

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES****LOSFA College Goal Sunday**

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and the Louisiana Association of Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) will co-sponsor Louisiana's eighth annual College Goal Sunday events on February 28th and March 6th, 2016. College Goal Sunday is a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion event held at postsecondary institutions around the state. Financial aid professionals from the host institutions' Financial Aid offices are on-hand to provide one-on-one, line-by-line, FAFSA completion and submission assistance. The event registration form will be available on the LOSFA Website, [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov), beginning December 15, 2015

LOSFA can help students and parents with the FAFSA application process:

- Email LOSFA at [custserv@la.gov](mailto:custserv@la.gov)
- Access LOSFA via web at [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov)
- To speak to a representative call LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626

Note: The FAFSA form for students planning to attend a postsecondary institution in the 2016-2017 academic year will be available beginning January 1, 2016, and will require 2015 student and parent federal income tax return information.

**Louisiana Department of Education Counselor Assistance Center**

The Counselor Assistance Center is a resource to support students, parents and professional school counselors. All stakeholders have direct access to a licensed professional school counselor. Contact the center at 1-877-453-2721 or by emailing [SCA@la.gov](mailto:SCA@la.gov).

**U.S. Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid**

The Office of Federal Student Aid is responsible for managing the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The office ensures that students and their families can benefit from these programs by:

- Informing students and families about the availability of the *federal student aid programs* and the process for applying for and receiving aid from those programs;
- Developing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* and processing approximately 22 million FAFSA submissions each year;
- Accurately disbursing, reconciling, and accounting for all federal student aid funds that are delivered to students each year through more than 6,200 colleges and career schools;
- Managing the outstanding *federal student loan* portfolio and securing repayment from federal student loan borrowers;
- Offering free assistance to students, parents, and borrowers throughout the entire financial aid process; and
- Providing oversight and monitoring of all program participants—schools, financial entities, and students—to ensure compliance with the laws, regulations, and policies governing the federal student aid programs.

For more information go to: <https://studentaid.ed.gov>.

## SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

### **Statewide Professional School Counselor Collaborative Sessions**

Given Louisiana's new programs and policies, the Department is committed to increasing the amount of hands-on support we provide to professional school counselors. LDOE Network Teams will be providing counselor collaborative sessions throughout the 2015-2016 school year to provide counselors with the tools and information needed to ensure appropriate courses, pathway selections, and Individual Graduation Plans for all students. Initial sessions began in September and will continue in November. Specific dates can be found in the [2015-2016 District Support Calendar](#).

### **Student FAFSA Completion Data**

The Louisiana Office of Student and Financial Assistance (LOSFA) has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that now allows LOSFA to communicate FAFSA completion rates with each Local Educational Agency (LEA) in the state as well as with certain college access service providers, provided that those LEAs and service providers enter an agreement with LOSFA. LOSFA is partnering with the state's school systems and college access providers to ensure that all high school seniors have an opportunity to complete the FAFSA. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact LOSFA at [custserv@osfa.la.gov](mailto:custserv@osfa.la.gov) with the subject line "FAFSA Completion Project."

## SCHOOL SUPPORT FROM INTERMEDIARIES

### **Career Compass of Louisiana**

Career Compass of Louisiana is a third-party, nonprofit provider that partners with school guidance counselors and administrators in 140 public schools across Louisiana. The goal of Career Compass is to increase the number of students in Louisiana who attend a post-secondary institution upon high school graduation (technical, community and four-year universities). Whether students need help exploring various career options, gaining admission to a particular post-secondary institution, learning about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), getting on the right path for their chosen career, or all of the above, Career Compass coaches are on campus and ready to help. See <http://www.careercompassla.org/services/> for a comprehensive list of services.

### **College Bridge New Orleans**

College Bridge provides experienced guides who work directly with students. They host FAFSA nights, provide students with text message reminders and a drop-in center for enrollment support, make micro grants available in a pinch, and connect each student with a friendly, effective guide to coach her or him through the difficult first year of college. For more information, email [contact@collegebridgenola.org](mailto:contact@collegebridgenola.org).