Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - o To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Mute."



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Stop Video."



 Please submit questions during the presentation in the "Chat" function located on the bottom of your screen.



Vertical Alignment

Building a Continuum of Learning: Aligning Career Demands to Classroom Offerings



Welcome & Activator



Write down one question on your mind or one takeaway you hope to gain from the session today!



Counselor Institute Goals

LDOE's newly formatted Counselor Institute is designed to:



Share key information on supports, policies, and resources from the state-level to local practitioners



Provide an engaging space for counselors to **share problems of practice, build community, and expand their impact**

Counselor Institute Scope & Sequence

TODAY!

Strategies for Bolstering K-12 Attendance

How can I use my knowledge of students to help the attendance team build stronger daily attendance habits?

Vertical Alignment from K-12 to Career Opportunities

How can I help students see how what they're learning today connects to who they want to become tomorrow?

Strengthening School Post-Secondary
Connections

How can I create more opportunities for students to confidently take their next step after high school, whatever path they choose?



Session Topics and Agenda

Learning Topics

01

20 min

02

03

A Shared Vision of Student Success

20 min

Time

- What is vertical alignment?
- What does success look like?
- Counselor rubric

Career Connections in School

- Review strategies and best practices
- Showcase vertical alignment in North Carolina and Georgia
- LA case study

Utilizing LDOE Resources

10 min

- Explore and apply LDOE's career pathway resources
- Rubric evidence of practice



Sub-topics

Vertical Alignment: Learning Objectives (LOs)

LO1: Shared Vision of Student Success

Align on the vision for success for CTE programming at the elementary, middle, and high school level.

LO2: Career
Connections in School

Understand how career pathways are introduced to students by (1) examining how experiences build intentionally across school levels and (2) reviewing best practices at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

LO3: Utilizing LDOE
Resources

Review LDOE's resources for career pathways and understand how to use them effectively in your day-to-day work.



Crafting a Shared Vision to Empower Student Success



What is Vertical Alignment?

Vertical alignment is the **intentional coordination of curriculum and pathways** across elementary, middle, and high school **that reflect local community and workforce needs.**



Why Vertical Alignment Matters



Motivates young students and expands access to high-demand careers

Early exposure connects classroom learning to real life, builds purpose, and helps students identify their interests, strengths, and potential high-wage career pathways via work-based learning (e.g. internships, apprenticeships, co-op education).



Aligns credential attainment with labor market demand

If a system has limited course offerings or low credential attainment when cross referencing against regional labor market demand, it signals a misalignment between career education and local workforce needs, leaving fewer students prepared for and connected to the region's most promising jobs.



Directly impacts SPS

Achieving high quality IBCs with workforce acceleration, reaching college readiness followed by advanced college coursework, and on time graduation through IGP-aligned advising is directly recognized in the three Thrive indicators.



What Does Success Look Like?

Elementary School



Promote early career awareness through field trips aligned to high-demand sectors, and engage community partners as guest speakers and mentors.

Middle School Career Exploration



(e.g., targeted clusters) through interest inventories, authentic high-school career pathway opportunities.

High School Credentialing



Implement intentional course sequencing and work-based learning (e.g. apprenticeships, internships, co-ops etc.) to accelerate students and support credential attainment.

Postsecondary College/Career

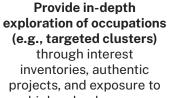


Students are well-positioned to continue their education or to enter high-wage, high-demand careers.





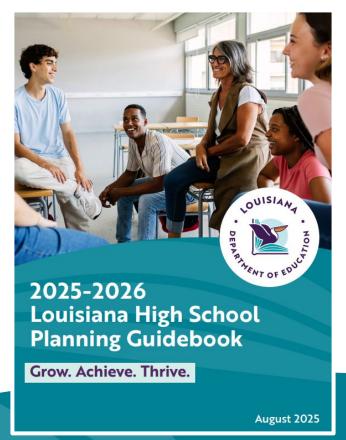
Early Awareness





Louisiana's High School Planning Guidebook:

A guide to prepare students for career and college success





Louisiana School Counseling Vision

A clear vision for a school counseling program achieves the following:



Vertical Alignment and the Counselor Rubric

How does work on vertical alignment fit into the new counselor rubric?



