

# THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

## MARILYNN "LYNN" STRONG ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT HUMAN RESOURCES

Signatures on File

January 12, 2010

TO: All Principals  
Department Heads

FROM: Lynn Strong, Associate Superintendent  
Human Resources

VIA: Area Superintendents

SUBJECT: **CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (OSFA)**

Please notify each member of your instructional staff, by forwarding the attached electronic memo, that the Florida Department of Education is now accepting applications for The Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement and The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness programs.

The attached memorandum from The Florida Department of Education provides additional information. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Florida Department of Education Customer Service at [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org) or toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

Thank you.

MLS/JH/BB:kds  
Attachment

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Public School Employees

FROM: Catherine Hall  
Program Director, Special Interest Unit

DATE: January 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Critical Teacher Shortage Programs Administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

Please share this important information with your district employees.

The Florida Department of Education, OSFA currently administers programs to assist employees in Florida publicly-funded schools with educational funding:

- The Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement (CTSTR) program provides certified employees of Florida publicly-funded schools assistance to become certified or obtain an advanced degree in a CTS area.
- The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness (CTSFLF) program assists certified teachers who are teaching in a Florida publicly-funded school for their first year in a Critical Teacher Shortage (CTS) area with loan repayment.
  - For more information about the above two programs, please contact Customer Service at [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org) or toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.
- Stafford Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers may provide up to \$17,500 to teachers in principal and interest on Federal Family Education Loans and/or Direct Loans for teaching five consecutive years in a designated low-income school.
  - You may wish to contact Elaine Fletcher at [Elaine.Fletcher@fldoe.org](mailto:Elaine.Fletcher@fldoe.org) or visit the United States Department of Education Web site at <http://StudentAid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/cancelstaff.jsp?tab=repaying> for qualifications and a listing of low-income schools.

The OSFA Web site at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) provides details on both CTSFLF and CTSTR programs, including a listing of current CTS areas. Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications, and Programs Offered**, and then select any of the programs listed to view the program's fact sheet. *The Publicly-Funded School*  
January 6, 2010

LEVIS HUGHES  
*Bureau Chief*  
*Office of Student Financial Assistance*

Employees brochure, available at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/pdf/pro\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/pdf/pro_brochure.pdf), provides information about Florida's CTS programs.

#### General Information

- The *2010-11 Florida Financial Aid Application for Teachers* opened on January 1, 2010, for the 2009-10 academic year of teaching service. To begin the initial application process, employees may:
  - Submit the online application available on the OSFA Web site by selecting **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**, then **Apply Here** and **Initial State Teacher Application**.
  - Review all Before You Begin pages, as they contain critical deadlines, information, instructions, and an applicant checklist. All required information **must** be received by the program deadlines.
- An Initial Florida Financial Aid Application for Teachers is required for the CTSLF program for any teacher who has not received an award. Employees participating in the CTSTR program must apply each year.

#### CTSLF Renewal Information

- A CTSLF renewal teacher is one who was determined eligible and received a CTSLF award during the preceding award year. Now is the time for renewal teachers to verify information on file:
  - Visit the OSFA Web site and select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**.
  - Use your User ID and PIN to verify demographic information and current employer by accessing **Application Status & Award History**, selecting **Renewal Teachers Update**, then **Name, Address, and Employer**.
  - Update Lender/Servicing Agent(s) by calling OSFA toll-free 1-888-827-2004.

#### CTSLF Reinstatement Information

- A CTSLF reinstatement applicant is one who was determined eligible for a CTSLF award, but did not receive funds during the preceding award year. The *2010-11 Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Teachers* will open February 1, 2010 for the 2009-10 academic year of teaching service. To begin the restoration application process, employees may visit the OSFA Web site and:
  - Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications, Apply Here**, and then **Reinstatement/Restoration Application for Teachers**.
  - Use your User ID and PIN to access, complete, and submit the application by July 15, 2010.

#### Award Timeline

- Award and denial notices will be distributed by November 2010; checks will follow.
  - CTSLF:
    - *2010-11 Initial Florida Financial Aid Application for Teachers* deadline - July 15, 2010.
    - Employment, lender, and postsecondary institution certification deadline - July 15, 2010.
    - Department of Education teacher certification/Department of Health licensure – July 15, 2010.
      - Participants may receive up to a maximum of \$10,000 for the duration of the program. Annual awards may not exceed \$2,500 for teachers with an undergraduate degree or \$5,000 per year for teachers with a graduate degree.
      - For the **2009-10 award year**, full-time teachers who taught at least 180 days during the 2008-09 academic year received prorated awards of \$447.50 with **undergraduate degrees** and \$895 with **graduate degrees** received prior to becoming a teacher in a CTS area.
  - CTSTR:
    - *2010-11 Initial Florida Financial Aid Application for Teachers* deadline - September 15, 2010.
    - Employment and postsecondary institution certification deadline - September 15, 2010.
      - Applicants funded may receive tuition reimbursement at a rate not to exceed \$78 per semester hour, excluding special fees.
      - For the **2009-10 award year**, the maximum award was prorated to **\$14 per semester hour** to accommodate all eligible applicants.

Should you have additional questions about the Florida CTS programs, please call Customer Service toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

cc: Theresa Antworth