

## WELCOME

The Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) website is a place for the LASFAA membership to stay in touch with each other and share the latest information about financial aid, legislative news and more.

LASFAA is an association with over 500 members consisting of educational institutions, lenders and organizations dedicated to serving students, parents, and agencies with the dissemination of information related to student financial aid. LASFAA is an association with over 500 members consisting of educational institutions, lenders and organizations dedicated to serving students, parents, and agencies with the dissemination of information related to student financial aid.

To our students and families, it is our pleasure to help you achieve your educational goals through financial aid programs. Bookmark our website and use it as a reference for your financial aid matters. Feel free to contact any Executive Board member if the association can be of additional assistance.

### Membership Questions:

Contact

[MemberRelations@lasfaa.org](mailto:MemberRelations@lasfaa.org)

# LASFAA



# 1 IN-LINE WITH LASFAA

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# Executive Board 2019

President	Amy Cable
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# MESSAGE

## From the President

Jeanette Walls said “One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by.” As the days get warmer and the sun shines longer financial aid professionals are hard at work preparing their students for success during the summer semesters. I was fortunate enough to visit the State Capital for Louisiana GEAR UP DAY sponsored by LOSFA and talk to 8th graders from three local schools about the LA GEAR UP program. LA GEAR UP (Louisiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is supported by the U.S. department of Education and gives grants to states or institutions of higher learning to create partnerships with high-poverty middle and high school. In partnership with 16 school districts, LA GEAR UP aims to increase the number of low income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post secondary education. I would like to thank LOSFA for inviting me to speak to the students about their financial aid options and making them better prepared for their educational experience. We are also preparing for a totally awesome conference as LOSFAA goes Back To The 80’s for the Fall Conference. This years conference will be held at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge from October 16 – 18. Registration will be opening soon so mark your calendars and check the website for more information. I would like to thank Joni Leggio for her assistance with creating the save the date and Christe Smith, Ann Carmichael, Rebecca Amy and Amanda Brady for their assistance with planning the event.



# LASFAA

## Around the State



### LASFAA President Amy Cable joined LOSFA for GEAR UP Day at the Capital

President Amy Cable recently spoke to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Louisiana State Capital regarding financial aid opportunities at the annual LA GEAR UP day.

LA GEAR UP Day at the Capitol commemorates GEAR UP—Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs—a federal college access initiative providing students and families the support and resources they need for college success. GEAR UP has improved educational outcomes for millions of low-income, minority and disadvantaged students across the United States.

To date, LA GEAR UP has impacted over 20,000 Louisiana students, 17 Louisiana parishes, and 60 Louisiana schools through college and career readiness interventions such as tutoring, mentoring, financial literacy, college scholarships, campus trips, and student academic-year peer leadership clubs.



# Act 116 has been signed

Present law requires that all public school students receive instruction in personal financial management, and for students entering high school, such instruction is required for graduation. Provides that the instruction shall be age and grade appropriate and may be integrated into an existing course of study. Provides that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) shall adopt rules and guidelines that include a requirement that the instruction include specified components. Requires local school boards to provide the instruction in accordance with such rules and guidelines. Requires BESE to establish and maintain a clearinghouse for instructional materials and information regarding personal financial management.

What's New: In addition to learning about income, money management, spending and credit, and saving and investing, students will now learn the process and responsibilities, including repayment and default, of borrowing money to fund postsecondary education opportunities. Effective August 1, 2019.

LASFAA President formally supported the proposed additions to the current law. We are at a time in which there is great focus on college affordability and improving college success through means such as financial literacy education. Secondary and post-secondary educators and administrators should have a united front in preparing students to attend college and be smart stewards of federal financial aid dollars.

On June 5, 2019 Governor John Bell Edwards signed the Bill into law. LASFAA President Amy Cable was present during the signing.





## What's New With NASFAA

### House Subcommittee Champions Historic Increases for Student Aid Programs

By Stephen Payne, NASFAA Policy & Federal Relations Staff

The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H) Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday cleared a fiscal year (FY) 2020 [spending bill](#) with almost half a billion dollars in increased support for the federal student aid programs, though final allocations are far from settled. In total, the bill would provide \$4.4 billion above the FY 2019 enacted level for the Department of Education (ED), \$11.9 billion above [President Donald Trump's budget request](#).

