Slide 1 - Introduction	Thank you for joining this session titled Financial Aid Overview. It is brought to you by the Office of Student Financial Assistance, a division of the Florida Department of Education.
Slide 2 – Agenda	In today's session we will discuss: What is financial aid? Where do I find financial aid? How do I apply? Who can help me if I have additional questions? All links referenced throughout this session can be found in the PDF script version of the presentation.
Slide 3 – What is Financial Aid	Applying for financial aid involves multiple applications. Students and families will be applying for aid through federal, state, institutional and private resources. It is important to research all avenues! Financial Aid is divided into different categories:
Slide 4 – Gift Aid	Gift aid is free money that does not require repayment as long as the student meets the parameters outlined for each grant or scholarship. Students should always consult with a financial aid administrator prior to making any schedule changes to determine what effect this will have on their financial aid awards.
Slide 5 – Self Help Aid	Self-help is as easy as taking part of your earnings and applying it toward your college expenses. Students should check with their employer (or potential employers) regarding any tuition assistance or reimbursement programs being offered. Student loans are also considered as a form of "self" help, but should only be used as a last resort.
Slide 6 – Need-based Aid	Need-based aid is awarded based on the applicant's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Therefore, it is important to complete your FAFSA as soon as possible. While the Pell Grant is an entitlement program, other need-based monies are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
Slide 7 – Merit-based Aid	Merit-based aid is available through a variety of avenues that we will discuss throughout today's presentation. For example, Bright Futures is a merit-based program.
Slide 8 – Direct or Indirect Costs	College costs include direct costs such as tuition, fees, and books, along with other indirect expenses such as transportation, food, housing, clothing and computer costs. Check your college's website for additional information. Financial aid monies can be used toward all items included within the cost of attendance.
Slide 9 – College Costs	College costs vary from institution to institution. This slide only shows tuition and fees, but remember that college costs include both direct and indirect costs. There are also variances between in-state versus out of state. It is important to take this into consideration when looking at your options. You can use the Net Price Calculator to assist you in analyzing your budget. (https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/focus-on-net-price-not-sticker-price).

Slide 10 – FAFSA	The federal student aid programs are based on the principle that paying for college is a family responsibility. If a student is dependent on his or her parents (based on the criteria in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA), he or she must include parental information. This allows the U.S. Department of Education to determine the financial strength of the family. Please note that the first letter in the acronym FAFSA stands for FREE. Please make sure you are using the correct website: www.FAFSA.gov. There are other websites with a similar look and feel that will charge you to complete the FAFSA. You do not need to pay someone to assist you in this process. • The application becomes available October 1st and will use prior prior year tax return information which most if not all applicants will have completed. For example, the 2017-18 application will use 2015 tax return information. Please ensure that you are in compliance with your institution's priority deadline as it may have changed with the early release date of the FAFSA.
Slide 11 – FAFSA Screen Shot	This is a screenshot of www.FAFSA.gov. Ensure you are accessing the FREE website. If you feel that you need assistance in completing this application, there are built-in help resources available online. You can also reach out to a member of our Outreach Team, your high school counselor or a financial aid professional at your institution. We can all help you at no cost. A good rule of thumb is "you should never have to pay money for free money!"
Slide 12 – Getting Started	Students will need to have their Social Security Number, Alien Registration Numbers (if applicable), tax returns or earning statements, untaxed income records, current bank statements, current business or investment records to complete their FASFA.
Slide 13 – Getting Started 2	Monitoring deadlines is an important part of the financial aid process. For example, the state of Florida offers need-based programs that include a FAFSA priority deadline of May 15th. Institutions also have their own FAFSA priority deadline and you can check their website for the specifics.
Slide 14 – Getting Started 3	The FAFSA may require parental information. Students and families can review the checklist online at: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/fafsa-dependency.pdf to determine if parental information is needed. If parental information is needed, students and families can review the "Who is my parent" checklist at: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/fafsa-parent.pdf If there are extenuating circumstances and students cannot provide parental information, speak to a financial aid administrator regarding a Dependency Override. This option is available only for extenuating circumstances and not applicable to parents who are unwilling to assist, or for students living on their own.

