



# Counselor Connect



October 2025

[Student Opportunities](#)

[Fast Forward](#)

[Professional Opportunities](#)

[Resources](#)

[Reminders](#)

[Ask Coco](#)

[Scholarships/Funding Opportunities](#)

[Connect With Our Office](#)

[Monthly Calls](#)

## 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 allows students to navigate the path through 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](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.

### **ACT Webinar: College Admissions 101 for Seniors - Your Ultimate College Application Roadmap**

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

The College Admissions 101 for Seniors webinar is designed specifically for seniors and their families who are in the thick of the application process. Speakers will share what admissions officers are looking for and guide participants through the steps that matter the most right now. By the end of the webinar, participants will feel confident in navigating the admissions process. Participants must [register](#) online for the event.

**Webinar Date and Time:** October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.



# Counselor Connect



## Fast Forward

### **Intuit Food Truck Program for Career & Technical Education (CTE)**

**Please share with system leaders, counselors, ProStart teachers, and CTE supervisors.**

The [Intuit Food Truck Program](#) is a free work-based program for CTE high school students. The program provides hands-on training in running a business. Selected districts will receive a state-of-the-art food truck, along with supporting grants, curriculum, and free access to Intuit products, to prepare students for the real world with vital financial, technical, and entrepreneurial skills. [Applications](#) are accepted year-round and should be completed by the CTE Director or a District Leader.

Please contact [fastforward@la.gov](mailto:fastforward@la.gov) with questions.

### **U.S. Department of Education: CTE Momentum Challenge**

**Please share with system leaders, counselors, ProStart teachers, and CTE supervisors.**

The U.S. Department of Education is inviting high school CTE students to explore how artificial intelligence can enhance careers across all industries with their “[Your AI Horizons](#)” challenge. The goal of the [CTE Momentum Series](#) is to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increase access to career and technical education. Submissions are due by **November 19**.

Please contact [fastforward@la.gov](mailto:fastforward@la.gov) with questions.

### **Course Choice Page Update**

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

The Course Choice [webpage](#) has been refreshed to better support schools, counselors, and families. Updates include new Family Communications Tools under the Resources for Schools & Counselors section:

- [Sample Parent Letter](#)
- [Parent Flyer](#)
- [Social Media Graphics](#)

In addition, the page now features the new [Course Choice Road Map for School Leaders](#) one-pager, designed to guide systems through key steps and considerations.

You can view all updates on the Course Choice [landing page](#).

Please contact [fastforward@la.gov](mailto:fastforward@la.gov) with questions.

### **Course Choice Reporting for Fall and Full Year**

**Please share with school administrators and school counselors.**

The [Course Choice Portal](#) is open for reporting enrollments. The deadline for reporting Private Provider enrollments has been extended to Friday, October 3. The deadline for public higher education is Friday, October 24.



# Counselor Connect



Please be aware that a new enrollment upload template is now available for reporting in the portal. This updated template requires that each course indicate whether it was requested by a parent. You can find this template under the “documents” tab in the [Course Choice Portal](#).

Please contact [coursechoice@la.gov](mailto:coursechoice@la.gov) with questions.

## Professional Opportunities

### **Fall 2025 Counselor Institute Sessions**

**Please share with school administrators and school counselors.**

Mark your calendars for the **Fall 2025 Counselor Institute!**

This year’s Institute features a brand new format designed to inspire collaboration and provide hands-on planning time. The three-part webinar series, running from October 28-30, is designed to share foundational information ahead of the in-person workshops. Participants can then decide which in-person working session they would like to attend, as sessions will focus on interactive, hands-on activities and collaborative planning.

**Three-Part Webinar Series:** October 28, 29, and 30

**Webinar 1:** The Power of Presence - Understanding Louisiana's attendance initiative and the support school counselors provide to students and families.

**Webinar Date and Time:** October 28 at 9 a.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98984369801?pwd=qBXkqGjnbE8AvXJUtgOMR9RCILbkPN.1>

**Meeting I.D.:** 989 8436 9801

**Webinar 2:** Building a Continuum of Learning: Aligning Career Demands to School Offerings - Understanding the importance of K-12 vertical alignment and the connection to postsecondary career goals.

