

## **News to Know**

Florida Department of Education  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
September 2008

### **FY 2008-2009 gears are in motion!**

- The students are back!
- Orientation and registration are in full swing!
- Parking garages are full!
- Football season is here!
- Sounds like the beginning of a successful academic year!

### **KUDOS Announcement!**

- OSFA recognizes the following Financial Aid Administrator for contributions towards enhancing OSFA's products and services by offering valuable comments and suggestions:
  - Tiffany Givens, Lake City Community College

## State Scholarship and Grant Programs: September 2008 Calendar

- Look for the memo reminding private institutions of Program Compliance Audits. It's time to prepare for the 2007-08 audit, due March 1, 2009.
- September 15th is the deadline for applications for the Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement (CTSTR) Program. September 15th is also the deadline for postsecondary institutions to report courses taken for the CTSTR program.
- September 30th is the deadline for Bright Futures Summer Grade and Hours (G&H) Reporting. Bright Futures students who were determined ineligible for renewal based on 2007-08 G&H may use summer coursework to raise their grade point average and hours earned for a 2008-09 reevaluation.
- Term 1 Disbursement Eligibility Reports (DER) are due for some institutions. Don't delay. Florida Statutes provide that this report be submitted no later than 30 days after the last day of drop/add at your institution.

Visit our [Web site!](#)

# State Scholarship Financial Aid Database Has Ability to “Sort by Pseudo”

- On the Master Eligibility List (MEL), institutions can view only their Pseudo SSN population by completing the following steps:
  - Click on “View Master Eligibility Lists”
  - Select “PSI Code” or “PSI Name”
  - Select “Academic Year”
  - Select “Selected By SSN”
  - Enter “P0” in the filter field
  - Select “Program”
  - Click “Search”
- NOTE: Students who do not provide an SSN on the Florida Financial Aid Application are assigned a pseudo number.

## The Master Eligibility List

- Don’t forget, the [MEL](#) is your permission to disburse financial aid to students. Be sure to use the online list for the most updated student information for Bright Futures, Children/Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans, Robert C. Byrd, José Martí, and Rosewood programs. To ensure that all eligible students have received their disbursements, search the entire MEL for all programs, not just those in your institution’s MEL.
  - You will need to log in using your SSFAD ID and pin number.

## **Fixed Award Amounts for Students Attending Private Postsecondary Institutions**

- Memorandum OSFA-STATE: #08-09:05, which provides fixed award amounts for Bright Futures students enrolled at private institutions, was sent to all institutions on August 13, 2008. The fixed award amounts can also be found on the Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs [Web site](#).

## **Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs FAQs**

- Have questions regarding Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs? We have answers! Visit our FAQs [Web site](#) today!

## **Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Members**

- Check the FASFAA Web site often to keep abreast of upcoming [FASFAA](#) events and important dates.

## **It's Hurricane Season!**

- In a major disaster, emergency workers may not be able to reach everyone right away. In some cases, it may take three or more days for help to arrive. What would you do if you had no electricity, no gas, no water, and no telephone service? Having a plan for your family and their needs will help ensure their safety and comfort during these difficult times.
- Have you completed your disaster plan?

Visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org/family/> to get started today!

## Important Announcements

- Federal Student Aid ([DCL ID: ANN-08-09](#)) announces the first release of EDEXpress Basics, the Web-based training product that teaches users the basic skills needed to access and navigate the 2008-09 EDEXpress and EDConnect software. This module covers Global functions and software set-up, Application processing using FAA Access to CPS on the Web, and Pell and TEACH Grant processing.
- The [Federal Register/Vol. 73, No. 154/Friday, August 8, 2008/Notices](#) renewal of the computer matching program between the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) pursuant to the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, Public Law 100-503, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines .

## **The US Department of Education announces the FY 2006 Official Cohort Default Rates To Be Released Sept. 15, 2008**

- All domestic schools that signed up for the Electronic Cohort Default Rate (eCDR) process will receive their FY 2006 official rate electronically via their SAIG mailboxes.
- To learn more, read it in the [NASFAA News](#).

# Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) School Letter

- On August 11, 2008, the Department of Education published in the Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 155) Submission for OMB Review - Comment Request
- SUMMARY: The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.
- All interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before the **deadline of September 10, 2008**.

## 2008-2009 State Programs Appropriations

- Current year appropriation for 2008-2009:
  - \$696,735,514.00
  - 7.5% increase over 2007-2008
- 2009-2010 appropriations will be available Summer 2009.

# 2008-2009 State Programs Appropriations

## FASFAA Fall 2008 Regional Workshops!

	<u>Program</u>	<u>2008-09 Appropriations</u>
• D o y o u w a n t	Florida Bright Futures Scholarship	\$436,175,538.00
	Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)	\$127,641,073.00
	Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)	\$97,042,395.00
	Access to Better Learning and Education Grant (ABLE)	\$4,439,592.00
	Other	\$31,436,916.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$696,735,514.00</b>

to learn more about what the current trends and news are in the financial aid industry? Register for one of the regional workshops.

- Region 1 – Friday, October 17, 2008 (Gulf Coast Community College)
- Region 2 – October 15, 2008 (Location TBA)
- Region 3 – Thursday, October 23, 2008 (Rosen Center)
- Region 4 – October 24, 2008 (Location TBA)
- Region 5 – October 13-14, 2008 (Nova Southeastern University)

[Register early!](#)

## 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!
- Below are just a few of the topics we offer:
  - Financial Aid 101
  - History of Financial Aid
  - Identity Theft
  - Introduction to SSFAD (State Student Financial Aid Database)
  - The "Street Smart" Seminar

## Financial Literacy Resources

- Navigating Your Financial Future Presenter Manual is an online resource to help inform students regarding:
  - Financial Aid
  - Financial Literacy
  - School and Life Management
  - Debt Management
  - Career Planning
  - Managing Your Credit
  - Managing Your Budget
  - Repayment of Student Loan Debt
  - Entrance and Exit Counseling

Visit our [Web site](#) for additional information!



## National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

- NT4CM workshops are tentatively scheduled to run during the months of October, November, and December. Look for additional information in future issues of *News to Know*.

## 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

- 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](#).