Slide 15 – Getting Started 4	School codes are provided within the FAFSA application. You may search and place up to ten school codes for the institutions you are considering attending. Each will receive a copy of the FAFSA.
Slide 16 – Getting Started 5	Students and parents will need to apply for their own FSA ID and Password. This will be used to electronically sign the FAFSA and utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool which will greatly expedite the process. Parents, if you have a FSA ID, either from your own FAFSA or in conjunction with another child, you will use that same FSA ID again. Each student filing a FAFSA will need their own FSA ID and use a separate e-mail address connected with each ID. A parent's e-mail address cannot be used with the student ID and vice versa.
Slide 17 – Student Aid Report (SAR)	• It is important to ensure that the Student Aid Report is received and reviewed according to these timeframes. If the Student Aid Report is not received, the student must investigate why not. It may be in a spam folder, or it may have not processed correctly due to an error. • When the student receives their copy of the Student Aid Report, the institution will receive an electronic version. If corrections need to be made, the student should work with a financial aid administrator to determine who will be making the corrections. • The institution will review the student aid for accuracy and begin the financial aid award process. The expected family contribution is used to award need-based aid. An institution will begin preparing a financial aid package in an effort to cover the entire cost of attendance. As the cost of attendance can vary from institution to institution, it is important that students and families apply through all federal, state, institutional and local resources in an effort to assist the institution in building a strong financial aid package.
Slide 18 – Additional Info	• Students must contact their institution to determine the award process. For example, one institution may e-mail the student. Another may require the student to log-in to a student portal and check their status online. The student must monitor the process closely! Otherwise, they may miss out on key deadlines or funding. • If students and families complete the FAFSA and are concerned that the form does not reflect their current situation, they may contact a financial aid administrator to discuss their special circumstance. Professional judgment is optional and schools have the direct authority in this area. For more information, please visit http://www.finaid.org/educators/pj/. • Students can also contact the institution to determine if other aid applications are available. An institution may have a foundation department that has a different application and funding process. Additionally, department chairs may have access to other industry-based resources students can apply for. • Lastly, student loans are often included in the initial award process. Students have a responsibility to determine if they should accept, decline or reduce any student loan or loans being offered. Students

	must borrow conservatively and live within a realistic budget to avoid struggling with student loan repayment.
Slide 19 – FFAA	Students often refer to the FFAA as the "Bright Futures" application. It's actually more than that! This one application assists OSFA in determining eligibility for a variety of state grants and scholarships that we will review over the next few slides. One common misconception is that students do not need to complete the application if they do not feel they will qualify for the Bright Futures program. This is NOT true. We encourage ALL students to complete the application and give OSFA the opportunity to determine their eligibility for all Florida grants and scholarships. Another common misconception is that students do not need to complete the application if they are planning to attend school out of state. This is NOT true either. We encourage you to complete it anyway and have it as your "Plan B" in case those northern winters are too cold for your Florida blood!
Slide 20 – OSFA Homepage	This is what OSFA's website looks like. The second tab on the left side of the home page says State Grants, Scholarships, and Applications. Click here.
Slide 21 - State Grants and Scholarships Page	On this page, you will notice a tab across the top that says Applications and Updates. You may choose this or go to the applicant quick links section on the left side of this web page to access the student application, view financial aid history, update demographics, and check the application status. This page also features each grant and scholarship offered as well as the requirements and deadlines to apply.
Slide 22 - Applications & Updates	This is the application screen no matter which of the previous two options you choose. The application takes less than 30 minutes to complete.
Slide 23 - Grant Programs	The following grants are available through the state of Florida. The Access to Better Learning and Education grant provides tuition assistance to full-time Florida undergraduate students enrolled in degree programs at eligible private Florida colleges or universities.
Slide 24 - Grant Programs	The Florida Resident Access Grant provides tuition assistance to full-time Florida undergraduate students who attend eligible private, non-profit Florida colleges or universities.
Slide 25 - Grant Programs	The Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) is Florida's largest need-based grant program. It provides assistance to degree-seeking, resident, undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and are enrolled in eligible public or private postsecondary institutions. The FAFSA is required by the deadline specified by the participating postsecondary institutions.
Slide 26 - Grant Programs	The Jose Marti Scholarship provides assistance to Hispanic-American students who meet scholastic requirements and demonstrate financial need. Applicants for undergraduate study must apply during their senior year of high school. Graduate students may apply; however, priority for the scholarship is given to graduating high school seniors. To be considered, high school seniors

	must submit a completed (error free) Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application and provide supporting documentation by April 1st. The FAFSA is also required and must be processed by the U.S. Department of Education by the May fifteenth deadline. Students are ranked according to highest GPA (4.0) and lowest expected family contribution. Awards are made until the allocation has been used up.
Slide 27 Scholarships	Scholarships offered by the state of Florida include the following: The Bright Futures Scholarship Program provides scholarships based on high school academic achievement and is Florida's largest merit-based scholarship program. To be considered, students **must submit** a completed (error free) *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) during their senior year of high school **(after October 1st and prior to August 31st).** Students graduating mid-year must submit the completed FFAA by August 31st of their graduation year (prior to the spring term enrolled). Our website contains valuable information in the Student Handbooks which explain each scholarship award in further detail.
Slide 28 Scholarships	The Benacquisto Scholarship is a merit scholarship for 2013-14 Florida high school graduates and thereafter who receive recognition as a National Merit® Scholar. Eligible scholars will receive an award, which is equal to the institutional cost of attendance minus the sum of Bright Futures and the National Merit award. An initial application is not required.
Slide 29 Scholarships	The Mary McLeod Bethune scholarship provides assistance to undergraduate students who meet academic requirements, demonstrate financial need, and attend Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, or Florida Memorial University. For participation and application deadline information, students should check with the postsecondary institutions they plan to attend.
Slide 30 Scholarships	The Rosewood Family Scholarship provides scholarship assistance to a maximum of 50 direct descendants of Rosewood families affected by the incidents of January 1923. Students must plan to attend full-time at eligible institutions. A complete and error free Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application is due by April 1st. The FAFSA is also required and must be processed by the U.S. Department of Education by the May 15th deadline.
Slide 31 Scholarships	Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans provides scholarship assistance for dependent children and spouses of Florida veterans who: • died as a result of service-connected injuries, diseases, or disabilities sustained while on active duty, or • have been verified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs as having service-connected 100% total and permanent disabilities, and • Dependent children whose parent is classified as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Armed Forces of the U.S. military.Please visit www.Florida Student Financial Aid.org for more details regarding eligibility.

