

COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's
Professional School Counselors



June 2024

There will not be a Counselor Connect in July. The next edition is scheduled to be released on August 1. Enjoy your summer!

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Student Opportunities

LOSFA Virtual Student Network Groups

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

LOSFA Field Outreach Services and Student Engagement Divisions would like to invite students to attend the Virtual Student Network Groups. The [Student Network Groups](#) provide relaxed, safe virtual environments to receive support, resources, and encouragement; connect with other students in the same major; and network with professionals within related career fields. Their mission is to address the needs of the whole student (i.e., academic, social, emotional, mental, and physical) as they persist through an identified course of study and find their place within the workforce.

Please contact GeauxFAFSA@la.gov with questions.

LOSFA Upcoming FAFSA Completion Events

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

Thursday, June 6 at 4 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Lincoln Parish Library

910 North Trenton Street

Ruston, LA 71270

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Tuesday, June 25 at 4 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Haughton Library
116 West McKinley Avenue
Haughton, LA 71037

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov with questions.

FAFSA Completion

TOP 5 2023-2024 FAFSA Completion School Systems

Natchitoches Parish	83%
Union Parish	82%
Concordia Parish	81%
East Carroll Parish	78%
Bogalusa District	76%

TOP 5 2023-2024 FAFSA Completion Schools

Grand Isle High	100%
Natchitoches Parish Technical and Career Center	100%
Sicity Island High	100%
Summerfield High	93%
Glenmora High	93%

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov with questions.

FAFSA Policy and Assistance

Please share with counselors, those responsible for financial aid planning for students, and system leaders.

As a reminder, at its March 2024 meeting, BESE approved updates to the [Notice of Intent](#) regarding *Bulletin 741 Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators - §901 and §2347*, focusing on policy surrounding FAFSA for 2024-2025 cohort graduates.

- LEAs must ensure that each student receives adequate support in completing and submitting an application for financial aid.
- An updated parent and student financial aid planning toolkit will be made available to school systems.

For current graduates filling out FAFSAs, there are some valuable resources available now.

- [FAFSA Data Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [FAFSA Steps](#)
- [Financial Aid Terminology](#)
- [Financial Aid Verification Process](#)

If you are in need of assistance with the current FAFSA application, please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov.

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Middle School News

Middle and High School Counselor Collaboration

Please share with middle and high school counselors and school administration.

School counselors often manage large caseloads of students. High school counselors can connect with local area and feeder middle school counselors to discuss topics such as campus/course offerings, graduation requirement updates, pathway options, and completing the 8th grade portion of IGPs.

Having middle/high school counselor collaboration allows time for counselors to meet about ways the IGP and scheduling processes can be streamlined and completed by working together. In addition, middle school counselors are able to provide high school counselors with strategies they have found successful in working with rising 9th graders that support positive student achievement.

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

Professional Opportunities

ASCA 2024 Annual Conference

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

Registration is now open for the [2024 ASCA Annual Conference](#). The event will be held July 13-16 in Kansas City, Missouri. Online viewing will also be available. Join thousands of school counseling professionals for the premier school counseling professional development event of the year, where attendees will learn, network and re-energize!

Please contact asca@schoolcounselor.org with questions.

Health Science Education Professional Development

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

Please contact timberly.deville2@la.gov with questions.

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College Board Weekly Office Hours

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

The College Board is offering weekly office hours starting on August 8. Topics will include the 2024 AP 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 with questions.

2024 National ACT State Organizations Virtual Conference

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

Registration is open for the [2024 National ACT State Organizations Virtual Conference](#) on August 14-15. This virtual professional development event unites stakeholders and leaders who have a shared mission: building a community of educators and workforce professionals to help people achieve education and workplace success. This conference is open to members and nonmembers.