"Today we are recommending historic investments in our people, in our country and in programs that each of our constituents support. I am proud to do so and to help finally meet our obligations to children, for child care, to education, to science and health care for all," said Subcommittee Chairwoman Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). "For too long, working people and middle-class families of this country have been shortchanged. So, this Committee is moving ambitiously to make up for lost ground and to make sure that we provide every individual with a better chance at a better life."

The bill, which would impact award year 2020-21, significantly increases the resources for the subcommittee's allocation, drawing some concern from Republicans on the subcommittee.

"While it's easy to spend more money on programs we all like, such a large increase is simply not likely to be reflected in the final agreement," said Ranking Member Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK).

If enacted, the bill would increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$150 to \$6,345, up from \$6,195 in FY 2019. The bill allocates \$1.028 billion for the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Program, a \$188 million increase over FY 2019, or a 22% increase. The boost represents the largest funding increase in a single year in the program's history and would take the program's allocation over \$1 billion for the first time. The 22% increase in a single year is the largest since a 26% boost in FY 1979.

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is another winner in the bill with an appropriation of \$1.434 billion, a \$304 million increase, or 27%, over FY 2019. The increase represents the program's largest increase in a single year, and the largest percentage increase since FY 1997. The bill's allocations for FSEOG and FWS match the [appropriations request from NASFAA](#).

