

COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's
Professional School Counselors



May 2024

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Student Opportunities

Extended Deadline: Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application

Please share with high school counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF), Louisiana's Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) are now accepting [applications](#) for the Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program. This program is the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates who have earned a Jump Start credential and a Louisiana high school diploma. Subsequently, these students are enrolled in an LCTCS Construction Pathway Program or Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) training program the summer or fall immediately following graduation. This scholarship will assist graduates in gaining the necessary training to earn industry employment in construction crafts fields aligned to four and five-star jobs that may lead to management positions. The application deadline has been extended to **May 10, 2024**.

Eligibility Requirements-Any high school senior with a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, will earn a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma and enroll in an LCTCS construction pathway program or an ABC training program in the summer or fall semester immediately following high school graduation.

Scholarship Award-Up to forty one-time scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students enrolling at an LCTCS program or an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

For more information please email suzette.rabalais@la.gov.

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Middle School News

Middle School Career and College Readiness

Career interest surveys are a great way for middle school students to start thinking about potential career interests. These types of inventories not only have the ability to match career interests, but they also match personalities with career options and can identify students' learning styles. Interests, personality and learning styles are all important factors when determining post graduation career and education plans.

There are many free sites available for students to take these inventories which can narrow down their career interests. If school systems opt to purchase licensed career interest products, this will allow school counselors to collect data (individual, group, school based, etc.) and determine which students are interested in various careers.

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

Professional Opportunities

ASCA 2024 Annual Conference

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

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2024 Annual Conference, July 13-16 in Kansas City, Missouri or online. Join thousands of school counseling professionals in Kansas City, MO., for the premier school counseling professional development. Learn, network and re-energize yourself.

Please contact asca@schoolcounselor.org with questions.

Health Science Education Professional Development

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

See the [National Consortium for Health Science Education](#) page for past webinars and to register for future webinars.

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

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College Board Weekly Office Hours

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

The College Board is offering weekly office hours starting on August 8. Topics will include the AP 2024 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 for more information.

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 for more information.

2024 AP Annual Conference

Please share with principals, counselors, AP teachers, 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. It's your chance to connect with new and experienced teachers of all 39 AP courses, AP chief readers, AP coordinators, counselors, superintendents, and principals. You will have the opportunity to explore dozens of exhibits featuring new textbooks and classroom technologies and discover proven methods for increasing access to the AP program.

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

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ASCA 2024 Annual Conference

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

The United States Marine Corps invites you to apply to participate in the [Educators Workshop Program](#). Educators and Marines both share a passion for transforming young people into high-caliber citizens of our great nation. Our shared passion for integrity, strong moral character, education, and individual development is at the core of both of our organizations. The workshop is designed to provide educators from across the nation the opportunity to see firsthand how highly qualified students are recruited, screened and developed into Marines. We will pull the curtain back and expose you to the training practices the Marine Corps uses to develop young men and women, show you how mentorship plays a pivotal role in the Corps and have a chance to share ideas with other educators attending.

Events may include:

- Leadership Training and practical application
- Learn about Military Careers, benefits and education programs
- Marine Corps Aviation
- Sessions with Marines in multiple career fields including recruits undergoing training
- Martial Arts and Fitness Center of Excellence
- Weapons handling and orientation
- Team-building events
- Test your skills at an obstacle course and/or leadership reaction course
- Peer-led sessions regarding topics like mental toughness

If selected, we are confident that you will receive valuable tools and information to enhance your leadership skills, which will allow you to better connect with your students, positively influencing their overall performance and character.

Our goal is to select educators from various high schools that are representative of the entire country.

Transportation expenses and hotel accommodation will be provided. For additional information, please visit [Marine Corps Recruiting Command Educators Workshop](#).

Please contact asca@schoolcounselor.org with questions.

Retiring of Safety and Pollution Prevention (S/P2)

Please share with CTE Supervisors, counselors, 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 jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

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2024 - 2025 CDF Updates

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

During the Jump Start Convention, the LDOE presented potential changes to the CDF list to garner feedback from school systems. In conjunction with this, a fiscal impact analysis was conducted on the potential changes which includes 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 timberly.deville@la.gov for more information.

Resources

FAFSA Policy and Assistance

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

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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Get FAFSA® Help from LOSFA

Please share with counselors, principals, and teachers.

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) team members will host several virtual StudentAid.gov (FSA ID) sessions where students, parents, and counselors can join to receive assistance with creating a StudentAid.gov (FSA ID) Account. These sessions are open to classrooms or individuals. [Register for virtual assistance.](#)

Please contact losfa.counselors@la.gov for more information.

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.

Top 10 ACT® Free Resources

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

ACT® has come up with 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 are the [ACT® Test Guide](#) and [Preparing for the ACT® eBook](#). These resources will deepen your 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.

Reminders

Foreign Exchange Students

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

The rules surrounding foreign exchange in accountability and assessment are easy to remember: **there are none**. Counselors are encouraged to transfer any credits from the received transcript to the current transcript for purposes of confirming whether or not a student should have taken a LEAP high school assessment (as we would for students who transfer in from out of state) or for graduation purposes. Carnegie units earned and assessments taken must be transcribed. (cont.on next page)

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[Bulletin 741](#) – *Louisiana Handbook for Schools Administrators*, §707 contains the following text that appears relevant:

A. A student transferred from an approved school, in- or out-of-state or foreign school, shall be allowed credit for work completed in the previous school. When a student transfers from one school to another, a properly certified transcript, showing the student's record of attendance, achievement, immunization, and the units of credit earned, shall be required.

1. Records, including evaluation information for exceptional students transferring from another system, shall be reviewed by pupil appraisal and approved by the supervisor of special education before the student is enrolled in a special education program.
2. Students in grades five and nine transferring to the public school system from any in-state nonpublic school (state-approved and -unapproved), or home schooling program, or Louisiana resident transferring from any out-of-state school, shall be required to pass the English language arts and mathematics components portions of the state-developed LEAP placement test.

Please contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

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Ask CoCo

Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

Q: I heard the term “Third year Cohort,” what exactly is it?

- The “Unsure” Counselor

A: Federal law requires that all students participate in the statewide administration of English language arts and mathematics assessments at least one time in high school grades. Because LEAP high school assessments are course-driven, Louisiana is required to create a process to ensure all students in high school, regardless of diploma pathway or course enrollment, participate in state required assessments.

Districts received third year assessment cohort rosters in March and specific instructions during the March assessment and accountability monthly call. The rosters were created to help school systems identify students who must take an English language arts and/or mathematics assessment this spring. The students have been preloaded into DRC INSIGHT and should not be removed. Students must either test or have an appropriate and documented accountability code applied to them unless they participated in LEAP Connect earlier this year or meet one of the exemptions.

Any student who took a LEAP high school assessment in a middle school grade or as a T9 student, and who scored Unsatisfactory or Approaching Basic, was also added to the roster. Middle school and T9 students who score Unsatisfactory or Approaching Basic are given one additional opportunity beyond initial testing to retest and earn a higher score. While these students are not mandated to retest, their inclusion on the roster indicates that a banked score will be applied to the high school assessment index that will yield zero points to the school's average. Please contact your school test coordinator or assessment@la.gov with questions.



Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

- [Ethan Allen Scholarship Program](#) (Deadline: Friday, May 10)
- [Sallie Mae monthly \\$2,000 Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Friday, May 31)
- [Key to a Bright Future Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Tuesday, June 4)

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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	May 2 at 8 a.m.
Alternative Education Community of Practice	May 9 at 10 a.m.
Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	May 16 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call	May 23 at 2 p.m.

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