



Counselor Connect



June 2026

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Student Opportunities

ACT Navigator - College & Career Planning for Families

Please share with system leaders, counselors, teachers, and students.

[ACT Navigator](#) is an online resource that helps students navigate high school and what lies ahead.

Access includes:

- Timely and actionable steps from freshman through senior year, organized by season, to help students stay on track.
- Guidance for education and career - whether they are going to college or directly into the workforce.
- Majors and career exploration.
- Resources for college admissions, financial aid, testing advice, and alternative paths.

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

ACT - Upcoming Test Dates

Please share with system leaders, counselors, teachers, and students.

Below is the list of [upcoming National ACT test dates](#) and the [registration](#) deadlines.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>	<u>Scores Released</u>
July 11	June 5	June 24	July 21
September 19	August 14	September 1	October 6
October 17	September 11	September 29	October 27
December 12	November 6	November 29	December 22

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



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Fast Forward

New Resource for CTE Teams: Louisiana Career Clusters Dashboard

Please share with CTE supervisors, administrators, WBL teachers, and counselors.

Louisiana Works has launched a new Career Clusters Dashboard to support program planning and career exploration. This tool organizes occupations by career cluster and provides key insights, including:

- Careers with each cluster
- Required education levels and skills
- Salary information and the top 10 occupations by median wage
- Annual job openings and projected growth

How to Access:

- Visit the [LaWorks Career Clusters](#) page
- Locate the “**New Louisiana Career Cluster Dashboard**” section and *Click Here*
- Choose a career cluster to explore
- Use the dashboard to toggle between clusters
- To view job openings and projected growth, adjust the bar on the right side of the top section

This is a valuable tool for aligning pathways to high-demand careers and supporting data-informed conversations with students and industry partners.

Please contact LMI@la.gov with questions.

Professional Opportunities

2026 Fast Forward Training Catalog

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

The [Fast Forward Training Catalog](#) lists available professional development and training opportunities. The catalog includes virtual, in-person, and hybrid training options for many Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) on the State Focus List. Please be sure to check out the professional development offerings as they are updated regularly.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

2026 ACT Summit

Please share with administrators, counselors, CTE supervisors, and testing coordinators.

[Registration](#) is currently open for the [2026 ACT Summit](#). The ACT Summit will be held on July 13-15 in Nashville, TN.



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This event unites the expertise and focus of workforce professionals, higher-ed leaders, and K-12 leaders, creating a fully integrated experience that fosters cross-sector collaboration. Sessions are designed to spark collaboration, foster problem-solving, and shape the future of education and the workforce.

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

ACT Counselor Summer Webinar Series

Please share with counselors.

[Registration](#) is open for the ACT Counselor Summer Webinar Series. The webinar series is designed to support work with students at every stage of the college-and-career journey. The webinar will take place on July 22-23 with the following sessions to choose from:

- Understanding the ACT: Foundations and Tools for Student Success
- Strengthening Counselor/Administrator Collaboration for Student Success
- Increasing College Application Completion with ACAC
- Supporting First-Generation and Underserved Students

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

2026 AP Annual Conference

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

[Registration](#) is currently open for the [2026 AP Annual Conference](#). The conference will be held on July 22-24 in Las Vegas, NV.

This event brings together thousands of education professionals from the AP and Pre-AP communities. The conference schedule features workshops, content-driven sessions, and networking opportunities. Attendees will discover proven methods for increasing opportunities and access to the AP Program.

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

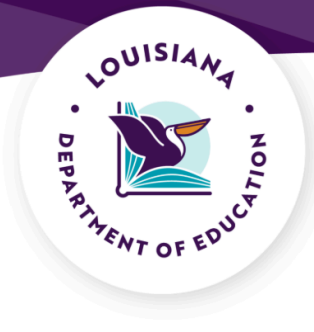
AP Participation Grant for Teachers

Please share with administrators, counselors, and AP teachers.

The College Board awards [AP Participation grants](#) for qualifying teachers to attend an AP Summer Institute (APSI). Requests are open until June or until all grants have been distributed. To qualify for the grant, you must:

- Be teaching a course for the first time in the 2026-2027 school year, or be teaching a course that has been revised for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Not receive professional learning funding from your school, district, or state.

The grant will cover tuition for College Board-endorsed APSI within the United States. All other costs will be the responsibility of the grant recipient.



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

College Board Counselor Summer Institute 2026

Please share with counselors.