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

2024 AP Annual Conference

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

Registration is open for the [2024 AP Annual Conference](#), July 24-27 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The AP Annual Conference brings together thousands of education professionals from the AP and Pre-AP communities. The conference schedule features workshops, content driven sessions, and exhibits. Attendees will have a chance to connect with new and experienced teachers of all 39 AP courses, AP chief readers, AP coordinators, counselors, superintendents, and principals. Attendees will also have the opportunity to explore dozens of exhibits featuring new textbooks, new classroom technologies, and discover proven methods for increasing access to the AP program.

Please contact workshopreg@collegeboard.org with questions.

Retiring of Safety and Pollution Prevention (S/P2)

Please share with counselors, CTE supervisors, and principals.

The 2023-2024 school year marks the final academic period where Safety and Pollution Prevention (S/P2) Automotive will be recognized as a basic credential for Jump Start 1.0. Therefore the graduating cohort of this year represents the final group eligible to use Jump Start 1.0 as part of their educational pathway.

Please contact timberly.deville@la.gov with questions.

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2024 - 2025 CDF Updates

Please share with counselors, CTE supervisors, principals, and system leaders.

During the Jump Start Convention, the LDOE presented potential changes to the CDF list to garner feedback from school systems. In conjunction, the LDOE also conducted a fiscal impact analysis on potential changes which include an analysis of CDF funds school systems are carrying over.

Because of the need for continued, in-depth analysis and consideration of system feedback, the CDF list will not be modified for the 2024-2025 school year. However, in the fall of 2024, the LDOE intends to publish an updated CDF list that will be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year along with a formal process for school systems to request courses be added to the list.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

CompTIA IT Fundamentals+

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

CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ is changing to CompTIA Tech+. Updates are currently under review, and guidance on these changes, implementation, and training opportunities will be released in upcoming newsletters and Office Hours.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

ACT® College & Career Readiness Workshops

Please share with assistant principals, counselors, and secondary supervisors.

ACT® will be hosting [College and Career Readiness Workshops](#). Registration for in-person workshops that offer content specific to Louisiana is open. [Please register](#) at least two weeks in advance of the workshop date to ensure availability of workshop materials.

In person workshops begin at 9 a.m. and will be held at the following locations:

- September 10 (New Orleans)
- September 12 (Baton Rouge)
- September 17 (Alexandria)
- September 18 (Lake Charles)
- September 19 (Lafayette)

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

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Resources

Graduation Date Removal Codes

Please share with school administrators and senior counselors.

Graduation dates may be removed from a student STS transcript due to the following reasons:

Code	Problem	Solution
2	23 credits	Not having 23 credits Student does not have at least 23 credits. Check transcripts and course part numbers.
3	Core Progress	Core Progress not met Student is missing at least 1 category in his/her diploma path. Run student diploma calculation and see which category is not met.
4	Pass GEE/EOC	GEE/EOC flag Student does not have a Y in the GEE/EOC flag field.
5	CDV	Career Option code not CDV for path CD Student on CD diploma pathway requires a CDV in career option code drop down.
6	IBC	No IBC for path CA CA student does not have an IBC loaded correctly into eScholar and therefore is missing the required IBC in STS.

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 with questions.

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Top 10 ACT® Free Resources

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

ACT® has created 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 include the [ACT® Test Guide](#) and [Preparing for the ACT® eBook](#). These resources will deepen the reader's 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 with questions.

STEM Renaissance

Please share with administrators and counselors.

The STEM team is excited to announce the newest redesign in our STEM Pathways. The STEM Renaissance is a **restructuring of the 7 current pathways into 5 dynamic options** that will expand course choice, industry based credentials, dual enrollment, and advanced placement opportunities to Louisiana's students. The documents for the new pathways and a [webinar](#) are currently posted on the LDOE's [STEM webpage](#). These pathways will begin with the freshmen class that enters in the fall of 2024.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Counselor Evaluation Resources

Please share with school counselors, school leaders and systems leaders.

