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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program District Contacts
Public and Private High School Guidance Counselors
Public and Private 8th Grade Guidance Counselors

FROM: David Sikes, Director
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

DATE: July 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program 2009-10

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) will not be printing Florida Bright Futures Scholarship 2009-10 initial eligibility brochures for district distribution or inclusion in the Florida Trend's NEXT magazine. However, we remain committed to providing you with updated Bright Futures Scholarship Program information accessible online as listed below.

Going electronic with a print ready version, instead of hardcopy paper, will encourage efficient, individualized access to the information we wish you and the students to have regarding Bright Futures Scholarships.

Online Resources (www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf)

Brochure link:

- Printable version of the 2009-10 brochure

Help tab on secure guidance counselor Web site:

- PowerPoint presentation for students/parents on Bright Futures initial eligibility requirements.

THERESA ANTORTH
DIRECTOR, STATE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAMS

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- Template for Verification of Receipt of Information form (several to a page), printable version. This was developed at the request of high school guidance counselors to document each student's receipt of information on the initial eligibility requirements and to avoid miscommunication.
- Template for Bright Futures information for district publications which may be used in your communications to students.

We encourage you to continue to share Bright Futures requirements with your students. In your large group presentations, we suggest you use our Web site or PowerPoint presentation to display and review the Bright Futures requirements:

- 1) for each award, and
- 2) to submit a Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) by high school graduation.

Legislative Updates

The 2009 Legislature made changes to funding and renewal requirements, but **not to initial eligibility requirements**. Please note the change in the award amounts for the 2009-10 academic year. Award amounts for the 2010-11 academic year (2010 high school graduates) will be available in summer 2010, after the 2010 legislative session ends. Students graduating in 2010 may view current year award amounts at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm.

District Curriculum Guides/Publications/Newsletters

Thank you for sharing your high school curriculum guides/newsletters with us. We greatly appreciate your including information about the Bright Futures Scholarship Program in your communications to students. For your convenience, we have posted a template of Bright Futures information on our secure Web site under the **Help** tab to include in your communications. **Please be sure to refer students and parents to our Web site (www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf) in any of your communications.**

If you have creative ideas for sharing Bright Futures information, we would love to hear them! Please call us toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

DS:jm