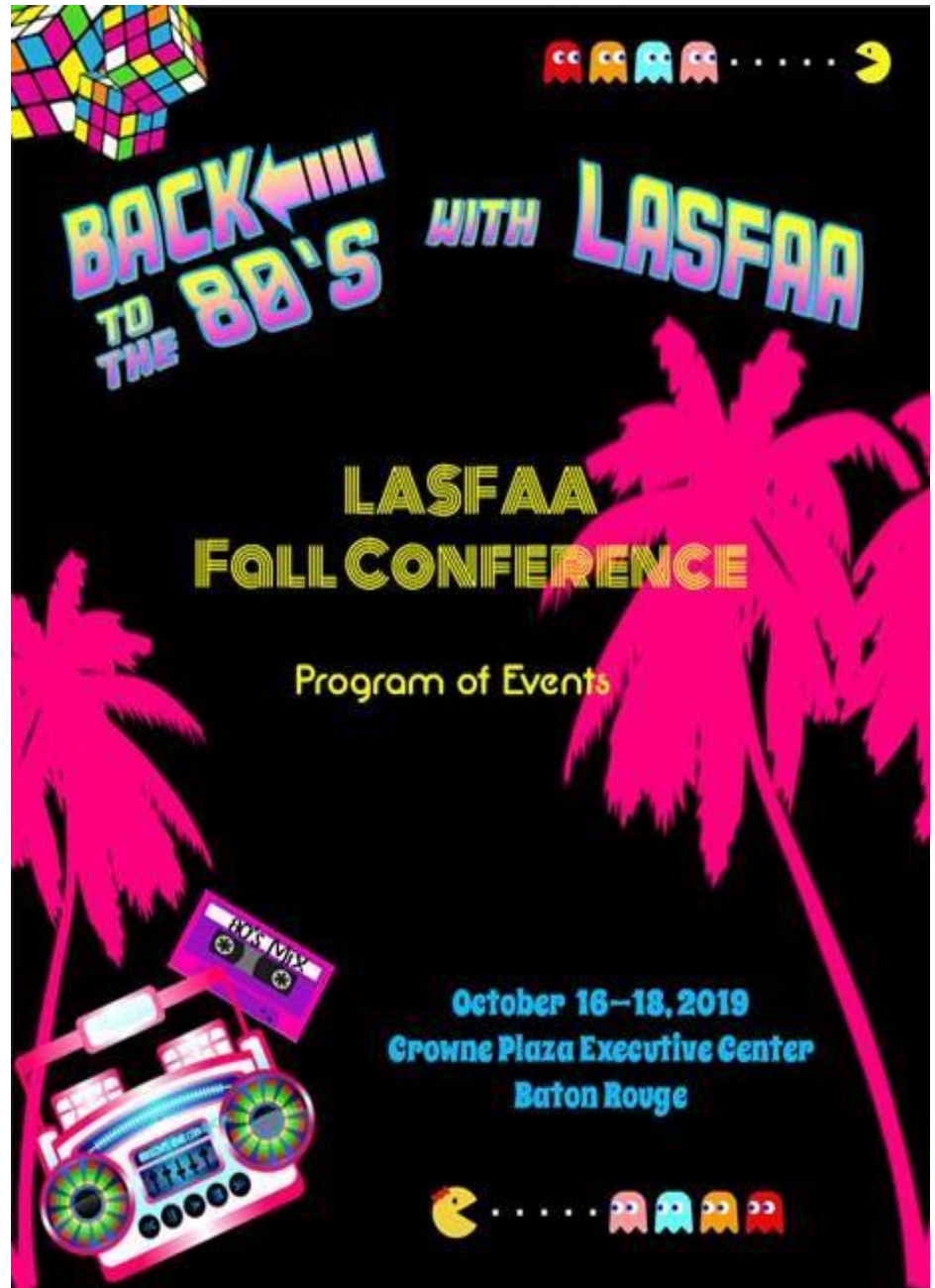


Not only does the bill reject the large cuts to student aid proposed in Trump’s budget earlier this year, but the bill also includes flat funding for the Student Aid Administration account after Trump requested an additional \$133 million, his only proposed higher education increase, to support the Office of Federal Student Aid’s (FSA) Next Generation Services Environment.

The bill includes another \$350 million for the [Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(TEPSLF\) initiative](#) to help borrowers in the wrong repayment plan qualify for PSLF, but removes the language that requires both the monthly payment made 12 months prior to the TEPSLF application and the payment made immediately prior to the TEPSLF application to be larger than the monthly payment amount that would have been required under an income-driven repayment plan. In effect, this would create a \$350 million pool of funds with slightly looser requirements than the \$700 million allocated over the last two fiscal years. Different from the past two years, the language also requires ED to notify borrowers who have submitted an Employment Certification Form but are in the wrong repayment plan about TEPSLF and the requirements to qualify. As of March 31, 2019, ED has discharged \$17.5 million in loan balances for borrowers who applied for TEPSLF.

“Financial aid administrators applaud Chairwoman DeLauro and the subcommittee for the recognition of the value in the federal investment in students,” said NASFAA President and CEO Justin Draeger. “These historic boosts will take us one step closer to ensuring that lack of financial resources will not hinder a student’s efforts to pursue postsecondary education. These expansions were made possible by ensuring appropriate resources were available for domestic programs. We urge the Senate to support these investment levels in their own bill in the coming weeks.”

From here, the bill will move to the full Appropriations Committee for consideration, where the bill is expected to pass on a party-line vote. However, congressional leaders have yet to negotiate top-level spending numbers, which will be necessary before any spending bill can move beyond each individual chamber. For more information on the federal budget process, see [NASFAA’s Federal Budget and Appropriations page](#) and [NASFAA’s budget FAQs](#).





## **A message from Inceptia**

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### **Verification Gateway**

Verification transformed giving you time savings and flexibility.

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It's estimated that one-third of FAFSAs are selected for verification, creating extra work for schools as well as the students they serve.

With Inceptia's innovative Verification Gateway solution, its verification process is easier, faster and more accurate than ever for students and financial aid departments. It pairs a fully automated process with the flexibility of optional personal interaction to offer the industry's smartest and most innovative verification outsourcing solution.

Students and parents can quickly and securely navigate verification via our mobile-ready, self-help web portal and receive alerts so they know what documentation is needed, when it's due and when they've completed their requirements. Plus, our highly trained Verification Specialists are available to answer questions via a dedicated toll-free number, if needed.

