



Counselor Connect



June 2025

[Student Opportunities](#)

[Fast Forward](#)

[Professional Opportunities](#)

[Resources](#)

[Reminders](#)

[Scholarships/Funding Opportunities](#)

[Monthly Calls](#)

[Ask CoCo](#)

[Connect With Our Office](#)

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.

Fast Forward

Online Training for CTE Issuing Officers Now Open

Please share with administrators, counselors, and teachers.

To issue Career and Technical Education (CTE) employment certificates, individuals must be officially authorized as CTE Issuing Officers by the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Authorization necessitates successful completion of an online LWC training course and receipt of a completion certificate. Requests for authorization should be submitted by principals or superintendents on official school/system letterhead. The request must include the names, titles, and email addresses of the prospective issuing officers and should be sent to laborprograms@lwc.la.gov.

Please contact rduhon@lwc.la.gov with questions.



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Intuit Food Truck Program for Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Please share with counselors, CTE supervisors, ProStart teachers, and system leaders.

The [Intuit Food Truck Program](#) is a free work-based program for CTE high school students. The program provides hands-on training in running a business. Selected districts will receive a state-of-the-art food truck, supporting grants, curriculum, and free access to Intuit products to prepare students for the real world with vital financial, technical, and entrepreneurial skills. [Applications](#) are accepted year-round and should be completed by the CTE Director or a District Leader.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

Professional Opportunities

Connecting the Dots: Counselors, Internships, and Student Readiness

Please share with CTE supervisors, school counselors, and teachers.

The LDOE will host a webinar to support school counselors in understanding Louisiana's updated Work-Based Learning policy. The webinar will provide guidance to counselors on navigating internship opportunities, graduation pathways, WBL requirements, and understanding key funding sources.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 29 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93094074817?pwd=wNbWFHASKj9K4SJjSXxCMulPo6iOeX.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 930 9407 4817

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

2025 College Board Counselor Workshops (Virtual)

Please share with counselors.

Registration is open for the annual [College Board Fall Counselor Workshops](#). The information provided to participants will help to support students for the 2025-2026 school year. Session topics will include updates on College Board programs and services, the SAT Suite of Assessments, the BigFuture School Mobile App, and college and career planning resources.

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



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2025 ACT College & Career Readiness Workshops

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

Registration is open for [ACT College and Career Readiness Workshops](#). These in-person workshops offer participants a chance to connect and network with peers as well as collaborate with an ACT expert. Workshops will be tailored to the Louisiana landscape and include discussions and strategies systems can implement to improve outcomes.

In-person workshops are at 9 a.m. at the following locations:

- September 16: Baton Rouge
- September 18: New Orleans
- September 23: Alexandria
- September 24: Ruston
- September 25: Lafayette

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

AP Coordinator Online Training

Please share with AP coordinators and advanced academic 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.

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, higher education, and the Workforce to solve today's most pressing challenges. Attendees will attend sessions designed to spark collaboration, foster problem-solving, and shape the future of education and the workforce.

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



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2025 AP Annual Conference

Please share with counselors, school administrators, system leaders, 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 communities. Attendees will connect with various stakeholders, attend workshops, content-driven sessions, and exhibits. 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.

2025 LACWAP State Conference

Please share with CWA supervisors and school system leaders.

Registration and hotel information are now available for the [2025 Louisiana Association of Child Welfare and Attendance Personnel, Inc. \(LACWAP\) State Conference](#). The conference will be held from June 16-18 at Sam's Town Casino in Shreveport.

This year's conference theme is "Bridging Wellness and Learning for Student Success". This topic will be highly beneficial to those involved with the well-being and attendance of students.

For more information about the Louisiana Association of Child Welfare and Attendance Personnel, Inc., please visit www.lacwap.org.

Please contact esalone@caddoschools.org with questions.

Fast Forward Training Catalog

Please share with administrators, counselors, and CTE supervisors.

The [Fast Forward Training Catalog](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available. The catalog includes virtual, in-person, and hybrid training options for many Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) on the State Focus List.

Professional development offerings are updated regularly.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

Aligning Excellence: ACT College & Career Standards Workshop

Please share with counselors, curriculum specialists, principals, and teachers.

