



# Counselor Connect



January 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.

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

### **2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA)**

**Please share with school administrators, counselors, and teachers.**

FBI New Orleans, The Tulane University Police Department, and the Louisiana Chapter of the FBI National Academy are proud to announce the introduction of the 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA) to Louisiana. Two of the nation's most notable and iconic institutions will conduct law enforcement and legal training for selected youth from the State of Louisiana.

The FLEYA training program will be a FREE weeklong overnight camp exposing students (15 to 17 years of age) to federal, state and local law enforcement practices. This joint effort promotes law enforcement career paths by giving the selected youths an inside look at the various practices and techniques as taught by subject matter experts and agency instructors. Tulane's Uptown campus will serve as the home base for an academic environment with the premier atmosphere to encourage students to pursue higher education and careers in law enforcement.



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The [application](#) and information can be found on the [FBI New Orleans](#) website under [Community Outreach](#).

## **FLEYA Eligibility Criteria**

- United States Citizen residing in the state of Louisiana
- Currently enrolled in a Louisiana High School
- 15 to 17 years old at the time of the FLEYA, which will be held June 1-6.
- This program is only for current high school students (students graduating high school in the spring 2025, are not eligible)
- Minimum GPA of 2.7
- Must be present each day of the FLEYA program

A completed [application](#) and essay must be submitted in PDF form to [LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov](mailto:LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov). No Google docs or applications requiring a password to access will be accepted. This program is only for current high school students.

Please contact [LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov](mailto:LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov) with questions.

## Middle School News

### **Encouraging Extracurricular Activities**

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

The transition from elementary to middle school can be stressful for parents and students. Middle school students face many challenges including academic and social pressures, identity development, and physical changes.

School counselors can support students by assisting with the development of their social and communication skills. Encouraging students to participate in various extracurricular activities allows them to form new relationships, learn new skills, is a great way to make use of free time, supports positive academic performance and attendance, etc. Research has been done since the 1930s on how participation in extracurricular activities leads to higher levels of academic achievement (Shulruf, Tumen, & Tolley, 2007). Participation in these activities also leads to positive character and social development, as well as community involvement.

In an [article](#) written in the Brandon University Journal of Graduate Studies in Education (2013), the author states, “Extracurricular participation supports students’ character development by giving them skills required for personal success, such as leadership skills, time-management skills, and the ability to accept constructive criticism.” Students participating in these activities are learning skills that will benefit them not only during their academic year, but in all aspects of their lives in the future.

Christison, C. (2013). The Benefits of Participating in Extracurricular Activities. *Brandon University Journal of Graduate Studies in Education*, 5(2). <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1230758.pdf>



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Shulruf, B., Tumen, S., & Tolley, H. (2007). Extracurricular activities in school, do they matter? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 30(5), 418-426. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2007.10.012

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

## Counselor Rubric and Evaluation Process

### **Counselor SLTs**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, principals, school counselors, and secondary supervisors.**

As we near the end of the first semester, the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) Conferences should be complete. During this BOY conference, counselors and leaders work together to set goals based on the current student/school data. Student Learning Targets (SLTs) may also be developed in this conference and then entered into LES.

Leaders should now be collecting evidence of progress toward goals to be used in scoring the rubric during Middle-of-Year (MOY) Conferences. The MOY is worth 15% of the overall evaluation score (30% of the qualitative portion). Agendas for groups or meetings held and conversations with counselors, teachers, and students can serve as qualitative data/artifacts. Current and relevant student data (discipline, passage rates, attendance, etc.) are examples of quantitative data. Counselors should use evidence to complete the self-assessment for the MOY. Self-assessments are averaged and are worth 5% of the overall evaluation score.

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

## Fast Forward

### **Fast Forward Program**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, principals, school counselors, and secondary supervisors.**

The [Fast Forward](#) program will prepare students for current and emerging professions that expose students to high-skill, high-wage and in-demand occupations. Fast Forward will also assist with establishing statewide industry or sector partnerships among local educational agencies and institutions of higher education, and facilitate the establishment, expansion and integration of opportunities for students to successfully complete coursework that integrates rigorous and challenging technical and academic instruction. The agency offers a variety of resources in the [Fast Forward Library](#) including courses, course codes, CIP codes, and post-secondary partnerships for each Fast Forward pathway.

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

### **Work-Based Learning/Internship Teacher Coordinator Training**

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

YouthForce NOLA has been approved to provide WBL Internship Teacher-Coordinator Training. The training equips educators with the knowledge and tools to design, implement, and manage effective high school internships aligned with the new Louisiana work-based learning requirements and



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evidence-based practices. By the end of the training, educators will have developed personalized plans to support real-world learning experiences. [Registration](#) is currently open.

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

## **Application to Employ Minors**

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

Students between 14 and 17 years old need to complete the [Application to Employ Minors Form](#) which is required for obtaining an employment certificate. Be aware that there are certain hourly restrictions for minors, so it's 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 either the school's work-based learning teacher or its Career and Technical Education (CTE) supervisor.

For more information, please visit the [Louisiana Workforce Commission](#) website, and their [jobs page](#).