Verification Gateway offers schools a means to award students faster, reduce compliance risk and incoming call volume, and increase efficiency. The ability to package student files and disburse aid more quickly, plus the ability to view all submitted data and access to student progress views saves time and eliminates cumbersome paperwork.

### **The Mary Sue Rix Protégé Scholarshp**

In the wake of mounting fiscal constraints for institutions of higher learning, the Mary Sue Rix Protégé Scholarship was established to provide assistance to financial aid professionals seeking to attend the Annual LASFAA Fall Conference. Understanding the benefits derived from networking with peers on a broader platform, the scholarship offers recipients access to a wealth of knowledge, resources, best-practices and the latest technology for optimizing efficiency at their respective institutions and for enhancing Financial Aid services to their students.

**AWARD:**

The scholarship will cover 100% of recipients Registration Fee (currently \$125) for attending the LASFAA Annual Fall Conference. Two (2) Recipients will be awarded annually.

Note: Applicant must be an active LASFAA member and current participant in the Mentor-Protege program with less than four (4) years of financial aid experience.

Sign up here: : <https://form.jotform.com/81756812227157>





# TOPS PROCESSING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **1. I'm starting college this Fall but the financial aid office told me that they don't have any TOPS information for me. Should I be concerned?**

*TOPS processing for high school graduates begins in early June. If you do not receive your TOPS Award notification from LOSFA by July 15th, contact our office.*

## **2. Why isn't my TOPS award amount listed in my financial aid package?**

*Your college/university is responsible for adding any anticipated TOPS credits according to their financial aid procedures. LOSFA only makes an official determination of TOPS eligibility during the TOPS processing cycle and will then identify those students on a Master Roster, which all postsecondary institutions have access to. LOSFA will never release an "anticipated" or "projected" TOPS award status.*

## **3. My college says that I don't have TOPS because LOSFA does not have my transcript or ACT score. How do I send this information to LOSFA?**

*Unfortunately, we cannot accept e-mailed or faxed copies of ACT scores or high school transcripts. You must contact ACT ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)) and ask them to send an official ACT score report to LOSFA using ACT code 1595. Final high school transcript information will be sent to LOSFA from the Student Transcript System (STS) via the Louisiana Department of Education in June.*

## **4. Someone told me that I have to register for a Student Hub account or else I won't receive TOPS. Is this true?**

No. The Student Hub is merely a tool that students can use to track their TOPS eligibility. Students that apply for TOPS by completing a FAFSA or TOPS online application will be processed for TOPS eligibility, whether or not they have registered for a Student Hub account.

## About LOSFA

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), a program of the Louisiana Board of Regents, strives to be Louisiana's first choice for college access by promoting, preparing for and providing equity of college access.

Visit our website:  
<http://www.osfa.la.gov>

Connect with us on our social media platforms!



## Help make college happen

 Smart Option Student Loan<sup>®</sup> for Undergraduates

 Sallie Mae<sup>®</sup> Parent Loan

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- ✓ No origination fee or prepayment penalty<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Multiple repayment options
- ✓ 100% coverage of the school-certified cost of attendance<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ 4 months of free study support from Study Starter<sup>SM3</sup>

Learn more at [SallieMae.com](http://SallieMae.com)

#### Borrow Responsibly

We encourage students and families to start with savings, grants, scholarships, and federal student loans to pay for college. Students and families should evaluate all anticipated monthly loan payments, and how much the student expects to earn in the future, before considering a private student loan.

For participating degree-granting schools. Students are not eligible to be a Parent Loan borrower or cosigner. Applications are subject to a requested minimum loan amount of \$1,000. Current credit and other eligibility criteria apply.

<sup>1</sup> Sallie Mae reserves the right to approve a lower loan amount than the school-certified amount.

<sup>2</sup> Although we do not charge you a penalty or fee if you prepay your loan, any prepayment will be applied as provided in your promissory note: first to Unpaid Fees and costs, then to Unpaid interest, and then to Current Principal.

