

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



**April 2024**

[Student Opportunities](#)

[Middle School News](#)

[Professional Opportunities](#)

[Resources](#)

[Reminders](#)

[Ask Coco](#)

[Scholarships/Funding Opportunities](#)

[Connect With Our Office](#)

[Monthly Calls](#)

## Student Opportunities

### **From the LOSFA Counselor Communication**

**Please share with principals, counselors, and teachers.**

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) presents the Spring 2024 Financial Literacy for You (F.L.Y.) Tour!

The F.L.Y. Tour is a dynamic college and career readiness presentation that takes students on a journey to help them find their perfect match and fit.

The Meet Your Match game show is a production with information about what it takes to get to college and how to be successful while there. Our LOSFA College Advocates lead students through fun and interactive games, exposing them to their postsecondary options and helping them learn the costs of college.

During the F.L.Y. Tour, we will have various postsecondary institutions to give presentations as students will get to learn about the different colleges and universities across the state.

The F.L.Y. Tour will be held on three separate days from 9 - 11 a.m.

- April 9, 10, and 11

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



The F.L.Y. Tour will be conducted virtually through ZOOM in your classroom(s). Your school/class may [register](#) for multiple dates to view postsecondary institutions. After submitting your registration, you will receive an email confirming your registration for the postsecondary institution you requested to attend.

**The Zoom links will be sent on the day prior to your scheduled Virtual F.L.Y. Tour.** Once received, please **do not** share the Zoom Meeting Information with anyone who did not receive it directly.

Click [here](#) to view previous F.L.Y. Tour videos.

Please email [LOSFA.counselors@la.gov](mailto:LOSFA.counselors@la.gov) or [ldefinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov) with questions.

## **ASVAB Career Exploration Program**

**Please share with high school counselors and administrators.**

The Department of Defense introduced the ASVAB (which stands for Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) in 1968. It was originally designed to predict future academic and occupational success in military occupations. However, extensive research indicates the ASVAB assesses academic ability and predicts success in a wide variety of occupations.

ASVAB CEP is designed to help young people explore their options and make a plan. The ASVAB CEP is used for career exploration and is offered **free** to participating high schools and early post-secondary students.

ASVAB CEP results are reported to students and counselors on the ASVAB Summary Results sheet. Learn more about [ASVAB scores here](#). The ASVAB CEP website offers [pen and paper/computer sample questions](#). [Bring ASVAB CEP to your school today!](#)

Please email [ramona.g.tate.civ@army.mil](mailto:ramona.g.tate.civ@army.mil) with questions.

## **The Cedric Richmond Scholarship**

**Please share with high school counselors and administrators.**

The Governor's Success Council is proud to announce the launch of the "Cedric Richmond Scholarship," aimed specifically at supporting Black male students in their pursuit of higher education. This scholarship represents a significant investment in the future leaders of our community, and we are excited to encourage eligible students to apply.

The "Cedric Richmond Scholarship" seeks to empower Black male students by providing financial assistance to help alleviate the burden of tuition costs and support their academic endeavors.

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



Key Details about the Scholarship:

- Specifically for Black male students
- Provides financial assistance for higher education expenses
- **Deadline for applications: May 3, 2024**

Encourage students to visit the [Governor's Success Council](#) for more information and to access the application portal. Please share this [video](#) on your social media platforms to assist in the efforts to reach eligible students.

Please contact [chandler.vidrine@la.gov](mailto:chandler.vidrine@la.gov) with questions.

## Middle School News

### **Middle School College and Career Exploration**

**Please share with middle and high school counselors and administrators.**

The focus of career and college exploration has primarily been for high school students. However, when these conversations start prior to entering high school, students have a jump start on making the right decisions about their post secondary plans. These conversations should include the process of starting Individual Graduation Plans.

[Individual Graduation Plans](#) should be initiated in middle school. A quality Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) is crucial for student success. As stated in the [High School Planning Guidebook](#), per [BESE Bulletin 741](#), "by the end of the eighth grade, each student shall begin to develop, with the input of his parent(s) or other legal custodians and school counselor, an individual graduation plan." Students, along with their school counselors and families, should review, update and sign the IGP yearly until graduation. High school counselors should collaborate with feeder middle school counselors to ensure this process begins prior to students entering high school.

