**HOW TO COMPLETE THE INITIAL STUDENT FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION**

**(REQUIRED FOR BRIGHT FUTURES)**

**BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1st OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR (OR FINAL YEAR IN HS IF GRADUATING EARLY):**

* Go to <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org> website.
* Click on the *State Grants, Scholarships & Applications* tab.
* Click on *Student Application* tab.
* Review the Student Handbook sections and then click on *Proceed to Application* to begin.

**PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING:**

* Questions/fields marked with an asterisk (\*) require a response.
* **Question 1** (Social Security Number): This is not required but does help to match you with your record. If you are unsure of your number, do not guess.
* **Question 2** (Date of Birth): Be sure to put the **year you were born**, not current year!
* **Question 3**(Name): This should be your name as it appears on your social security card. Be sure to use your full name--no nicknames.
* **Question 14** (Zip Code): You should enter your 5-digit zip code. *You do not have to enter the last 4 digits.*
* **Question 22** (High School Graduation Date): BE SURE TO PUT **2017, not 2016.**
* **Question 23** (Student Classification during 2015-16 School Year): Students should choose **FRESHMAN (FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE). {Even if a student has taken dual enrollment courses, it is recommended by the state to select this. “**We don’t use that classification for anything pertaining to the evaluation so it isn’t a critical issue.  We usually say “freshman first time in college” as a general rule simply because it alleviates having to enter a GPA for dual enrollment and the college the student is attending. “**}**
* **Question 24** (Where You Plan to Attend School): You may (*and must*) change this if you decide to attend somewhere else. You can log back on to your account and update your school.
* **Question 25** **and 28** (Last Postsecondary Attended): If you selected **FRESHMAN (FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE)**, you do not need to answer these questions.
* **Questions 26 and 27** (GPA): Give your best estimate of your GPA. *(Your official GPA will be certified by your school prior to eligibility determination.)*
* **Question 29** (Tests): If not certain what you are going to take, give your best guess.
* **Question 33** (Release of Information): You must answer **YES** if you want to be considered for Bright Futures.
* **Question 34** (Felony Conviction): Read carefully. For most students, the answer will be **NO**.

After completing all questions/fields, click SUBMIT (& PRINT) MY APPLICATION (click CANCEL if you do not wish to print). *Write down your USER ID AND PIN*. (You must use this ID & PIN to log back on to your account to find out if you are receiving an award—NOTHING WILL BE MAILED OR SENT TO YOU. )

USER ID:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PIN:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This is not the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** The FAFSA will be available to complete on October 1, 2016. You must complete the FAFSA to be eligible for GRANTS, LOANS, WORK STUDY and some SCHOLARSHIPS. Please look for upcoming information on FAFSA NIGHTS where you can get help completing the application. The application is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).