Slide 32 **Other**	The First Generation Matching Grant provides grant funding to Florida resident, undergraduate students enrolled at state universities or Florida Colleges also known as public community colleges. These students must demonstrate financial need, and have parents who have not earned baccalaureate degrees. To be considered, students must submit a completed and (error free) Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the deadline specified by the participating postsecondary institutions. For participation and application deadline information, students should check with the postsecondary institutions they plan to attend.
Slide 33 **Other**	The Minority Teacher Education Scholarship provides funding for African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, and Native-American students who indicate the potential to become good teachers. Eligible initial students must have met United States citizenship and Florida residency requirements. Other requirements include: • have earned 60 credit hours or an Associate of Arts degree, • have not exceeded 18 hours of upper division educational courses, • be juniors, • not have received a baccalaureate degree in education, • have a minimum 2.5 GPA, • and be newly admitted into a teacher education program at any of the program's participating postsecondary institutions. To be considered, students must apply via the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers website at www.ffmt.org.
Slide 34 **Other**	The Florida Work Experience Program (FWEP) provides eligible Florida resident, undergraduate students the opportunity to secure work experiences that complement their educational programs and career goals. To be considered, students must submit a completed (error free) *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (*FAFSA) by the deadline specified by the participating institution. For information on participating employers and institutional application deadlines, students should check with the postsecondary institutions they plan to attend.
Slide 35 **Amounts**	Award amounts are determined annually during the Florida Legislative Session. Bright Futures – FAS 4 year – $103.00 2 year – $63.00 CC Baccalaureate – $71.00 Career/Technical - $52.00 Academic Top Scholar $44.00 per credit hour Bright Futures – FMS 4 year – $77.00 2 year – $48.00 CC Associate - $63.00 CC Baccalaureate – $53.00

	Career/Technical - $39.00 BF – GSV Career Certificate - $39.00 Applied Technology Diploma - $39.00 Technical Degree Education – $48.00
Slide 36 **Fastweb**	For additional scholarship searches, consider setting up a separate email account solely to prevent your e-mail inbox from becoming inundated with information. Fastweb is a nationwide scholarship website that works by matching the information in your completed profile to scholarships contained in their database. Besides providing you with scholarships you actually qualify for, and eliminating the need to scour the web, Fastweb also provides advice on financial aid, college admissions, student life and tools such as financial aid calculators, discussion boards, and checklists. Visit www.Fastweb.com for more information.
Slide 37 **Other**	Others sources of financial aid include the following: www.Finaid.org offers a great list of scholarships. The list includes a section called "unusual scholarships" which includes items such as Star Trek scholarships, Left-handed scholarships, Tall People/Little People scholarships. There are also scholarships for students with disabilities and medical conditions such as cancer survivors. Your high school guidance office is a great resource for local scholarships. The school district's website may also provide online resources as well. As we discussed earlier, "You should never pay money for free money!" We all know that old saying, "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" Protect yourself from companies that attempt to pressure you into paying for resources that you can easily access at no cost. Suspicious activity should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov.
Slide 38 **Ed Tax Credits**	Please refer to IRS Publication 970 or consult with your local tax advisor for more information about education tax credits. A link is provided in the pdf script of this presentation. (http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf)
Slide 39 **MYF**	Through OSFA's sponsorship, all of Mapping Your Future's products and services are free of charge to Florida's students and families. Mapping Your Future's goal is to help students plan for higher education by offering reliable and unbiased money management advice. Resources include college preparation, school selection, career exploration, and counseling in the area of money management. Please visit www.MappingYourFuture.org.
Slide 40 **NyFF**	Throughout this entire presentation, you have seen the NyFF logo in the upper left-hand corner. OSFA created "Navigating Your Future" to help students and families make informed decisions regarding an educational and financial future. There are many free resources available in print and online. Please visit www.NavigatingYourFuture.org.
Slide 41	If you need assistance or further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers and links provided. We are here to help! Thank you for attending this session.