

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



**March 2023**

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## Student Opportunities

### **211 Statewide Database**

LOSFA is proud to announce, in partnership with Louisiana United Way, the launch of the [211 Resource Database](#) where countless resources are at your disposal to help you and/or your students get in contact with the right organization to meet identified needs.

### **Louisiana Workforce Commission Calendar of Events**

The Louisiana Workforce Commission has compiled a [calendar](#) of job fairs and events throughout the state.

## Professional Opportunities\Monthly Calls

### **Forward this month's newsletter to 8th grade Colleagues**

As mentioned in the Counselor Institute sessions, the Office of College and Career Readiness is in the early stages of planning a professional development opportunity for school counselors and other personnel who work directly with 8th grade graduates and their IGPs.

Please forward this newsletter to your middle/junior high school IGP colleagues and ask them to add their contact information. Complete this [form](#) if you are a middle/junior high counselor and would like to receive communication when the PD details and registration are released.

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## **2023 TOPS Processing Webinar for Professional School Counselors**

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

It's almost time for TOPS processing season and we're excited to share our dates for the 2023 TOPS Processing Webinar for Professional School Counselors! These interactive, virtual events are designed to help schools minimize TOPS processing errors for their graduating seniors. This year's webinar will be one part that includes:

- Comprehensive Review of TOPS Processing,
- STS requirements for LOSFA, and
- a comprehensive look at the Student Hub.

To ensure you don't miss this opportunity, please register for one of the following sessions as soon as possible.

[Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 9 a.m.](#)

[Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 1 p.m.](#)

[Friday, March 31, 2023, at 9 a.m.](#)

Please contact [LOSEA](#) with any questions.

## **Teacher Leader Summit Registration**

**Please share with all educators.**

Early Bird registration has closed but that doesn't mean you're too late! [Register](#) today to secure your spot at the 2023 Teacher Leader [Summit](#). **Sessions will be available for school counselors to attend.**

Registration will remain open through April 21 (or when we sell out). Availability is limited.

Please contact [events@emergentmethod.com](mailto:events@emergentmethod.com) with questions.

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### **Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call**

**Please share with secondary supervisors, CTE supervisors, and secondary principals, assistant principals, and school counselors.**

A monthly webinar hosted by the Office of Career and College Readiness is held the 4th Thursday of the month, and focuses on sharing updates around the various work streams within the office. Slide decks from previous calls may be found in the [Monthly Call Library](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday April 27; 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92416711073>
- **Webinar ID:** 913 5622 9413
- **Passcode:** 768040

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

### **Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call**

**Please share with Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) directors, supervisors, and all attendance stakeholders**

CWAs are provided with relevant professional development, resources, and tools to support students and families within their systems. As members of the Louisiana Attendance Alliance, CWAs are afforded evidence-based, best-practices to address chronic absence and encourage family engagement during these meetings.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, April 5, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98929998429>
- **Webinar ID:** 989 2999 8429
- **Passcode:** 292522

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

### **Alternative Education Leaders**

**Please share with Alternative Education Supervisors, Site Leaders and all AE stakeholders**

A webinar for Alternative Education Supervisors and Site Leaders is held the first Wednesday of each month and focuses on supporting AE sites leaders with the delivery of criteria outlined in Bulletin 131.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, April 5, 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95978637476>
- **Webinar ID:** 959 7863 7476
- **Passcode:** 775578

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

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## **Well-Being Community of Practice Call**

**Please share with system leaders, school leaders, counselors, mental health professionals and behaviorists.**

A webinar for system and school leaders is held the third Wednesday of each month and focuses on supporting well-being initiatives for students and staff. School systems from across the state share best practices that have been proven to support the mental health of students.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, April 19, 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93424398640>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 934 2439 8640

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

## **2023 American School Counselor Association Annual Conference**

**Please share with professional school counselors.**

The 2023 American School Counselor Association Annual [Conference](#) will be held from July 15-18, 2023, in Atlanta, GA or virtually. [Registration](#) is currently open. Join other school counseling professionals for four days of inspirational keynotes, informative breakouts, and in-depth looks at hot topics in the school counseling profession.

Please contact [asca@schoolcounselor.org](mailto:asca@schoolcounselor.org) with questions.

## **Open Enrollment Resources (OER) Cohort: Summer Professional Development Applications**

**Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, counselors, librarians, and dual enrollment teachers.**

[LOUIS: The Louisiana Network](#), a program of the Board of Regents, is accepting [applications](#) for a cohort of up to 20 school librarians and dual enrollment teachers from Louisiana public secondary schools. Selected participants will engage in 11-15 hours of professional development and will be equipped with the tools to understand the benefits and challenges of using/integrating high quality Open Enrollment Resources (OER) in courses.

Successful applicants will be offered a payment of \$1500 for their participation and completion of activities. The summer 2023 professional development will be virtual and largely asynchronous with opportunities to gain fluency in OER. **Deadline for applications is April 10 at 11:59 p.m.**

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

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## Resources

### **Counselor Institute Presentation**

Thank you to all who attended the Spring 2023 Counselor Institute sessions, we truly enjoyed seeing everyone again!

As promised, the [presentation](#) is available for your review. Feel free to share as you deem appropriate. Dates for the Fall 2023 Counselor Institutes will be shared at a later date.

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

### **Guidance for Individual Graduation Planning**

A quality individual graduation plan (IGP) is crucial for student success. Per BESE Bulletin 741, students work with their school counselors to complete an IGP by the end of grade 8; school counselors, students and families, review, update, and sign the IGP every year until the student graduates. An [IGP guidance](#) document is available for review.