[Registration](#) is open for the Counselor Summer Institute 2026 Webinar Series, hosted by the College Board. This free, comprehensive professional development experience brings together leading voices in higher education and counseling to help navigate the busiest season of college admissions. The webinar series will take place on July 28-30. Recordings will be available for on-demand viewing. Featured topics include:

- AI tools for counseling, advising, and student planning
- College admissions, affordability, and the changing higher education landscape
- Expanding access for rural and small-town communities
- Counselor renewal, wellness, and sustainability

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

Resources

Louisiana Education Loan Authority

Please share with administrators and school counselors.

The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) is Louisiana's nonprofit resource for free FAFSA completion assistance, college access, and affordable financing. It is a division of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA) — a nonprofit public trust established to provide financing assistance and benefits to the people of Louisiana.

The Lela team assists families with FAFSA-related questions through its FAFSA HELPLINE (844-463-2372) and [scheduled virtual appointments](#). Lela also offers a \$1,000 FAFSA Completion Scholarship and free resources for Louisiana high school counselors, students, and families, including a [FAFSA Completion Guide](#), a Parents' Guide to Planning and Paying for College, and a College Planning Checklist, available at www.lela.org.

Please contact info@lela.org with questions.

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.

LOSFA Outreach Events

Please share with administrators and counselors.



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The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance provides several outreach events, seminars, and workshops for schools, institutions, and organizations. These events can be delivered virtually and in person. Access the [Event Scheduling Guide](#) for more information about LOSFA Events, or submit requests using the [Event Request Form](#).

Please contact losfa.scheduling@la.gov with questions.

AP Resources for Counselors

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

The College Board offers [free counselor resources](#) needed to support and advise students on their journey to college and career. Resources include assistance with preparing specialized students, advising, [reference guides](#), handouts, and [counselor toolkits](#).

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

Reminders

College Board Deadlines and Reminders

Please share with administrators, counselors, testing coordinators, and AP teachers.

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

- June 15: Postmark deadline to return [AP Exam Invoices and Payments](#).
- June 20: Deadline for students to indicate or change the recipient of their [free score report](#).

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

Mental Health in Schools Survey

Please share with the principals or designee.

[R.S. 17:173.1](#) requires each public school, at the end of each school year, to report to the state Department of Education, by grade level, the number of screenings administered to students in grades 3-12 under its jurisdiction.

The deadline to submit the [Mental Health in Schools Survey](#) is June 30.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



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Ask CoCo

Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

Q: What is a Purple Star School?

A: A [Purple Star School](#) is a designation that schools receive when they implement practices that assist in reducing academic and life challenges for students in military-connected families.

Schools that receive the Purple Star School recognition are showing their commitment to fulfilling the needs of students and families as they face the many challenges of deployment and relocation due to military service. These schools will be identified on the Louisiana Department of Education website, receive an award certificate to display at school and will be able to use the designation on the school and district website.

As of April 2026, six parishes have Purple Star Schools for a total of 47 schools in Louisiana.

Scholarship/Funding Opportunities

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

[Hearts for Community Service](#) (Deadline: June 30, 2026)

[Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest](#) (Deadline: June 30, 2026)

[SEAFWA's Law Enforcement Chiefs' College Scholarship](#) (Deadline: July 1, 2026)

[Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship](#) (Deadline: July 1, 2026)

[College Board: Big Future Scholarships](#) (Deadline: Varies)

[SkillPointe Foundation Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Every Quarter)

[Home Depot Foundation's Path to Pro Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Last day of March, June, September, and December)

[Southern Foundation: Clyde and Carrie W. McHenry Endowed Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Varies)

[Southern Foundation: City National Bank Endowed Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Varies)

[Southern Foundation: Dow Alumni Scholarship Fund](#) (Deadline: Varies)

[SkillsUSA Member Scholarships](#) (Deadline: Varies)

[Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education \(TEACH\) Grant](#) (Deadline: Varies)

[1st Financial Bank USA Financial Goals Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Monthly Drawing)

[LELA: \\$1,000 FAFSA Completion Scholarship Drawing](#) (Deadline: Varies)

[LELA: \\$1,000 Choose Louisiana Scholarship Drawing](#) (Deadline: Varies)





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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
coursechoice@la.gov	Questions related to Course Choice/Supplemental Course Allocation
fastforward@la.gov	Questions related to Fast Forward and Jump Start
healthyschools@la.gov	Questions related to school safety, school bus transportation, coordinated school health, school health advisory councils, mental and behavioral health initiatives, nursing, or school-based Medicaid,
ppp@la.gov	Questions related to pupil progression
transcripts@la.gov	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates

Monthly Calls

Alternative Education	No June Call
Office of Career and College Readiness	No June Call
Safe and Healthy Schools	No June Call

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