**Webinar Date and Time:** October 29 at 9 a.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97098474663?pwd=swMskf3HzWT25yfeq90LYGUJpVGImp.1>

**Meeting I.D.:** 970 9847 4663

**Webinar 3:** Bridging the Gap: Strengthening Continuing Education Partnerships for Student Success - Identifying ways to strengthen the secondary and postsecondary connection.

**Webinar Date and Time:** October 30 at 9 a.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93954912338?pwd=txduJGJrbSE0Ksw82vqSyViZg0LHqq.1>

**Meeting I.D.:** 939 5491 2338

**Three options for in-person working sessions:** November 7, 14, or 20. Registration will be available on October 2 on Eventbrite.

Option 1 November 7: [St. Bernard Parish](#)

Option 2 November 14: [Caddo Parish](#)

Option 3 November 20: [East Baton Rouge Parish](#)

Please contact [candace.joseph@la.gov](mailto:candace.joseph@la.gov) with questions.



# Counselor Connect



## **College Board Monthly Office Hours**

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

The College Board is offering monthly office hours to assist with resources and offer updates on the AP Program. Participants can also attend to ask general questions. Each office hour will have a designated topic and will begin at 10 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. The dates and topics are:

- [October 21](#): AP Planning
- [November 11](#): Starting and Growing AP
- [December 9](#): AP Potential

Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.

## **LOSFA Professional School Counselor Webinars**

**Please share with administrators and counselors.**

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Fall 2025 Professional School Counselor Webinars. Webinars will be held on October 14, 15, and 16. Registration links will be available soon.

Please contact [losfa.counselors@la.gov](mailto:losfa.counselors@la.gov) with questions.

## **2025 National Alternative Education Association Annual Conference**

**Please share with counselors, administrators, and teachers.**

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2025 National Alternative Education Association's (NAEA) Annual Conference. The NAEA Annual Conference is a space dedicated to advancing the field of alternative education by sharing wisdom, knowledge, and expertise with other like-minded educators and leaders.

- **Date:** October 6-8
- **Location:** New Orleans
- **Cost:** \$595

Please contact [terran.perry@la.gov](mailto:terran.perry@la.gov) with questions.

## **2025 Louisiana Farm to School Conference**

**Please share with counselors, administrators, nutrition staff, and teachers.**

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2025 Louisiana Farm-to-School Conference. The conference brings together educators, farmers, school nutrition staff, school administrators, and community leaders from across the state to learn, share, and connect. The theme for this year is Seeding Change, Harvesting Healthy Futures, which highlights the impact of fresh ideas and strong partnerships in creating healthier school food systems. Attendees will participate in engaging sessions led by farm-to-school champions and building lasting relationships to nurture healthier futures for Louisiana's young learners.

- **Date:** October 8
- **Location:** Pennington Biomedical Research Center (Baton Rouge)
- **Cost:** \$37.62

Please contact [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@la.gov) with questions.



# Counselor Connect



## Resources

### **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety Training**

**Please share with administrators, counselors, teachers, and parents.**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety will host a [virtual training](#) on enhancing behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM) practices in kindergarten through 12th-grade (K-12) schools. The training will take place on October 16, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT. This session will explore how K-12 leaders can build and strengthen BTAM processes that promote early intervention and prevent school violence, especially when embedded within a comprehensive multi-tiered system of support. A panel of experts will share strategies for forming an effective BTAM team, defining roles, and fostering collaboration among school staff, mental health professionals, and law enforcement partners.

Training will be relevant to school and district administrators, K-12 school security staff, emergency management professionals, school resource officers, and school-based law enforcement personnel, state and local law enforcement, parents and guardians, and other members of the school safety community.

Please contact [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@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](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.

### **Louisiana Course Choice Program Policy Updates**

**Please share with administrators, teachers, parents, and counselors.**

In October 2024, BESE approved policy changes based on Act 91 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. Major changes to the policy can be categorized as either School System responsibilities or Parental Choice Enhancements. You can find helpful guidance and resources for schools and parents on the Course Choice [landing page](#).

Please contact [coursechoice@la.gov](mailto:coursechoice@la.gov) with questions.

### **LOSFA Outreach Events**

**Please share with administrators and counselors.**

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](mailto:losfa.scheduling@la.gov) with questions.



