adobe PDF or Microsoft Excel per administrator preferences.

How to Review and Appeal Cohort Default Rate Information

- Compile perceived incorrect data into spreadsheets to be submitted via ED's eCDR appeals Web-based application. A separate incorrect data challenge must be submitted to each data manager. Each challenge should list only the loans held by that particular data manager.
- Determine what kind of error has been made. Claims usually fall into one of the following categories:
 - Incorrectly reported data.
 - Incorrectly excluded data.
 - Incorrectly included data.
- Review and confirm the data. Gather supporting documentation.
- Submit the incorrect data challenge by April 3, 2009.
- Adhere to all ED deadlines.

Read more in ED's [User Guide](#).

Florida's College Goal Sunday

– A Great Success!

- More than 200 volunteers helped 3,500 college-bound Florida students and their families complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) during statewide College Goal Sunday events held February 21 - 22, 2009.

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

March 2009 Calendar

- **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Programs**

Initial 7th semester evaluations and award notifications began on March 1st.

- **The Master Eligibility List (MEL)**

The 2009-10 Florida Bright Futures MEL for 7th semester/early evaluated eligible Bright Futures students only began populating February 23rd and will be updated throughout the year.

- **Private Postsecondary Institution Audits**

Compliance audits for the 2007-08 academic year were due March 1st from private postsecondary institutions that disbursed state financial aid funds. Send audits to: Karl Washington, 1940 North Monroe Street, Suite 70, Tallahassee, Florida 32303. If you have any questions, please contact [Karl Washington](#) toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

March 2009 Calendar

■ 2009 Florida Legislative Session

- The 2009 Florida Legislative session began March 3rd and runs until May 1st. OSFA is currently tracking 40 State Financial Aid bills.
- **Scholarships**
 - Bright Futures-renewal requirements, refund to DOE for dropped courses
 - Sure Futures-postgraduate scholarship matching funds program
- **University and Community College Fees**
 - Increased Capital Improvement Fees
 - Additional institutions charging Tuition Differential
 - Addition of Transportation Fee
- **Residency**
 - Clarification of residency requirements

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

March 2009 Calendar

- **Continue to Review and Update**

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 to the Web site at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Select "Postsecondary Institutions." Under "Initial/Renewal Reporting Certification Reports," select "Teacher."

- Follow session activities via **Online Sunshine** at www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome.

Visit our State Programs [Calendar!](#)

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

- The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding for them to pursue postsecondary educational and career goals in Florida. During the 2007-08 award year, over 150,000 Florida students received funding from a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.
- The 2009 high school graduates may apply for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship by completing the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) beginning December 2008. **The FFAA must be completed by the applicant's graduation date.**

Visit the OSFA [Web site](#) or call 1-888-827-2004 for additional information and applications.

Navigating your Financial Future (NyFF) Spotlights Career Planning!

- The Career Planning [brochure](#) provides information about how career choices directly impact the ability to make payments on student loans.
- Earning a degree, certificate, or taking some courses after high school will not only build students' knowledge, but also gives students stronger skills for reaching their career goals. Education is the most important step for students to become successful in a career and in achieving their goals.
- With a career and steady salary, former students and graduates can budget for consistent and timely loan payments. The information in this brochure is designed to offer tips and ideas for career planning as students and graduates navigate through their financial future.
- Do you want to learn more? Visit our [Web site!](#)

Increase of Financial Aid Requests

- Student Lending Analytics surveyed 212 financial aid administrators, and found that financial aid requests among students are on the rise. According to the survey, 69% of survey respondents indicated that they had seen an increase in the number of financial aid requests for 2008-09.
- Additional survey highlights include:
 - Two-year public colleges reported the largest increase in financial aid requests, with 60% of respondents indicating that requests were up over 10% on a year-over-year basis.
 - On a Cost of Attendance (COA) basis, the lowest COA schools demonstrated the largest increase in aid requests.
 - Overall, almost one in two respondents (48%) indicated that they were able to meet the needs of at least 80% of the financial aid requests.
- The full report is available in a PDF document [online](#).