Domain 1: Vision & Goal Setting

Use the resources on the **Jump Start Graduation Pathways site** (e.g., fact sheets, credential lists, regional pathways) to set program priorities, select target pathways, and define credential goals that improve SPS.



Domain 2: Student Services

Counselors guide students to select CTE and Jump Start courses aligned with their interests and career goals, using the IGP template, updated course lists, Fast Forward pathways, and Jump Start 2.0 pathways to design vertically aligned course plans that advance college-and career-success.



Domain 3: Leadership, Advocacy, and Reflection

Advocate for early-exposure opportunities, career exploration, and credential pathways that lead to high-opportunity CTE fields, and strengthen your knowledge of CTE courses to better advise students.



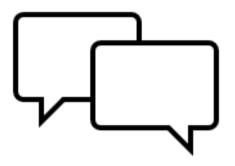
Domain 5: School & Community Engagement

Engage and collaborate intentionally with students, families, employers, and ES-MS-HS counseling teams to vertically align programs and transitions to support continuous learning.

For questions on the counselor rubric, please email leads@la.gov or candace.joseph@la.gov



Solo Reflection



Can you think of a specific time when a student followed a really clear path? What made that possible?



Creating a Continuum of Learning that Inspires Future Careers



Vertical Alignment in Action

Integrate career-related themes in subjects and engage in project-based learning

Middle School:

Simulate workplace experiences & provide micro-internships

High School:

Provide apprenticeships, internships, and co-op educational opportunities



Utilize age-appropriate tools to help identify strengths and career interests

Host career fairs and guest speakers, or shadow
HS students through CTE programs



Key Strategies for Success



Quest for Success

- Introduce students to essential 21st-century skills
- Help students **explore career options**
- **Teach durable skills**, goal setting, and workplace readiness
- Prioritize work-based learning opportunities (e.g. internships, co-op education, apprenticeships)
- Ensure all students have access to exploration opportunities



Shifting the CTE Narrative

- Reframe CTE as a high-quality, **skills-based pathway** – not a "plan B"
- **Tailor CTE messaging** to students and parents
- Highlight industry credentials, work-based learning opportunities, and local alumni success



How to Build a Seamless Pathway

The <u>Jump Start Graduation Pathways</u> and <u>Fast Forward</u> landing pages provide resources that guide counselors in designing course pathways that prepare students for credential attainment, including:

- **Jump Start Industry Credential Fact Sheets: Information on IBCs in the Jump Start graduation** pathways (updates are in progress) Use: Introduce fact sheets early in advising to highlight opportunities and identify the Jump Start pathway aligned to students' credential goals.
- Jump Start 2.0 Pathways: Course sequences with clear progression towards credential attainment Use: Refer to updated course lists when building IGPs and schedules to demonstrate course relevance and stackability that accelerate students' progress.
- Fast Forward Program: Prepares students for high-skill, high-wage, in-demand occupations Use: Connect students to Jump Start pathways, TOPS University, or Registered Apprenticeship pathways that allow them to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree or apprenticeship credential.

Your Role as a Counselor





Ensure that advising and programming align with state-recognized credentials and current labor market demands to enhance career relevance and student outcomes.



Strengthening Vertical Collaboration Across School Levels

Share knowledge and set clear expectations for skills and prerequisites to minimize transition gaps and foster continuous learning (e.g., through vertically aligned apprenticeships/internships).



Aligning IGPs to Credential Attainment to Improve SPS

Anchor students' coursework in approved sequences and credential requirements to promote course readiness, on-time graduation, dual enrollment, and successful credential attainment.



