



Counselor Connect



April 2025

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Student Opportunities

LOSFA: 2025-2026 FAFSA

Please share with school counselors and students.

The 2025-2026 FAFSA is open. The 2025-2026 FAFSA form is for students attending college in the fall of 2025, including 2025 high school graduates. Students are encouraged to create their FSA ID before beginning their FAFSA application. Starting with graduates of the 2024-2025 school year, FAFSA is not a graduation requirement, but school systems are still obligated to assist those students who desire to complete the application.

Please contact custserv@la.gov with questions.

LDOE High School Summer Internships

Please share with school counselors, school administrators, and school system-level administrators.

The LDOE will hire up to 5 high school students for internships in various offices within the agency. Applications will be accepted from April 1-25. These summer internships will be employed for 160 hours from June 16 -July 14 with a pay rate of \$10 per hour. Interns will be assigned tasks specific to the office in which they are employed. Interviews of qualified applicants will be held in the afternoons of May 5-16.

Once students have been selected, on May 27, school systems will be contacted to determine if the school system can offer the classroom experience to transcribe the experience.

To apply, students must be enrolled in a state-approved high school and complete the following application documents. The completed documents should be e-mailed to stephanie.marcum@la.gov.

- [LDOE Summer Internships Release](#) (if the student is under 18)
- [LDOE Student Application](#)
- [LDOE Summer Internship Supplemental Application](#)

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.



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LSU Shaping Futures Summer Program

Please share with high school counselors and administrators.

The [LSU Shaping Futures Summer Program](#) targets rising high school seniors (Class of 2026) in Louisiana who may be interested in working in the mental health field.

Shaping Futures is a free, five-day intensive, and immersive experience held at the LSU Baton Rouge Campus in the summer of 2025. Students will explore various mental health careers in a higher education environment and receive a real-life campus experience. Participants will be housed in a campus dormitory with a campus meal plan through LSU dining. Structured activities will be held in spaces provided by the LSU College of Human Sciences and Education.

The deadline to apply is April 23.

Please contact jtsmith@lsu.edu with questions.

Counselor Rubric and Evaluation Process

Louisiana Counselor Rubric and Evaluation Handbook

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, and school counselors.

As we move through our LEADS Learning Year, the Counseling Collaborative is in the process of creating the Louisiana Counselor Rubric and Evaluation Handbook. The collaborative consists of a variety of counselors with different expertise in the field. The knowledge and perspectives the collaborative brings to this project will add value to the guidance the counselor handbook provides.

The guidebook will be published, along with the full implementation of the Louisiana Counselor Rubric, for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Fast Forward

Application to Employ Minors

Share with CTE supervisors, principals, school counselors, and secondary supervisors.

Students between 14-17 years old must complete the [Application to Employ Minors Form](#) to obtain an employment certificate. Be aware that minors have certain hourly restrictions, and it is important to discuss these with the issuing officer in your school system. Students participating in an internship require a CTE Minor Employment Form, which uses the same application and is issued by the Certifying Officer. The Certifying Officer must be the school's work-based learning teacher or its Career and Technical Education (CTE) supervisor.

Please visit the [Louisiana Workforce Commission](#) website and their [jobs page for more information](#).

For more information, please contact roy.borne@la.gov with questions.



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Professional Opportunities

AP Coordinator Online Training

Please share with AP coordinators and AP leadership.

[Learning Opportunities for AP Coordinators – AP Central | College Board](#) - The topics of AP coordinator online training include exam registration, student enrollment, exam ordering, and AP Exam administration.

[Coordinated](#) - AP coordinators, this is our podcast! Smile with hosts Derek and Karli as we converse with superstars and unsung heroes in education. Hear from fellow AP coordinators and colleagues in AP essential updates, best practices, and stories from schools worldwide.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Dual Enrollment Professional Development

Please share with CTE supervisors, DE coordinators, school counselors, and system leaders.

Registration is now open for the [Dual Enrollment Professional Development Webinar](#), hosted by the Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR) on April 10 at 1 p.m. (via Zoom). The webinar will focus on fostering strong collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions.

This webinar will be hosted in partnership with the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) and the focus of this webinar will be on fostering strong collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions.

Please contact mellynn.baker@laregents.edu with questions.

2025 ACT Summit

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, counselors, and CTE supervisors.

[Registration](#) for the 2025 ACT Summit is now open. The ACT Summit will be held from July 15-17 in Nashville, TN.

This summit combines the ACT Workforce Summit, National ACT State Organizations Conference, and ACT Enrollment Management Summit. The goal of the ACT Summit is to ignite innovation and drive meaningful change by uniting K-12, High Education, and Workforce to solve today's most pressing challenges.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

2025 AP Annual Conference

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, counselors, and teachers.