# Counselor Connect



## **LOSFA Career Exploration Survey**

**Please share with administrators, CTE coordinators, dual enrollment coordinators, and counselors.**

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), in partnership with business and industry leaders across the state, is coordinating career exploration tours and in-classroom activities to help high school students explore high-demand career pathways.

Career exploration tours will take place on-site at business and industry facilities, providing students with real-world exposure to healthcare, manufacturing, construction, information technology, and various working environments. Additionally, LOSFA can coordinate in-classroom, virtual, or hybrid experiences to support further career readiness, college planning, and financial aid awareness.

We invite your school or organization to complete this short [interest survey](#) so we can better align these opportunities to your needs.

Please share this survey with any staff, instructors, or administrators at your school or site who are involved in career development, dual enrollment, postsecondary transition, or who have the authority to make decisions about student programming.

Please contact [losfa.counselors@la.gov](mailto:losfa.counselors@la.gov) with questions.

## **Pupil Progression Plans**

**Please share with administrators and counselors.**

The Louisiana [Bulletin 1566](#) requires local education agencies (LEAs) to establish a comprehensive [Pupil Progression Plan \(PPP\)](#) that addresses student placement and promotion. The PPP should be based on student performance on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP), with goals and objectives that are compatible with the Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program and which supplement the minimum standards approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Pupil Progression Plans should be submitted as a PDF to [ppp@la.gov](mailto:ppp@la.gov) by **October 31**.

Please contact [terran.perry@la.gov](mailto:terran.perry@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminders**

### **Community Service Diploma Endorsement**

**Please share with school system administrators and counselors.**

Students have the opportunity to earn 80 hours of community service during their high school years and earn the [Community Service Diploma Endorsement](#). Visit the [Diploma Endorsement webpage](#) for more information.

Please contact [stephanie.marcum@la.gov](mailto:stephanie.marcum@la.gov) with questions.



# Counselor Connect



## **Discipline Reporting**

**Please share with counselors, system leaders, and data managers.**

[Act 497 \(2025\)](#) amended [R.S. 17:416.BorC](#) requiring school systems to report expulsion data, including the number of occasions for committing offenses in sections B or C. Therefore, student discipline data should be accurate and current in the local SIS and should be reported to LDOE daily. Data managers are encouraged to automate the SIS to upload student data daily. The LDOE will monitor discipline submissions and contact school systems that are not submitting on a regular schedule.

## Ask CoCo

### **Q & A With COounselor CConnect!**

**Question:** How can I ensure that students enrolled in work-based learning courses are coded correctly for accountability?

**Answer:** Course codes for any work-based learning course can be found on the Work-Based Learning [guidance document](#) located on the LDOE site.

**Question:** Can students be assigned a pass or fail grade for work-based learning courses?

**Answer:** No, students must be assigned a letter grade for all work-based learning courses.



## Scholarship/Funding Opportunities

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

[Niche \\$40,000 No Essay Scholarship](#) Deadline: October 15

[National Rice Month Scholarship](#) Deadline: October 15

[Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship](#) Deadline: November 3

[Louisiana Red Beans and Rice Foundation Scholarships](#) Deadline: December 15

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

[SkillsUSA Member Scholarships](#) Deadline: Varies

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

[BigFuture Scholarships](#) Monthly Drawing



# Counselor Connect



## Connect With Our Office

### Office of Career and College Readiness Contact Information

<a href="mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov">highschoolacademics@la.gov</a>	General questions about the office and about graduation requirements
<a href="mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov">ldefinancialaid@la.gov</a>	Questions related to the financial aid policy or for assistance with FAFSA completion
<a href="mailto:coursechoice@la.gov">coursechoice@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Course Choice/Supplemental Course Allocation
<a href="mailto:fastforward@la.gov">fastforward@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Fast Forward and Jump Start
<a href="mailto:healthyschools@la.gov">healthyschools@la.gov</a>	Questions related to healthy schools, healthy communities, and the whole child
<a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a>	Questions related to pupil progression
<a href="mailto:transcripts@la.gov">transcripts@la.gov</a>	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates

## Monthly Calls

Alternative Education	<a href="#">October 9 at 10 a.m.</a>
Office of Career and College Readiness	<a href="#">October 16 at 3 p.m.</a>
Safe and Healthy Schools	<a href="#">October 23 at 2 p.m.</a>

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