Case Study #1

This state-funded Career Development Program **provides middle school students with CTE courses aligned to high school academies.**

Elementary School



Awareness in Elementary School

- **1.** Introduce careers through classroom lessons
- **2.** Teach soft skills: teamwork, communication, creativity, and problem-solving
- **3.** Provide age-appropriate career exploration tools and kits

Middle School



Key Features

- 1. 17 Career Clusters Curriculum
- 2. Continuous Career Portfolios
- **3.** Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Certificated Instructors

Impact

- **1.** Enables early, informed high school pathway choices
- **2.** Aligns seamlessly with high school and postsecondary coursework

High School



Alignment in High School

- 1. Build on the same cluster and coursework introduced in middle school
- 2. Engage in work-based learning
- **3.** Earn industry-recognized certifications embedded in upper-level courses



Case Study #2

This career exploration program offers middle school CTE as exploratory courses that are controlled, allowing districts to tailor offerings to community needs.

Elementary School



Awareness in Elementary School

- **1.** Teachers link lessons to real-world examples (i.e., fractions in cooking, science in medicine)
- **2.** Complete short "I Like..." surveys or draw careers that interest them.
- **3.** Provide age-appropriate career exploration tools

Middle School



Key Features

- 1. Exploratory Courses Across Sectors
- 2. Flexible Learning Models
- 3. Career Development Coordinators

Impact

- **1.** Encourages student engagement through hands-on learning
- **2.** Promotes fair access to career pathways early on

High School



Alignment in High School

- 1. Narrow in on a CTE pathway (i.e., Health Sciences, Tech, Business) based on middle school exploration.
- **2.** Complete senior projects or credential-based performance tasks that connect to postsecondary goals



Case Study #3



Connecting Middle to High School

Middle school students at Evangeline Reimagine Academy can choose a "zone" to explore, engage in hands on learning, then tour high school career centers and labs to connect their current learnings to more advanced coursework.

For more information on MS career exploration, please reach out to Liz Chatelain at **liz.chatelain@epsb.com**.

Connecting High School to College



+

Connecting High School to Career



High school students tour college campuses and meet college reps to learn more about and prepare for the admissions and application process.

High school students tour employer facilities and speak to professionals to understand how CTE programs, dual enrollment, IBCs stack towards a credential in the field.



Utilizing Key LDOE Resource to Ensure Vertical Alignment



Statewide Standardization



To ensure statewide consistency, all schools should use the same advising frameworks and common language from the resources provided on the Jump Start website when guiding students' course and pathway decisions.

State Focus List

Share the **Louisiana Industry-Based Certification (IBC)** State Focus List to illustrate the range of available credentials and connect them to students' individual interests.



Post Office Box 94094

Jeff Landry, Governor Susana Schowen, Secretary

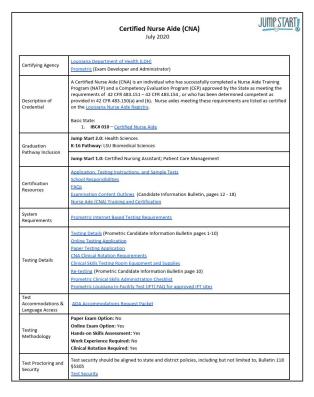
Office of the Secretary

Louisiana Industry-Based Certification (IBC) State Focus List Revised as of 08/08/25							
Certifying Agency	Certification	Jump Start Level					
	Adobe Certified Professional	Basic					
Adobe	Adobe Certified Professional in Visual Design, Video Design, <u>OR</u> Web Design	Advanced					
	Adobe Certified Expert	Advanced					
AWS Certification	Amazon Web Services Foundational Amazon Web Services Associate Architectural Apprentice Drafter	Advanced					
AWS Certification	Amazon Web Services Associate	Advanced					
A	Architectural Apprentice Drafter	Basic					
American Design Drafting Association (ADDA)	Mechanical Apprentice Drafter	Basic					
American Hotel & Lodging Association – Educational	Hospitality and Tourism Specialist	Advanced					
Institute	Certified Hospitality Supervisor	Advanced					
		Basic: ABC Pelican Level :					
American Welding Society (AWS)	AWS Structural Welding (or modified version accepted by regional employers)	Basic					
American welding society (AWS)	AWS Structural Welding (or modified version accepted by regional employers)	Advanced: ABC Pelican					
		Level 1					
		Advanced					
American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS)	Certified in Logistics, Transportation and Distribution	Basic					
Apple, Inc./Certiport Exam Developer	App Development with Swift – Certified User	Advanced					
Autodesk	Autodesk Certified User AutoCAD	Basic					
Hutodesk	Autodesk Certified User Inventor	Advanced					



Jump Start Fact Sheets

Refer to the **Jump Start Fact Sheets** for pathway-specific certification and graduation requirements.