Registration for the [2025 AP Annual Conference](#) is open. The conference will be held from July 16-18 in Boston, MA. The conference will bring together education professionals from the AP and Pre-AP



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communities. Each year, the conference provides educators with the best opportunity to learn, share, and gather the most current information about the AP program.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

International Program Opportunities and Exchanges

Please share with school administrators, counselors, and system leaders.

The LDOE provides a number of international opportunities and exchange programs for interested students, teachers, schools, and communities through the state of Louisiana's international government partnerships.

These opportunities range from virtual to in-person teacher and class language, culture, and STEM exchanges to the recruitment of international associate teachers for world languages programs.

Schools and systems interested in learning more about potential opportunities should complete the [International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey](#) by May 1.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

2025 Louisiana FINS Association Conference

Please share with counselors, CWA supervisors, and school system leaders.

The Louisiana Families In Need of Services (FINS) Association is excited to announce that its upcoming annual conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Lafayette from April 30-May 2. [Registration](#) is required.

Stakeholders from around the state will convene to address barriers students and families face that contribute to absenteeism, truancy, delinquency, and court involvement. The LA FINS Association is committed to providing quality training for those who support children and families in Louisiana. This conference provides CEU's, opportunities for networking, and access to evidence-based best practices.

Please contact jwinfrey@ipic.org with questions.

Resources

STS Error Codes & Messages

Please share with administrators, counselors, and data managers.

When a batch transcript file is submitted to STS, a review is performed on the data as it is processed. If an error condition is found, the error number and message will be printed on an error report, along with the name of the student whose record contained the error and the record type where the error was found. The actual data in error will also be printed (Note: if the data in error contains a missing value, the data in error will be blank). The [2024-2025 STS Error Codes & Messages](#) document can be used to help guide the correction of identified errors. Error reports should be checked after every batch submission.



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Note: For the student whose record contained an error, none of that student's records will be added to the database. Only students with completely error-free sets of records will be added to STS.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 ACT Counselor's Guide

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

ACT is offering a **free** [Counselor's Guide for the 2024-2025 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 with questions.

Reminders

College Board Deadlines for AP Exams

Please share with AP coordinators, advanced academic leadership, and counselors.

The College Board would like to remind school systems of upcoming deadlines.

- **April 30:** Deadline to finalize student fee reduction status in [AP Registration & Ordering](#)
- **April 30:** [AP Digital Portfolio](#) deadline for performance tasks in AP Seminar, AP Research, and AP Computer Science Principles
- **May 9:** [AP Digital Portfolio](#) deadline for performance tasks in AP Art & Design
- **May 31:** Deadline for AP African American Studies project scores for the [AP Digital Portfolio](#).

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

Scholarship amounts can vary significantly. Smaller scholarships from local organizations can range from \$50 to \$500, while more significant scholarships from big institutions can range from \$1,000 to a full ride. Even a few hundred dollars can be helpful for expenses like textbooks or lab fees. Smaller endowments are often less competitive and have fewer application requirements, so don't overlook the value of a small scholarship award.

[Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Program](#): Application Deadline- April 22

[Harbor Freight Tools For Schools](#): Application Deadline-May 2

[BigFuture Scholarships](#): Earn Entries in Monthly Drawings

[Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships](#): Application Deadlines Vary

[SkillsUSA Member Scholarships](#): Application Deadlines Vary



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Connect With Our Office

Office of Career and College Readiness Contact Information

highschoolacademics@la.gov	General questions about the office and about graduation requirements
ldefinancialaid@la.gov	Questions related to the financial aid policy or for assistance with FAFSA completion
sca@la.gov	Questions related to Supplemental Course Allocation/Course Choice
fastforward@la.gov	Questions related to Fast Forward and Jump Start
healthyschools@la.gov	Questions related to healthy schools, healthy communities, and whole child
ppp@la.gov	Questions related to pupil progression
transcripts@la.gov	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates

Monthly Calls

Child Welfare and Attendance	May 1 at 8 a.m.
Alternative Education	April 10 at 10 a.m.
Office of Career and College Readiness	April 17 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools	April 24 at 2 p.m.



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Ask CoCo

Q & A With COunselor COnnect!

Q: In the new accountability system, what are the national assessments and minimum scores that are equivalent to a 20 on the ACT?

- The “Accountable” Counselor

A: Students can earn credit for successfully completing a Nationally Recognized Assessment with the following minimum scores:

- ACT composite score consistent with the TOPS ACT requirement in R.S. 17:5024, but not lower than a score of 20; or
- Classical Learning Test score of 67 or higher; or
- SAT score of 1040 or higher; or
- WorkKeys score of Gold; or
- ASVAB AFQT of 59 percent or higher.



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