Registration is currently open for the in-person workshops on [ACT College & Career Standards](#), along with Louisiana Student Standards. This hands-on session will guide participants through the format of the Louisiana Alignment Guide and its crosswalk to the Louisiana Student Standards. The guide



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aims to enhance assessment literacy by providing information about the ACT assessments and their alignment with Louisiana academic standards. Please bring a laptop and have access to your school or district curriculum for the hands-on activities.

In-person workshops are from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the following locations:

- June 25: Lafayette
- July 10: New Orleans

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

Resources

Free ACT Practice Materials for Counselors

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

ACT is offering free [ACT practice materials for counselors](#). These materials will help counselors access the most useful materials. All materials can be shared with students to help with test prep, including practice tests and test guides..

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

Reminders

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

LA Data Review opened in April for accountability contacts to retrieve the 2024 cohort graduation rosters. This information should be distributed to schools, and requests for changes to data that will be used for the calculation of graduation rates and related graduation indices used in the 2024 SPS.

The LDOE will continue to conduct exit code reviews for students.

The Louisiana Data Review online system will be open to school system accountability contacts through the end of day on June 6.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Elimination of Cohort Graduation Lag Year

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

The 2024 SPS will include data from both the 2024 and 2025 cohorts to eliminate the lag year for reporting graduation data.

Beginning with the 2025 graduation cohort, data certification will be divided into two phases. The first phase will continue being conducted during the spring and will include exit code audits only for



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students who have exited as transferring out of state, to approved nonpublic schools, and to BESE-approved home study. The second phase will be conducted during the summer and will include reviews of LEA and site flags, AP, IB, CLEP data, and HiSET attainment.

Requests to update IBCs and DE course codes are no longer reviewed or approved.

The Louisiana Data Review online system will be open to school system accountability contacts through the end of day on June 6.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Summer Data Certification

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

In addition to the Phase II 2024 Cohort Data certification in August, ACT Index Data, DCAI data, and Assessment and Progress Data will be open for accountability contacts.

The Louisiana Data Review online system will be open to school system accountability contacts through the end of day on June 6.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

Scholarship awards can range significantly, from modest amounts like \$50-\$500 from local organizations to substantial sums, even covering full tuition, from larger institutions. Smaller scholarships, despite their lesser amounts, can be a great way to secure funding and often have fewer applicants.

[Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships](#) Application deadline: June 15

[Hearts for Community Service](#) Application deadline: June 30

[Regions Riding Forward](#) Application deadline: June 30

[The 431 Exchange Scholarship](#) Application deadline: July 15

[Stromberg's Scholarship Program](#) Application deadline: December 31

[SkillsUSA Member Scholarships](#): Check individual scholarships



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Monthly Calls

Alternative Education	No June or July Call
Office of Career and College Readiness	July 17 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools	No June or July Call

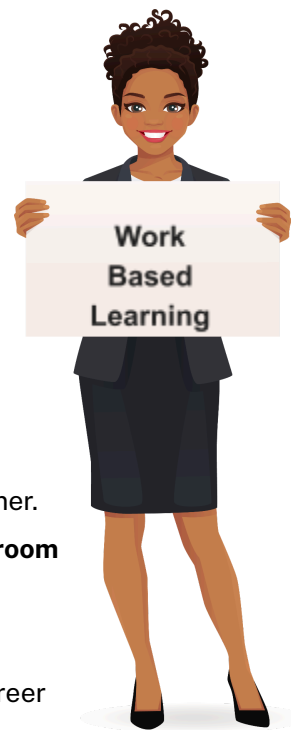
Ask CoCo

Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

Q: What is Work-Based Learning?

A: [Work-Based Learning](#) connects high school students with real-world work experiences while helping businesses develop their talent pipeline. Students earn school credit while gaining meaningful exposure to industry while receiving financial compensation.

- **Internships** are paid, short-term, project-based work during the school year or summer. Internships include **106.2 hours of work** with an employer and **26.55 hours of classroom instruction**.
- **Cooperative Education** is paid, credit-bearing employment aligned to a student's career goal. Cooperative education involves **15 hours of work** and **5 hours of classroom time** each week
- **Registered Apprenticeships** are on the job training and work-based activities where students work with an employer directly aligned to their pathways to gain real-world hands-on experience to strengthen skills learned during classroom instruction.





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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 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 the whole child
ppp@la.gov	Questions related to pupil progression
transcripts@la.gov	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates

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