Please contact [candace.joseph@la.gov](mailto:candace.joseph@la.gov) with questions.



# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



## Professional Opportunities

### **ASCA 2024 Annual Conference**

**Please share with school counselors (all grade levels) and school administration.**

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2024 Annual Conference, July 13-16 in Kansas City, Missouri or online. Join thousands of school counseling professionals in Kansas City, MO., for the premier school counseling professional development. Learn, network and re-energize yourself.

Please contact [asca@schoolcounselor.org](mailto:asca@schoolcounselor.org) with questions.

### **Health Science Education Professional Development**

**Please share with school system leaders, CTE Supervisors, school administrators, and teachers.**

The National Consortium for Health Science Education offers free, monthly webinars for varying Health Science Education professionals. These webinars are open to all HS professionals at no cost to school systems or teachers, and past webinars are uploaded for continued development.

See [here](#) for past webinars and to register for future webinars.

Please contact [timberly.deville2@la.gov](mailto:timberly.deville2@la.gov) with questions.

### **College Board Weekly Office Hours**

**Please share with principals, counselors, AP teachers, and testing coordinators.**

The College Board is offering weekly office hours starting on August 8. Topics will include the AP 2024 exam schedule and digital AP exams. Please feel free to join the weekly discussion on any questions that you have about AP exams and resources.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Every Tuesday; 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)
- **Webinar ID:** 232 293 189 414
- **Passcode:** 7VQcYk

Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) for more information.

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



## **College Board: Chat With A Coordinator**

**Please share with principals, counselors, teachers, and testing coordinators.**

The College Board is offering a series of support opportunities for testing coordinators. [Registration](#) is now open for sessions being offered until **April 27**. These sessions will offer real-time support through small video chat led by experienced AP coordinators. Discussions range from preparing to submit an AP Exam order to creating optimal testing experiences for students in May. You may attend as many sessions as your schedule allows.

Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) for more information.

## **LEADS Informational Webinar**

**Please share with school leaders and counselors.**

The Division of Educator Talent and Workforce Development will host a series of informational webinars for targeted audiences to provide an overview of the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS). Topics include policy updates, evaluation components, and the evaluation process. Sessions will be recorded and published.

Counselors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Webinar Date and Time:</b> April 22 at 12 p.m.</li><li>• <b>Webinar Link:</b> <a href="https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96506543098">https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96506543098</a></li><li>• <b>Webinar Phone Number:</b> 312-626-6799</li><li>• <b>Meeting ID#:</b> 965 0654 3098</li></ul>

Please contact [leads@la.gov](mailto:leads@la.gov) with questions.

## Resources

### **Spring 2024 Counselor Institute Presentation**

Thank you to all who attended the Spring 2024 Counselor Institute sessions, we truly enjoyed seeing everyone again! We hope you made great connections with the military branches, and consider them as a career option for your students!

As promised, the [presentation](#) is available for your review. Feel free to share as you deem appropriate. Dates for the Fall 2024 Counselor Institutes will be shared at a later date.

Please contact [angela.jordan@la.gov](mailto:angela.jordan@la.gov) with questions.

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



## **FAFSA Fridays**

**Please share with principals, counselors, and teachers.**

On Fridays, LOSFA team members will host several virtual StudentAid.gov (FSA ID) sessions throughout the day where students, parents, and counselors can join to receive assistance with creating a StudentAid.gov (FSA ID) Account. These sessions are open to classrooms or individuals. [Register for FAFSA Fridays.](#)

Please contact [losfa.counselors@la.gov](mailto:losfa.counselors@la.gov) for more information.

## **2023-2024 ACT® Counselor's Guide**

**Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.**

ACT® is offering a **free** [Counselor's Guide for the 2023-2024 school year](#). The guide will provide information regarding national offerings of the ACT® test, tools and resources to help support students, season-based timelines for juniors and seniors, test preparation, and so much more.

Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.

## **Top 10 ACT® Free Resources**

**Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.**

ACT® has come up with a top 10 list of free resources for [counselors](#), [students](#), and [parents](#). The resources on each of these lists are ordered by popularity and include links to directly download the asset listed. Other free resources are the [ACT® Test Guide](#) and [Preparing for the ACT® eBook](#). These resources will deepen your understanding of the information students and parents are looking for as they think about high school life and the journey beyond.

Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.



# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



## **Community Service Diploma Endorsement**

**Please share with school system administrators and counselors.**

Students have the opportunity to earn 80 hours of community service during their high school years and earn the [Community Service Diploma Endorsement](#). Visit the [Diploma Endorsement webpage](#) for more information.

Please contact [suzette.rabalais@la.gov](mailto:suzette.rabalais@la.gov) with questions.

## **State Seal of Biliteracy**

**Please share with school system administrators and counselors.**

Since the approval of RS 17:273.4 in 2024, Louisiana students may earn the State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating literacy in English and another language. Along with the [Diploma Order Form](#), school systems should submit the [Seals of Biliteracy Request Document](#).

High schools with at least 5% of their graduating class earning the Seal of Biliteracy will be celebrated at the **June BESE meeting**.

Please contact [language.aquisition@la.gov](mailto:language.aquisition@la.gov) with questions.

## **Proficiency by Exam/Portfolio**

**Please share with school system administrators and counselors.**

Bulletin 741 §2314. Carnegie Credit and Credit Flexibility contains a policy concerning student's earning proficiency credit by exam or portfolio.

- Per policy, school systems must [report](#) exams/portfolios used to award credit by proficiency
- Students may only earn credit by exam or portfolio in a course in which **they have never been enrolled and received no formal instruction**

Contact [stephanie.marcum@la.gov](mailto:stephanie.marcum@la.gov) with questions.

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



## **Trauma Recovery Demonstration Grant**

Please share with school system administrators and counselors.

### **Trauma Recovery Demonstration Grant Funding and Referral Deadline Reminders:**

- Student referral deadline: April 30
- Grant funding ends: September 30

Please contact [traumarecoverygrant@la.gov](mailto:traumarecoverygrant@la.gov) with questions.

## Ask CoCo

### **Q & A With COounselor COnect!**

**Q:** Is there a new rule for students and FAFSA?

- The "Curious" Counselor

**A:** The [linked memorandum](#) outlines the updated FAFSA policy for next school year. During its March 2024 meeting, BESE approved a repeal of the policy requiring graduating seniors to complete steps related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applications. This policy change will be effective starting with the graduation cohort of 2024-2025 and does not remove the requirement of local education agencies (LEAs) to provide students and their parents or guardians with information regarding financial aid programs to support postsecondary education and training. LEAs must ensure that each student receives adequate support in completing and submitting an application for financial aid. However, a student action related to FAFSA completion will not be required. An updated parent and student financial aid planning toolkit will be made available to school systems. Please contact [ldefinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov) with questions.





# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



## Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[OnPath Foundation Scholarship](#) (Deadline Tuesday, April 30)

[Alice L Haltom Educational Fund](#) (Deadline Wednesday, May 1)

[Cedric Richmond Scholarship Program Application](#) (Deadline May 3)

[Hospitality Education Scholarship](#) (Deadline Saturday, May 25)

[Minority Women in STEM Financial Needs Scholarship](#) (Deadline Saturday, June 15)

["Tuition Solution" Scholarships for STEM Students](#) (Deadline Friday, January 31, 2025)

## Connect With Our Office

### Office of Career and College Readiness Contact Information

<a href="mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov">highschoolacademics@la.gov</a>	General questions about the office and about graduation requirements
<a href="mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov">ldefinancialaid@la.gov</a>	Questions related to the financial aid policy or for assistance with FAFSA completion
<a href="mailto:sca@la.gov">sca@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Supplemental Course Allocation/Course Choice
<a href="mailto:jumpstart@la.gov">jumpstart@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Jump Start
<a href="mailto:healthyschools@la.gov">healthyschools@la.gov</a>	Questions related to healthy schools, healthy communities, and whole child
<a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a>	Questions related to pupil progression

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



## Monthly Calls

<b>Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call</b>	<a href="#">April 11 at 8 a.m.</a>
<b>Alternative Education Community of Practice</b>	<a href="#">April 11 at 10 a.m.</a>
<b>Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call</b>	<a href="#">April 18 at 3 p.m.</a>
<b>Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call</b>	<a href="#">April 25 at 2 p.m.</a>

Do you or a colleague need to sign up for the [Counselor Connect](#) newsletter? Please subscribe via the following [link](#).