Jump Start Graduation Pathways

3

Use the Jump Start Graduation
Pathways to identify courses
eligible for credential completion.



Course Code			Course Name	Actions		
090530	1	0.5	Advanced CPT Coding			
100303	1	0.5	ADVANCED NUTRITION AND FOOD (1 CREDIT)			
100301	0.5	0.5	ADVANCED NUTRITION AND FOOD (1/2 CREDIT)			
090016	0.5	0.5	AHEC OF A SUMMER CAREER EXPLORATION (1/2 CREDIT)	Added 2021-2022		
155010	1	0.5	ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCE			
090101	1	0.5	ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES I (1 CREDIT)			
090102	2	2	ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES I (2 CREDITS)			
090104	1	0.5	ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES II (1 CREDIT)			
090105	2	2	ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES II (2 CREDITS)			
150306	1	0.5	ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY			
150329	1	0.5	Anatomy and Physiology II			
150330	1	0.5	ANATOMY: DE-CBIO 2213 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I			
150331	1	0.5	ANATOMY: DE-CBIO 2214 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I			
150332	1	0.5	ANATOMY: DE-CBIO 2223 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II			

IGP Template

4

Start Graduation Pathways and use the IGP template to advise students on course selection.

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Evidence of Practice: Bringing Today's Learning into the Counselor Rubric

Advising on IGPs and aligning course sequences reflects Domains 1, 2, 3, and 5. **These aren't new tasks** — **they're evidence of the high-impact work counselors already do.**



Domain 1: Vision and Goal Setting

Evidence Statement: "Articulated a plan for vertically aligned career programming." Artifacts: Credential attainment targets; plans for classroom and work-based learning



Domain 2: Student Services

Evidence Statement: "Used Jump Start pathways and the IGP template to guide course advising." Artifacts: IGP completion report; course sequence exemplars



Domain 3: Leadership, Advocacy, Reflection

Evidence Statement: "Used outcomes data to refine advising and program choices." Artifacts: CTE classroom observations; advising reflection journals



Domain 5: School and Community Engagement

Evidence Statement: "Facilitated knowledge sharing across grade levels to strengthen career readiness." Artifacts: Role-based PD; CTE marketing materials; employer/post-secondary contact logs



Key Takeaways

LO1: Shared Vision of Student Success

- Vertical alignment intentionally connects curriculum and pathways across grade levels to align with community and workforce needs.
- Career awareness and exploration begin well before high school, and the earlier we start, the more likely students are to persist through graduation and into high-wage opportunities.

LO2: Career Connections in School

- The list of best practices help students see real connections between what they're learning and where they're headed, starting with career awareness, moving into career exploration, and culminating in credentialing.
- Other states demonstrate that effective middle school career exposure comes from connecting current learning to future programs to create a continuous learning pathway.

LO3: Utilizing LDOE Resources

- The Jump Start Pathways website helps guide students in selecting CTE and Jump Start courses aligned to their interests and career goals.
- Vertical alignment shows up in everyday practice. When you advise a student on a Jump Start IGP or coordinate middle-to-high school course sequences, you're demonstrating meeting counselor rubric expectations.



Thank you for your engagement today!

Please take a moment to complete this short feedback survey — your input helps us improve future sessions and better meet your needs.



https://bit.ly/4oDkWvC



Appendix: Resource List



Key Tools and Resources

- Jump Start Website
 - Jump Start Fact Sheets
 - Jump Start Graduation Pathways
- Louisiana Industry-Based Certification (IBC) State Focus List
- IGP Template
- High School Planning Guide
- Fast Forward
- WBL Guidance