<sup>3</sup> This promotional benefit is provided at no cost to borrowers with loans that first disburse between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Borrowers who reside in, attend school in, or borrow for a student attending school in Maine are not eligible for this benefit. No cash value. Terms and Conditions apply. Please visit [Chegg.com/studentstart/learnandconditions](http://Chegg.com/studentstart/learnandconditions) for complete details. This offer expires one year after issuance.

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Thanh  
Future health science student



# Financial Aid

U G M A W A G N I L E S N U O C E C N A R T N E  
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Complete	Parent Plus Loan	Graduate	Undergraduate
Communication	Deadlines	Default	Deferment
Dependent	Entrance Counseling	Financial Aid	Frustration
Grants	Independent	Loans	Pell
PHEAA	Refund Check	Responsibility	Sap
Scholarships	Title IV	Verification	Work Study

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*Interested in volunteering for LASFAA?  
Contact a committee chair...*

Amenities	Sharron Pollard
Cost of Attendance	Amy Marix
Diversity Awareness/Professional Development	Jasheika Dennis
Fall 2019 Conference Program	Christie Smith
Fall 2019 Conference Site	Joni Leggio/Ann Carmichael
Finance Committee	Kristi Waters
Financial Aid Awareness	Sharmain Lazard
Legislative Advocacy/Association Governance	Deborah Paul
Long Range Planning	Taina Savoit
Member Relations	Brad Meyers
Exhibitor Liaison	Joni Leggio
Nominations & Awards/Archives	Katraya Williams
Publications	Amanda Brady
Site Selection	Shannon Cross
SWASFAA Update	Shannon Guillory
Technology/Automation	Rebecca Amy
Training	Latora Green/Brittani Williams



LASFAA Fall Conference Boot Camp - 10/15/2019, Crown Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA  
 LASFAA Fall Conference - 10/16/2019-10/18/2019, Crown Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA  
 SWASFAA Conference - November 13-15 New Orleans  
 Federal Student Aid Conference - Dec 3-6 Reno, NV

# BALANCE THEIR SUCCESS

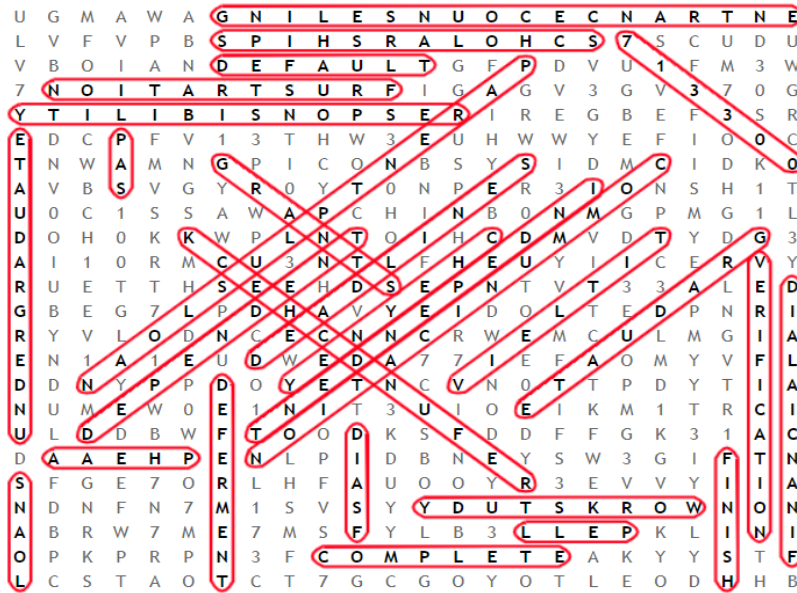
KHEAA provides quality, result-oriented and customer-driven services geared to help you and your students. We offer dynamic ways to lower your cohort default rate, verify FAFSAs and NO-FEE loan products for students and parents. Give us a call or visit online to learn how we stack up.



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 Default  
 Entrance Counseling  
 Grants  
 Pell  
 Responsibility  
 Title IV

FSA ID  
 Parent Plus Loan  
 Communication  
 Deferment  
 Financial Aid  
 Independent  
 PHEAA  
 Sap  
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 loan debt could  
*save you money!*

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