



Counselor Connect



October 2024

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Student Opportunities

Civics LEAP Transition

Please share with high school principals, assistant principals, and school counselors.

Bulletin 741 requires that all students must take the LEAP 2025 for all assessment-eligible courses (English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Civics, U.S. History.)

The bulletin also requires all students take and pass 1 course in each of three subject pairs.

- All students: Algebra I or Geometry
- All students: English I or English II

For students entering high school before 2024-2025

- All students: **U.S. History** or Biology

For students entering high school during or after 2024-2025

- All students: **Civics** or Biology

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.



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ACT College Prep Playlist: Essential Tips for Success

Please share with high school principals, assistant principals, and school counselors.

ACT has created a playlist to equip students with expert advice from admissions professionals. The [video series](#) is perfect for students at any stage of their college journey, and covers writing standout essays, balancing academics, and finding the right college. Share with students and their families to help them navigate the application process with confidence.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov for more information.

Middle School News

Middle School Career Exploration

Please share with middle school principals, assistant principals and school counselors.

[R.S. 17:183.2](#) states schools with grades 6-8 should incorporate activities which expose students to career and technical and academic fields of study. These activities may include field trips, guest speakers, community services, and other activities designed to introduce students to occupations in demand in Louisiana. At least six activities should be conducted at each grade level.

[Louisiana Star Jobs](#) and [My Life. My Way](#) are two websites that can be used as resources to assist students with career exploration.

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



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Professional Opportunities

Fall 2024 Counselor Institute

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

Registration links for the Fall 2024 Counselor Institute sessions are now open. Please share with your counseling colleagues and invite your CTE Supervisor to join in conversations regarding the new Accountability system implementation and the Counselor Evaluation Rubric. **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.
October 22	West Monroe, LA	Bossier City, LA
October 23	Leesville, LA	Lafayette, LA
October 24	Mandeville, LA	Luling, LA

Contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

AP Coordinator Online Training

Please share with AP Coordinators, 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.

Contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.



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Resources

2024-2025 NCAA Eligibility Guide for High School Counselors

Please share with high school principals, assistant principals, and school counselors.

The [2024-2025 Guide for High School Counselors](#) is now available! The guide is designed to assist you and your colleagues as you provide information to students and families on the initial-eligibility process.

The PDF version is available via the High School Portal's [Resources](#) page. Watch for release of additional updated resources in the coming weeks!

Contact NCAA at eligibilitycenter.org or (877) 622-2321 with questions.

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 with questions.

Reminders

Financial Aid Planning

Please share with school counselors and school administrators

The U.S. Department of Education has revamped the FAFSA application. The 2025-2026 application will open on or before December 1, 2024.

Students and families should begin creating and/ or resetting username and passwords (FSA IDs) well in advance of the opening date.

The [2025-2026 FAFSA](#) application (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS).

A [TOPS application](#) is on the LOSFA website (if you want TOPS only).

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov for more information.



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Please consult the following chart when determining if a student is included in your graduation cohort:

Graduation Cohort Inclusion?	What dates are used?
Student is a member of the district graduation cohort	The student was enrolled on October 1 of the third and fourth year of high school. Does not have to be the same school.
Student is a member of the school cohort	Student is a member of the district cohort <u>and</u> is enrolled at this site on February 1 of fourth year.
Dropouts	Dropouts count at the last school of record regardless of any October enrollment.

Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[Chick-Fil-A Community Scholars](#) (Deadline: Wednesday, October 30)

[National Space Club Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Friday, November 1)

[Elks Most Value Student Competition](#) (Deadline: Tuesday, November 12)

[10 Words or Less Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Friday, November 15)

[James Alan Cox Student Photojournalism Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Friday, November 15)



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Ask CoCo

Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

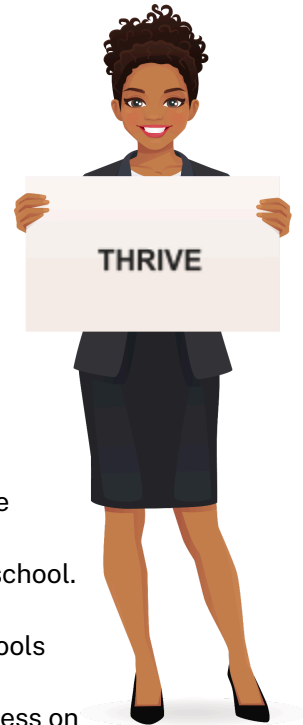
Q: Where can I find information about the new Louisiana Accountability System? Does any of it affect counselors?

- The “Accountable” Counselor

A: [Grow.Achieve.Thrive](#) is Louisiana’s revised K-12 accountability system. The plan’s name comes from its three core student expectations. Louisiana expects all students to grow academically year-over year, achieve proficiency on key content, and thrive beyond high school.

Thrive is the component that closely aligns to the work of the school counselor. High schools will be measured on the number of students graduating on time and students showing readiness on a nationally recognized exam. Students can accelerate through a university, career, or service accelerator. The acceleration choice is not dependent on the graduation pathway.

Feel free to review the [August 30 Counselor webinar](#) for additional information. The LDOE is in the process of compiling chat questions from all of the Accountability webinars. The approved FAQ is scheduled to be uploaded to the Accountability website later this month. This document should assist in a better understanding of Grow.Achieve.Thrive.





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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 Safe and Healthy Schools/Medicaid/School Safety
ppp@la.gov	Questions related to pupil progression
transcripts@la.gov	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates

Monthly Calls

Alternative Education	October 10 at 10am
Office of Career and College Readiness	October 17 at 3pm
Safe and Healthy Schools	October 24 at 2pm
Child Welfare and Attendance	November 7 at 8am

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