U.S. Department of Education Electronic Announcement

- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced approval of the Revised Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Application in the Dear Colleague Letter [GEN-09-01](#).
- The revised application will be used by borrowers in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL), William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan), Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) programs, and by grant recipients of the Teacher Education for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program.
- Dear Colleague Letter [ID: P-09-01](#) announced the 2009-2010 Federal Pell Grant payment and disbursement [schedules](#).
View more details on the Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) [Web site](#).

U.S. Department of Education

Electronic Announcement

- **2006-07 Pell Grant CFL Reduction To G5 Net Drawdown Warning Message** stated that Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) funds for the 2006-07 Award Year should have been disbursed to students. Accordingly, disbursements and disbursement adjustments for the 2006-07 Award Year should have already been submitted to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System for processing.
- **2006-07 CFL Reduction to G5 Net Drawdown Warning Message** was sent to schools, and stated that the 2006-07 Pell Grant CFL will be reduced to the G5 Net Drawdown if the CFL is still greater than the G5 Net Drawdown. The school should submit all outstanding downward disbursement adjustments to the COD System and/or request any outstanding drawdown from G5 for the 2006-07 Award Year as soon as possible, but **before March 19, 2009**.

View more details on the Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) [Web site](#).

U.S. Department of Education

Electronic Announcement

- The following announcements have been posted to the IFAP Web site:
 - Tentative 2009-10 [Funding Levels](#) for Campus-Based Programs
 - COD Processing [Update](#)
 - Updated [Listing](#) of TEACH Grant Eligible Institutions
 - 2008-09 [Pell Grant](#) CFL Reduction to NAPD Warning Message
 - Updated [Guidance](#) on Making Direct Loan Refunds of Cash (Returning Excess Cash)
 - Updated [Guidance](#) on Making Direct Loan Borrower Payments
 - 2009-01-26 (Grants) Subject: Updated [Listing](#) of TEACH Grant Eligible Institutions
 - NSLDS Reference Materials: [GA-2009-01](#): Lender Code Reporting for PUT Loans

Navigating your Financial Future (NyFF)

E-News

- Signing up for our electronic newsletter, E-News, is the fastest way to keep up with all the latest news and advice for managing debt!
- Be the first to read about our tips and strategies for debt management.
- Click [NyFF E-News](#) and register today!

FASFAA Spring 2009 Conference

- Make your plans to attend this year's FASFAA Spring 2009 Conference at the Sawgrass Marriott in beautiful Jacksonville, Florida!
- Tuesday, May 26, 2009 – Friday, May 29, 2009
[Registration](#) is now open!

Mapping Your Future® Creates MySpace Web Page

- Those searching for money management information are now able to find answers through Mapping Your Future's new Money Management MySpace Web page. It is important for individuals to have the proper tools and knowledge to manage their finances.
- Visit the page at:
<http://www.myspace.com/myfmanageyourmoney>.

OSFA Online Ordering

- OSFA's online ordering process meets all of your form request needs! Please visit <https://www.osfaffelp.org/requestforms/> to order MPNs, and deferment or forbearance forms.

- To order NyFF supplies or other default prevention materials, please visit <http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/Home.aspx>.
 - Username and Password Required
 - Click on Partner Log-In
 - Enter your User Name and Password
 - Click on order form
 - Complete the form and submit

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF) Entrance and Exit Counseling

- Stafford, Grad PLUS, and Combined Entrance and Exit Counseling are all available through our Web site at:
<https://www.osfaffelp.org/studentcounseling/>.
- If you are interested in signing up for Online Entrance and Exit Counseling for your institution, please contact your OSFA [Outreach Representative](#) for assistance.

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!

KUDOS Announcement!

- OSFA recognizes the following staff members for their contributions toward enhancing OSFA's products and services by offering valuable comments and suggestions:
Amanda Walker & Jeanie Carter, OSFA Default Aversion Team
THANK YOU!

Dates to Remember

- March 8, 2009
Daylight Savings time begins

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.

OSFA Team Contact Information

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Gerri McCormick	Outreach Representative	850-322-6498	Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org
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NYFF Team Contact Information

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Diego Perez	Default Prevention Representative, South	561-713-3122	Dperez@randbsolutions.net

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](#).