

COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's
Professional School Counselors



September 2023

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Student Opportunities

2022-2023 End of Year Tasks

Per Bulletin 741, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the school counselor must:

1. Finalize the individual graduation plan for each graduating senior;
2. Upload all academic records into the state student transcript system (STS); and
3. Post the student's graduation date prior to the awarding of a diploma.

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

New 2023-2024 Diploma Requirements

[TOPS University Diploma](#)

- Foreign Language additions
 - [Computer Science as a Foreign Language Guidance](#)
 - For Fall grade 9 entry 2023-2024 graduating in 2026-2027 and thereafter

[Jump Start TOPS Tech \(Career Diploma\) Requirements](#)

- Geometry
 - For Fall grade 9 entry 2023-2024 and thereafter, Geometry is required.
 - For grade 9 entry prior to 2023-2024, students must take three additional Math courses of which Geometry is an option.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

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Bulletin 741 Jump Start Updates

- i. Jump Start 1.0 course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen **through** 2020-2021; and
- ii. Jump Start 2.0 course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen **beginning** in 2020-2021

Policy references grade 9 entry and STS is programmed based on grade 9 entry.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

ASVAB Career Exploration Program

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

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) is a [FREE career planning resource](#) available to high schools nationwide. This comprehensive program includes one of the most widely used multiple-aptitude test batteries in the world and an interest inventory complemented by a thorough occupational database all designed to give students an in-depth look at the world of work.

To learn more about the [program components](#) or how to bring CEP to your school, call 1-800-323-0513.

Fast Forward

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

The [Fast Forward Program](#) will prepare students for current and emerging professions that expose students to high-skill, high-wage and in-demand occupations. It will assist with establishing statewide industry or sector partnerships among local educational agencies and institutions of higher education, and facilitate the establishment, expansion and integration of opportunities for students to successfully complete coursework that integrates rigorous and challenging technical and academic instruction.

Contact caronda.bean@la.gov with questions.

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Professional Opportunities/Monthly Calls

Fall 2023 Counselor Institute

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

Registration for the Fall 2023 Counselor Institute sessions is open. Please invite your CTE Supervisor to join in conversations regarding pathway collaboration. **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 24	West Monroe	Bossier
October 25	Rapides	Lafayette
October 26	St. Tammany	East Baton Rouge

Contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

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 at 3 p.m. 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:** 3rd Thursday of each month, starting July 20
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92322549210>
- **Phone Number:** (312) 626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 923 2254 9210
- **Passcode:** 130834

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

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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 family engagement during these meetings. This opportunity for learning and collaboration is held the first Thursday of each month.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** 1st Thursday of each month, October 5; 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92031673778?>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Webinar ID:** 920 3167 3778
- **Passcode:** 459079

Please contact shelneka.adams@la.gov with questions.

Alternative Education Leaders Community of Practice

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

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

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, September 14 ; 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94546407532?>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Webinar ID:** 945 4640 7532
- **Passcode:** 764614

Please contact terran.perry@la.gov with questions.

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Healthy Communities Community of Practice Monthly Call

Please share with school safety personnel, Health and Physical Educators, Nurses, Health Providers and all health and well-being stakeholders.

Monthly community of practice calls will be held the 4th Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. The call will address school safety, school health, transportation, nursing, suicide and bullying prevention, health/physical education, School-based Medicaid funding, Whole Child (WSCC) initiative, Well-being advisory councils, Project Aware.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, September 28, 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91984395787?>
- **Webinar ID:** 919 8439 5787
- **Passcode:** 784203

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Simulation Medical Training Education Webinar

The Simulation Medical Training and Education Council of Louisiana is hosting a "Lunch and Learn" webinar on **Wednesday, September 27 at 12 noon**. Please forward this information to all your Louisiana simulation educators. The topic is Selecting and Developing Simulation Scenarios and Cases. Melissa Madden, PhD, MSN, RN from Louisiana Tech University will be the speaker.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, September 27, 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://lsuhsc.zoom.us/j/96151311125>

Please contact dlofas@lsuhsc.edu with any questions.

AP® Coordinator Back-to-School Workshops

Please share with the AP® testing coordinator.

[Registration](#) is open for the AP Coordinator Back-to-School Workshops. These workshops run from July 24 - September 21. These workshops are designed for new and experienced coordinators.

Workshops will begin in a whole group format that will focus on updates and resources for the upcoming school year and then have breakout sessions. You will need to have your College Board account in order to register for the workshops.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

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College Board Counselor Workshops

Please share with counselors.

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2023 College Board [Counselor Workshops](#). The workshops will be held on various dates between August 29 - September 19 for new and experienced counselors. Topics for the workshops will include College Board program updates including SAT, AP, and higher education trends to support students for the 2023-2024 school year. All workshops are free to attend.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

ACT® College & Career Readiness Workshops

Please share with counselors.

ACT® will be hosting [College and Career Readiness Workshops](#). [Registration](#) for in-person workshops that offer content specific to Louisiana is open. Please register at least two weeks in advance of the workshop date to ensure availability of workshop materials.

In person workshops are at 9 a.m. at the following locations:

- September 26 (Baton Rouge)
- September 28 (New Orleans)
- October 10 (Lafayette)
- October 16 (Alexandria)
- October 17 (Lake Charles)

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

College Board Weekly Office Hours

Please share with principals, counselors, AP teachers, and testing coordinators.