## Professional Opportunities

### **Spring 2025 Counselor Institute**

**Please share with high school principals, assistant principals, CTE Supervisors, and school counselors.**

Registration links for the Spring 2025 Counselor Institute sessions are now open. Please share with your school counselors and CTE colleagues. **Each participant must register individually through Eventbrite**; registration is on a first come, first served basis. Maximum registration is based on location capacity.

Date	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
February 4	<a href="#">Bossier City</a>	<a href="#">Ruston</a>
February 5	<a href="#">Alexandria</a>	<a href="#">Lafayette</a>
February 6	<a href="#">Luling</a>	<a href="#">Walker</a>

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

### **LOSFA: StudentAid.gov Account Creation Process**

**Please share with school counselors and partners supporting students.**

LOSFA has released a [FAFSA presentation](#) providing guidance on how to create a StudentAid.gov account. **Please note that StudentAid.gov accounts must be created 2-3 days prior to filling out the 2025-26 FAFSA®.**

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



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## **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 [caronda.bean@la.gov](mailto:caronda.bean@la.gov) with questions.

## **2025 Louisiana ACT Summit**

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

Registration is currently open for the [2025 Louisiana ACT Summit](#). This event will provide attendees with opportunities to gain new perspectives, expand their knowledge, and find solutions to problems facing the education and workforce landscape. The Summit will take place on February 6 at the Pennington Biomedical Research Facility in Baton Rouge from 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Registration cost is \$130–\$150, depending on membership type.

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

## **How To Create a College and Career Readiness Day Webinar**

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

[Register](#) to join ACT for an online event to learn how schools nationwide design a Career and College Readiness Day. The event will feature national experts on college and career readiness and educators like you who have committed a day to a high-impact readiness event that involves every grade. The webinar will take place on January 16 at 11 a.m.

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

## **International Associate Teacher (IAT) Recruitment**

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

The 2025-2026 International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program recruitment cycle is underway. Schools or school systems interested in recruiting an IAT of French, Mandarin, or Spanish should complete and submit the [2025-2026 IAT Projected Needs Form](#) by **January 15**, to be considered for potential teacher placements.

Please consult the [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Guide](#) for more information on recruitment guidelines and timelines.

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



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## **Fast Track ESL Add-On**

**Please share with EL departments, instructional coaches, principals, and teachers.**

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL Add-On credential. Please complete the 2024-2026 Early Interest Survey to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

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

## Resources

### **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](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.

### **ASVAB CEP**

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

For educators and counselors, the [Post-Test Interpretation Guide](#) provides detailed instructions on helping students understand their ASVAB results, explore potential careers, and build actionable plans. To gain additional information, please see the [commonly asked questions and answers](#).

Please contact [dodhra.asvab-cep@mail.mil](mailto:dodhra.asvab-cep@mail.mil) with questions.

## Reminders

### **Diploma and Diploma Seal Orders**

**Please share with data coordinators, principals, and school counselors.**

Please use the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) to submit an order for the 2024-2025 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the electronic form by February 7, 2025. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The LDOE will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

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



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## **Community Service Diploma Seal**

Please share with principals and school counselors.

Students can work towards earning the [Community Service Endorsement](#) by completing and documenting 80 service hours prior to graduation. Please refer students to the [Community Service Opportunities Document](#) for ways they can volunteer in their community.

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

## **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.

- **January 24:** Deadline for submitting [accommodations requests](#) to Services for Students with Disabilities
- **January 31:** Deadline to submit [AP Course Audit](#) Materials for Course Authorization and Renewal
- **March 14:** Deadline for AP coordinators to submit final updates for [AP Exam Orders](#)

Contact [caronda.bean@la.gov](mailto:caronda.bean@la.gov) with questions.

## Ask CoCo

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

**Q:** I have a few TOPS Tech students that I need to ensure are taking classes that align with their pathway. I'm looking for an easy way to do a transcript review. Where can I find Jump Start resources?

- The "Informed" Counselor

**A:** In addition to the [Jump Start Pathway documents](#), the [LDOE STS webpage](#) contains useful STS resources and links that are updated to provide current information for scheduling and providing post secondary career and college guidance. The links on the STS page will open excel spreadsheets, making the information easily sortable.





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## 2023-2024 (BSSY 2023)

- [2023-Beyond STS Master Course Code List](#) (updated 6/24/2024)
- [2023-Beyond STS IBC Matrix](#)
- [2023-Beyond Jumpstart Pathway IBCs](#)
- [2023-Beyond Jumpstart Pathway Course Sets](#)

## Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[Dewalt Trades Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Thursday, January 16)

[Global Girls in STEM Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Saturday, February 8)

[Matthew E Minor Memorial Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Saturday, March 1)

[American Welding Society Scholarships](#) (Deadline: Saturday, March 1)

[BigFuture Scholarships](#) (Monthly drawing)

## 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 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
<a href="mailto:transcripts@la.gov">transcripts@la.gov</a>	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates





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## Monthly Calls

Child Welfare and Attendance	<a href="#">January 9 at 8 a.m.</a>
Alternative Education	<a href="#">January 9 at 10 a.m.</a>
Office of Career and College Readiness	<a href="#">January 16 at 3 p.m.</a>
Safe and Healthy Schools	<a href="#">January 23 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](#).