**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION (FFAA)**

**How to apply for BRIGHT FUTURES & everything else the state of FLORIDA offers in financial aid.**

Pay attention to detail, the information you input here must match everything on your high school transcript. For example, if your high school transcript says John SanchezGarcia, you cannot input John Sanchez or John Garcia; you MUST put John SanchezGarcia. Items with a red asterisk (\*) are required fields – if there is no asterisk, you need not respond.

1. Go to: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home> or google Bright Futures Application, or FFAA Application.
2. Click on Create a student account under First Time Applicant in the middle of the page.
3. Create PROFILE section with your Demographic & Contact information:
	* at this point your information is in the state’s database and will be shared/matched with FAFSA (when you submit that application) to qualify for need based programs such as the Florida Student Assistance Grant, the Effective Access to Student Education Program (previously the FRAG), First Generation Matching Grant and others (please see the left hand side of <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home> for a complete listing and detailed description of each program).
4. You may use the date of 6/6/2024 as your graduation date – this is simply the last calendar school day and is your official graduation date that will be on final transcripts. (\*Our ceremony date is still pending).
5. Once your PROFILE has been submitted you will see a page that has your log-in credentials – TAKE A PICTURE & WRITE THIS DOWN.

**YOU ARE NOT DONE YET…YOU MUST NOW COMPLETE THE APPLICATION.**

1. Click on the FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION via the link on the top (the site will also redirect you there automatically after about 90 seconds)
2. Double check to see if all of your demographic information is correct as you entered on your PROFILE page, on this next page you will start entering OTHER INFORMATION.
3. If you are a citizen, put “U.S. Citizen”. If you are not a citizen, put “Eligible Noncitizen”. (This is the case for Permanent Residents) Select yes if Florida is the state of your legal residence (lived here for at least 12 months).
4. The FELONY QUESTION - Please read this question very carefully and answer it. Almost all students should answer “No”. Y
5. You will have about 5 drop down menus to answer YES/NO to various questions about your family background, ethnicity and more.
	* (If you answer YES to the Hispanic background question – there will be a follow up question asking you to identify in which Hispanic country you or one of your parents was born.
6. Next section: HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT ACADEMIC BACKGROUND.
7. Will you graduate from a public/private high school in Florida? YES
	* Select Your Florida high school graduation option: PUBLIC County – Miami-Dade County (it’s not alphabetized)
	* High School you will graduate from Coral Gables Senior High School (it is alphabetized!)
	* Next questions (out-of-state, home schooled are not appliable & should not be accessible)
8. \* FOR IB STUDENTS ONLY: Are you and AICE or IB student – ONLY IB students should answer YES to this question (Coral Gables does not offer the AICE diploma)
9. You will then be asked about your ACADEMIC BACKGROUND POST SECONDARY PLANS:
	* Have you have or will earn a Baccalaureate degree by the end of the 2023-2024 school year – NO!
	* Status in college: – YOU WILL ALL BE A FRESHMAN, FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE (even if you have dual enrollment, those credits are on your transcripts as DE– you will be first time in college (FTIC) to be evaluated for all 1st year programs/funding)
10. Are thinking of an in-state or out-of-state institution? you MUST list an in-state institution even if – currently – it is your back-up if you are considering out of state as well. Once you select in-state – you may list your 1st choice and up to four more schools. After you submit, you can go back in at any time and update/change these selections.
11. **DO NOT FORGET TO CLICK SUBMIT –** you do not need to include any GPA or test scores as the creation of your profile and permission to the state allows the Office of Student Assistance to retrieve that data and use it to evaluate you for Bright Futures and other programs you may qualify for. Please check your email frequently as this is the only way the state (and the federal gov’t and your colleges) will be in communication with you!
12. You will be directed to a results page – which is the receipt of your application!
13. Note the statement at the end: it is your responsibility to review your account information on a regular basis to track your application process and make updates.