



Counselor Connect



May 2025

[Student Opportunities](#)

[Fast Forward](#)

[Professional Opportunities](#)

[Resources](#)

[Reminders](#)

[Ask Coco](#)

[Scholarships/Funding Opportunities](#)

[Connect With Our Office](#)

[Monthly Calls](#)

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

Counselor Survey

Please share with school counselors.

The [Counselor Survey](#) includes an opportunity to share how the Louisiana Department of Education can support school counselors with Work-Based Learning, internships, key funding sources, Course Choice, and more. Please complete the survey by June 1, 2025.

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



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Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

LA Data Review will open 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.

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 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.

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.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Online Training for CTE Issuing Officers Now Open

Please share with administrators, counselors, and teachers.

Teachers must be authorized as CTE Issuing Officers by the Louisiana Workforce Commission in order to issue CTE employment certificates to students. Teachers must pass an online training course and receive a course completion certification from LWC. Principals should send requests on school letterhead, including names, titles, and email addresses of CTE teachers to laborprograms@lwc.la.gov.

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



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Professional Opportunities

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 administrators, counselors, CTE supervisors, and school system leaders.

[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.

2025 AP Annual Conference

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

[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.



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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 June 16-June 18 at Sam's Town Casino in Shreveport. Early registration is encouraged.

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 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.

Professional development offerings are updated regularly.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

2025 AP Participant Grant Application

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

The College Board is awarding [AP Participant Grants](#) to qualifying AP teachers to attend an AP Summer Institute (APSI). The participant grant covers the cost of tuition for College Board-endorsed APSI within the United States. The grants are distributed by individual APSI host institutions. The deadline for submissions is **May 31**.

To qualify for the [AP Participant Grant](#), you must:

- Teach an AP course in the upcoming school year;
- Not have attended an APSI or received an APSI scholarship in the past 3 years in the same AP subject;
- Not received professional learning funding from your state, district, or school;
- Teach at a school in the United States.

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



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Connecting the Dots: Counselors, Internships, and Student Readiness

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

The agency 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:** May 13 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93094074817?pwd=wNbWFHASKJ9K4SJiSXxCMuIPo6iOeX.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 930 9407 4817

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

Resources

2024-2025 ACT Counselor's Guide

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

ACT offers 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 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.

Reminders

College Board deadlines for AP Exams

Please share with advanced academic leadership, AP Coordinators, and counselors.

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

- **May 9:** [AP Digital Portfolio](#) deadline for performance tasks in AP Art & Design.
- **May 31:** deadline for AP African American Studies project scores for the [AP Digital Portfolio](#).



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- **May 31:** deadline for AP Teachers to submit [AP Participation Grant](#) applications to attend AP Summer Institute (APSI).
- **June 1:** deadline for College Board to [receive exam materials](#) from schools.

Contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Ask CoCo

Q & A With COunselor COnnect!

Q: What is a “Community Service Diploma Endorsement,” and what are some of the endorsement categories?

A: School systems may award a Community Service Endorsement to students completing a minimum of 80 hours of service anytime between ninth and twelfth grades. Students may earn service hours identified in several areas, such as Community, Crisis Support, and Disaster Relief. A list of [Community Service Diploma Endorsement Categories](#) and examples of each category can be found on the LDOE website.

Documentation of community service is housed at the local high school. Every year, LDOE and BESE recognize the top three school systems that award the Community Service Diploma Seal by recognizing them at a BESE meeting.



Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

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

[Harbor Freight Tools For Schools](#) (Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2025)

[Niche No Essay Scholarship](#) (Deadline: May 31, 2025)

[Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships](#) (Deadline: June 15, 2025)

[Hearts for Community Service](#) (Deadline: June 30, 2025)

[BigFuture Scholarships](#) (Monthly drawing)

[Stromberg's Scholarship Program](#) (Deadline: December 31, 2025)

[SkillsUSA Member Scholarships](#) (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
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

Monthly Calls

Alternative Education	May 8 at 10 a.m.
Office of Career and College Readiness	May 15 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools	May 22 at 2 p.m.

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