

FAFSA STUDENT SUPPORT

LOSFA

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

LOSFA can help students and parents with the FAFSA application process. If you have questions or need assistance contact LOSFA:

- Email LOSFA at custserv@la.gov
- Access LOSFA via web at www.osfa.la.gov
- To speak to a representative call LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626

Note: The FAFSA form for students planning to attend a postsecondary institution in the 2016-2017 academic year will be available beginning October 1, 2016, and will require 2015 student and parent federal income tax return information.

Louisiana Department of Education Counselor Assistance Center

The Counselor Assistance Center is a resource to support students, parents and professional school counselors. All stakeholders have direct access to a licensed professional school counselor. Contact information is: 1-877-453-2721; SCA@la.gov

Office of Federal Student Aid

Federal Student Aid is responsible for managing the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Federal Student Aid ensures students and their families can benefit from these programs by:

- Informing students and families about the availability of the *federal student aid programs* and the process for applying for and receiving aid from those programs;
- Developing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* and processing approximately 22 million FAFSA submissions each year;
- Accurately disbursing, reconciling, and accounting for all federal student aid funds that are delivered to students each year through more than 6,200 colleges and career schools;
- Managing the outstanding *federal student loan* portfolio and securing repayment from federal student loan borrowers;
- Offering free assistance to students, parents, and borrowers throughout the entire financial aid process; and
- Providing oversight and monitoring of all program participants—schools, financial entities, and students—to ensure compliance with the laws, regulations, and policies governing the federal student aid programs.

For more information go to: <https://studentaid.ed.gov>

FAFSA SCHOOL SUPPORT

Statewide Professional School Counselor Collaborative Sessions

Given Louisiana's new programs and policies, the Department is committed to increasing the amount of hands-on support we provide to professional school counselors. LDOE Network Teams will be providing counselor collaborative sessions throughout the 2016-2017 school year to provide counselors with the tools and information needed to ensure appropriate courses, pathway selections, and Individual Graduation Plans for all students. Specific dates can be found in the [Counselor Connect Newsletters](#).

Student FAFSA Completion Data

The Louisiana Office of Student and Financial Assistance (LOSFA) has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that now allows LOSFA to communicate FAFSA completion rates with each Local Educational Agency (LEAs) in the state as well as with certain college access service providers, provided that those LEAs and service providers enter an agreement with LOSFA. LOSFA is partnering with the state's school boards and college access providers to ensure that all high school seniors have an opportunity to complete the FAFSA. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact LOSFA at custserv@osfa.la.gov with the subject line FAFSA Completion Project.

FAFSA INTERMEDIARY SUPPORT

Career Compass of Louisiana:

The goal of Career Compass is to increase the number of students in Louisiana who attend a post-secondary institution upon high school graduation (technical, community and four-year universities). Career Compass assists in removing the obstacles that keep students from pursuing a post-secondary education. Career Compass coaches can assist the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and different scholarship opportunities.

For more information: www.careercompassla.org

College Bridge

College Bridge provides experienced guides who work directly with students. They host FAFSA nights, provide students with text message reminders and a drop-in center for enrollment support, make micro grants available in a pinch, and connect each student with a friendly, effective guide to coach her or him through the difficult first year of college.

For more information: contact@collegebridgenola.org

LELA

Louisiana Education Loan Authority is a non-profit resource for students' FAFSA completion, scholarship opportunities, and college planning. Access its FAFSA Completion and College Planning Guide on the side Bulletin Board.

For more information: asklela.org

FRANK

Frank is for anyone looking to access free financial aid, including high school seniors, college students, and people looking to go back to school. It's mobile-optimized, so you can use it anywhere. With FRANK you can link your Common Application to your Frank account (or fill in online), take a picture of your parents' tax returns, and get an estimated aid amount in seconds, and submit and receive your official Expected Family Contribution 3-5 days later. In as little as 4 minutes you can submit the information for a FAFSA.