The [Louisiana Counselor Rubric](#) is now available in the [Compass Library](#). The [LEADS Informational Webinar for Counselors](#) and the [companion slides](#) are also available to assist with preparing for the transition from COMPASS to LEADS. Additional information is available on the [Evaluation Frequently Asked Questions List](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

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Reminders

From the LOSFA Counselor Communication

Please share with administrators and school counselors.

LOSFA will begin processing the graduating class of 2024 in June! Here are a few reminders to make sure the processing season runs as smoothly as possible:

Student Transcript System (STS) Reminders:

- The graduation date must be set.
- Parental Consent is set to "Yes" (both public and private schools).

For public high schools, a signed LOSFA Consent Form must be on file at the school or district with permission granted for the release of STS records to LOSFA before the Parental Consent is set to "Yes" in STS.

- Students are not listed on the No PII in BLE Report (public schools).
How to Pull a PII Report:
 - School districts will no longer receive notices from the LOSFA Audit Department
 - Select a school
 - Print & Export tab
 - Select Printing/Exporting Transcript Records
 - Select No PII found for students in BLE (XLS)
 - If a student is missing a SSN, name, or birthday in eScholar, they will appear on this report. LOSFA and BOR must have these 3 pieces of information to link records for college enrollment and TOPS scholarships. If the student has a check mark, then that piece of information is ok. If the student has a question mark, it means that piece of information is missing in eScholar. **NOTE:** To make a change to PII, please put the change in eScholar, wait at least an hour, and then update the information in STS.
- All transcript information must be received via STS. LOSFA will not accept faxed or emailed high school transcripts.
- The recommended deadline to have transcript information entered is June 15.

ACT Reminder:

- LOSFA now receives ACT WorkKeys directly from ACT. Scores no longer need to be sent to LOSFA, except for qualifying scores earned by graduating seniors after April 30th. Please use [LOSFA's WorkKeys Test Result Form](#) to submit scores. The completed form can be emailed to SGIE@la.gov.
- LOSFA does not use super scores.
- LOSFA cannot accept faxed or emailed ACT scores.

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Documentation LOSFA may need to process students:

- Residency documentation
 - School districts will no longer receive notices from the LOSFA Audit Department to verify students' residency.
 - Students who list a parent as an out-of-state resident on the FAFSA will automatically receive a [Residency Affidavit](#) to complete.
- Home Study documentation - If a student attended your school and left to complete high school as a home study student, LOSFA needs a letter on school or district letterhead stating that the student left your school in good standing at the time the student enrolled in a home study program.
- Please encourage your students to set up a Student Hub account. This is the quickest and easiest way for students to check their TOPS eligibility.
- The TOPS status of 2024 graduates for each high school will be available once processing begins in June. The report can be accessed under [TOPS Status Statistics](#).

If you need assistance with a student during the summer, please email LOSFA.Counselors@la.gov. Students and parents must utilize custserv@la.gov or 225-219-1012 for assistance.

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Ask CoCo

Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

Q: When is the next series of Counselor Institutes?

- The "Planning" Counselor

A: LDOE is working to identify dates that work best for the majority of Louisiana School Counselors. As soon as we have dates and locations selected, "Save the Dates" messages will be sent out. **Each participant will need to register individually through Eventbrite**; registration is on a first come, first served basis. Maximum registration is based on location capacity.



Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

- [Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest](#) (Deadline: June 30)
- [First-Generation College Students Scholarship](#) (Deadline: July 15)
- [Hearts for Community Service](#) (Deadline: July 31)
- [Boeing Engineering Internship Program](#) (Deadline: October 31)

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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
jumpstart@la.gov	Questions related to Jump Start
healthyschools@la.gov	Questions related to healthy schools, healthy communities, and whole child
ppp@la.gov	Questions related to pupil progression

Monthly Calls

Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call	June 6 at 8 a.m.
Alternative Education Community of Practice	No June AE Monthly Call
Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	No June CCR Monthly Call
Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call	No June Safe & Healthy Schools Call

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