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

### **Counselor Support Library**

The Counselor [Support Library](#) provides professional school counselors with resources and information that supports providing guidance to students and parents regarding graduation, pathways and career goals.

### **2022-2023 STS**

2022-2023 STS is now open. New 2022-2023 STS documents have been posted to the [STS Support Page](#) under the Useful Documents section.

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

### **Individual Graduation Plans**

[Individual Graduation Plan \(IGP\) Fillable Form](#)

[Individual Graduation Plan for students assessed on LEAP Connect](#)

[Individual Graduation Plan - Arabic](#)

[Individual Graduation Plan - Spanish](#)

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## LEADS Portal Access

In order to access LEADS, please use the following links:

- LEADS Portal: <https://leads5.doe.louisiana.gov/ptl>
- LEADS Password Reset System (PRS): <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>
- Student Transcript System (STS): <https://leads5.doe.louisiana.gov/sts>

## Useful Documents:

[2022-2023 STS Master Course Code List](#)

[2022-2023 STS IBC Matrix](#)

[2022-2023 Jump Start Pathway IBCs](#)

[2022-2023 Jump Start Pathway Course Sets](#)

## STS Graduation Date Removal Codes (from the STS User Guide)

Graduation dates may be removed (**in red and scratched out**) from a student STS transcript due to the following reasons:

Code	Problem	Solution
2	23 credits	<b>Not having 23 credits</b> Student does not have at least 23 credits. Check transcripts and course part numbers.
3	Core Progress	<b>Core not met</b> Student is missing at least 1 category in his/her diploma path. Run student diploma calculation and see which category is not met.
4	Pass GEE/EOC	<b>GEE/EOC flag</b> Student does not have a Y in the GEE/EOC flag field.
5	CDV	<b>Career Option code not CDV for path CD</b> Student on CD diploma pathway requires a CDV in career option code drop down.
6	IBC	<b>No IBC for path CA</b> CA student does not have an IBC loaded correctly into

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## Ask CoCo

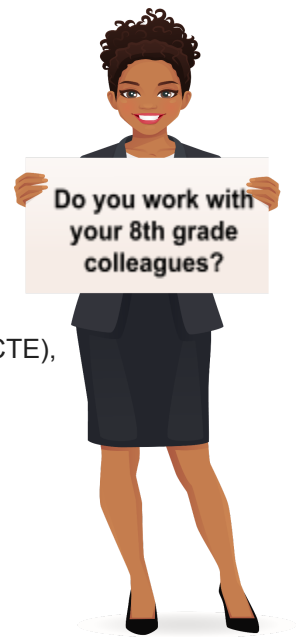
### Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

**Q:** Information was shared at the Spring Counselor Institute about connecting with the 8th grade counselors regarding IGPs. What are some suggestions to connect with them?

- The "Collaborative" Counselor

**A:** Gr 8 - 12 school counselors can meet regularly to discuss campus offerings (course and CTE), electives, graduation requirements updates and best practices:

- ❖ Quarterly counselor learning community meetings
- ❖ High / middle school bi-annual district meetings
- ❖ Continuing education conferences
- ❖ Annual junior high/high school IGP/Scheduling Collaboration:
  - Discuss any changes to transitions for the upcoming school year
  - Review 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedules, course options, pathways
  - Discuss IGP due dates
  - Explore ideas that would help streamline the IGP and scheduling process



## Scholarships

### Big Future Scholarships

### Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application

**Please share with high school counselors.**

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF), Louisiana's Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is now accepting [applications](#) for the Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program. This program is the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates who have earned a Jump Start credential and a Louisiana high school diploma and subsequently enroll in an LCTCS Construction Pathway Program or Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) training program the summer or fall immediately following graduation. This scholarship will assist graduates in gaining the necessary training to earn industry

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## **Eligibility Requirements**

Any high school senior who has a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, will earn a Jump Start Career Diploma, and enrolls in an LCTCS construction pathway program or an ABC training program in the summer or fall semester immediately following high school graduation.

## **Scholarship Award**

Up to forty one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students enrolling at an LCTCS program or an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

For more information, please email [stephanie.marcum@la.gov](mailto:stephanie.marcum@la.gov).

## Reminders

### **Financial Aid Planning**

**Please share with counselors and persons responsible for FAFSA completion.**

It is a requirement for graduation for seniors to submit a FAFSA (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS), fill out a TOPS application, or opt out and have a waiver on file. Assistance is available by phone, online, and in person.

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

### **LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators**

**Share with Counselors, Administrators, all educators**

Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed psychologists or therapists through your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

What can we treat? Addiction, Adolescent Counseling, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, Attention Deficit, Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Depression and Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss Counseling, Insomnia, Marriage and Family Counseling, Postpartum Depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Work-related Stress Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at [ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com](https://ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com) and enter Service Key: **LDOE**

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

## 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:SCA@la.gov">SCA@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Supplemental Course Academy/Course Choice
<a href="mailto:jumpstart@la.gov">jumpstart@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Jump Start
<a href="mailto:PPP@la.gov">PPP@la.gov</a>	Questions related to pupil progression
<a href="mailto:collegereadiness@la.gov">collegereadiness@la.gov</a>	Questions related to dual enrollment or Advanced Placement
<a href="mailto:studentwellbeing@la.gov">studentwellbeing@la.gov</a>	Questions related to well-being and healthy communities.