The College Board is offering weekly office hours starting on August 8. Topics will include the AP 2024 exam schedule and digital AP exams. Please feel free to join the weekly discussion on any questions that you have about AP exams and resources.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Every Tuesday; 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)
- **Webinar ID:** 232 293 189 414
- **Passcode:** 7VQcYk

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

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Apply to be an AP Reader in 2024

Please share with principals, counselors, AP teachers, and testing coordinators.

The College Board is offering the opportunity to become an [AP Exam Reader](#). The opportunity is open to all authorized AP high school teachers who are currently teaching AP subjects, regardless of years of experience. [Applications](#) are accepted year round, but spots are limited.

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

SCA Portal

Please share with school administrators and counselors.

The [SCA Portal](#) is opened for reporting for the 2023-2024 school year. School systems are to register with the course provider then report the enrollments in the [SCA Portal](#). The portal will close for fall and full year reporting on September 11 at 5 p.m. for enrollments with private providers and on October 13 for Public Higher Education providers.

The [SCA Portal](#) will reopen for spring enrollment reporting on November 20.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Resources

2023-2024 (BSSY 2023) STS Documents

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

- [2023-Beyond STS Master Course Code List](#) **updated 8/10/23**
- [2023-Beyond STS IBC Matrix](#)
- [2023-Beyond Jumpstart Pathway IBCs](#)
- [2023-Beyond Jumpstart Pathway Course Sets](#)

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JumpStart Pathway Briefs

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

JumpStart [Pathway Briefs](#) are traditionally posted to the LDOE [All Things JumpStart](#) website early Spring reflecting changes approved at the January BESE meeting. Please use the most current documents when developing student IGPs and schedules.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

2023-2024 High School Planning Guide

Please share with system leaders, secondary supervisors, high school and middle school leaders, and school counselors.

The [2023-2024 Louisiana High School Planning Guidebook](#) is now available on the LDOE [Graduation Requirements](#) webpage. This guidebook consolidates the policies and programs most relevant to high school educators as they plan for the upcoming academic year and prepare every student for college and career success.

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

Graduation Requirements Documents

Please share with school administrators and counselors.

The TOPS University and TOPS TECH graduation requirements documents have been updated to reflect changes to Bulletin 741.

All Louisiana [graduation requirements](#) can be found on the LDOE website.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

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Jump Start Documents

Please share with school administrators and counselors.

The [Jump Start 2.0 pathway](#) documents have been updated to reflect recommendations made by CTE supervisors and approved by the Jump Start 2.0 review committee and BESE.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Graduation Resources for Student with Disabilities

Please share with school administrators and counselors.

[Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Graduation Resources for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Special Education Guidance for High School Students](#)

[Special Education Course Codes](#)

Please contact SpecialEducation@la.gov with questions.

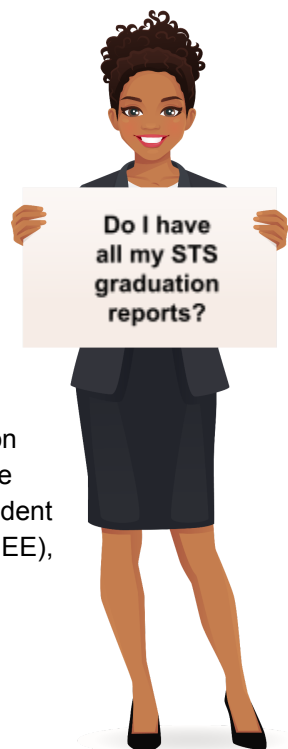
Ask CoCo

Q & A With COUNSELOR CONNECT!

Q: In the May Counselor Connect, you mentioned pulling the STS Export Summary to Excel report as verification of the students with graduation dates in STS. Are there any other reports I should save?

- The "Best Practices" Counselor

A: To ensure you have the most updated records for your graduates, I would suggest in addition to the Export Summary to Excel report, you save a copy of your 2022-2023 graduates STS Core Progress Reports. The Core Progress Report traditionally displays as a one-pager for each student and shows the courses accepted in each category, as well as the FAFSA, Parental Consent, (GEE), and TOPS GPA. The STS Core Progress Reports can be accessed via the following steps:



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1. Hover over the "Print & Export" bar above the Student List
2. Click the "Core Progress Report" option
3. Click the arrow in the "See Report" column to the right of the TU gr 12 report
4. Click the "save" option (best output for this is PDF)
5. I suggest saving with the year and diploma type.
6. Repeat steps with the other gr 12 reports
 - TU = TOPS University diploma
 - CA = JumpStart TOPS Tech Career diploma
 - TC = TOPS calculation used in TU diploma pathway
 - TJ = TOPS calculation used in CA diploma pathway

I also suggest following the same process at the end of September for grades T9-11 as STS traditionally closes from October 1 to late December/early January and is usually not accessible.

Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[Scholaroo.com Louisiana Scholarships](#)

Myscholly.com [50 Companies with Amazing Tuition Reimbursement Programs](#)

[American Bus Association](#) (Transportation, Travel & Tourism)

[Sallie Mae Scholarship Search](#)

Reminders

WHAT DO SCHOOL COUNSELORS DO? LEARN ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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

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 healthy schools, healthy communities, and whole child
PPP@la.gov	Questions related to pupil progression