



Counselor Connect



December 2024

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Student Opportunities

LOSFA: 2025-2026 FAFSA

Please share with school counselors and students.

The 2025-2026 FAFSA opened on December 1. The 2025-2026 FAFSA form is for students attending college in the fall of 2025, including 2025 high school graduates. Students are encouraged to create their FSA ID before beginning their FAFSA application.

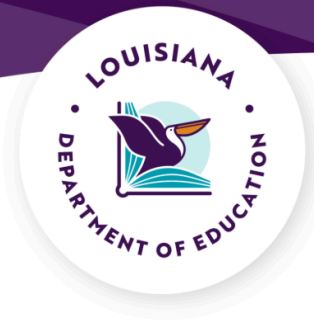
Please contact custserv@la.gov with questions.

2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA)

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

FBI New Orleans, Tulane University Police Department, and the Louisiana Chapter of the FBI National Academy are proud to announce the introduction of the 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA) to Louisiana. Two of the nation's most notable and iconic institutions will conduct law enforcement and legal training for selected youth from Louisiana.

The FLEYA training program will be a FREE weeklong overnight camp exposing students (15 to 17 years of age) to federal, state, and local law enforcement practices. This joint effort promotes law enforcement career paths by giving the selected youths an inside look at the various procedures and techniques taught by subject matter experts and agency instructors. Tulane's Uptown campus will serve as the home base for an academic environment with the premier atmosphere to encourage students to pursue higher education and careers in law enforcement.



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FLEYA Eligibility Criteria

- United States citizen residing in the state of Louisiana
- Currently enrolled in a Louisiana High School
- 15 to 17 years old at the time of FLEYA, which will be held June 1-6
- Minimum GPA of 2.7
- Must be present each day of the FLEYA program

A [completed application](#) and essay must be submitted in PDF form to LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov. No Google Docs or applications requiring a password to access will be accepted. This program is only for current high school students. Students graduating from high school in the spring of 2025 are not eligible.

Please contact LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov with any questions.

Middle School News

Middle School Career Development

Please share with administrators and school counselors.

Career development starts at a young age and grows as students learn more about their interests. As students grow and explore the world around them, they are exposed to various career paths. Middle school is a time when students can participate in lessons and activities that further expose them to the career development process. Lessons and activities should be interesting and engaging while still being informative.

Activities that can actively engage students to think about post-secondary career and educational options include college and career fairs and industry partner visits. Recent graduates from feeder high schools can talk to students about their experiences in college and/or the careers they are pursuing. This allows middle school students to interact with adults closer to their age. Students who have graduated from high school with career certifications can also discuss the benefits of taking courses in high school that have assisted with their career goals. During industry partner visits, students can have small group discussions with professionals where they can ask more detailed questions, as opposed to general information that may come from a large group presentation. Middle school students may be more apt to ask questions and participate in discussions when in smaller settings.

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

Counselor Rubric and Evaluation Process

LEADS Evaluation Process for Counselors

Please share with administrators and school counselors.

The LEADS evaluation process includes a [Beginning-of-Year \(BOY\) Conference](#), [Middle-of-Year \(MOY\) Conference](#), and [End-of-Year \(EOY\) Conference](#). The BOY allows for the counselor and evaluator to



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set goals and an action plan collaboratively. Between the BOY and EOY, the evaluator will collect evidence aligned with the [Louisiana Counselor Rubric](#). During the MOY, the counselor will reflect on progress towards goals, and the evaluator will provide feedback. Feedback includes an area of reinforcement (relative strength) and an area of refinement (relative area of improvement). Please see the Counselor Webinar Deck for more information on the counselor evaluation process. An asynchronous [training module for counselors](#) and their evaluators is now available in the [LEADS Public Collections](#) section of the [Professional Learning Platform](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Counselor Rubric Examples

Please share with administrators and school counselors.

Over the next year, a guidance document to accompany the updated [Louisiana Counselor Rubric](#) will be developed. This document is meant to assist evaluators and school counselors with actual examples of tasks performed under each domain.

To contribute examples of work that fit any of the domains or indicators, please email leads@la.gov.

Please contact candace.ioseph@la.gov with questions.

Fast Forward

Industry Based Certification Basic Bundles

Please share with CTE leaders.

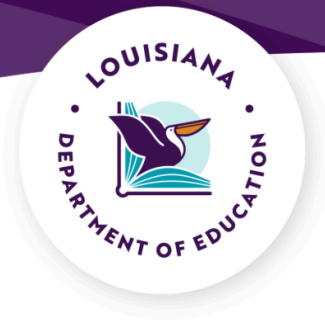
The Louisiana Workforce Commission's Workforce Investment Council approved the first set of Basic Bundles to the state focus list. A Basic Bundle is a set of stackable credentials, where each earned credential adds value to a student's qualifications, enhancing their competitiveness in the job market. While individual credentials may have limited value on their own, achieving a bundle of industry-validated credentials demonstrates that a student possesses a comprehensive set of technical skills that are highly valued by employers. The initial set of basic bundles includes:

Bundle 1

1. Forklift Operator (with hands-on training)
2. NCCER Basic Rigger
3. NCCER Signal Person
4. NCCER Level 1 (any craft area)

Bundle 2

1. Certified Nurse Assistant
2. Certified Phlebotomy Technician
3. EKG Technician



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Bundle 3

1. Emergency Medical Responder
2. IFSAC Firefighter

Bundle 4

1. Fundamentals of JavaScript, Functional Programming and Web Development Level 1
2. PYTHON Certification

Bundle 5

1. American Welding Society 3G and 3F (plate or pipe)
2. American Welding Society 4G and 4F (plate or pipe)

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Professional Opportunities

LOSFA: StudentAid.gov Account Creation Process

Please share with partners supporting students and school counselors.

LOSFA has released a [FAFSA presentation](#) providing guidance on how to create a StudentAid.gov account. StudentAid.gov accounts must be created 2-3 days prior to filling out the 2025-26 FAFSA®.

Please contact losfa.counselors@la.gov with questions.

AP Coordinator Online Training

Please share with AP coordinators and advanced academic leadership.

[Learning Opportunities for AP Coordinators – AP Central | College Board](#) - The topics of AP coordinator online training include exam registration, student enrollment, exam ordering, and AP Exam administration.

[Coordinated](#) - AP coordinators, this is our podcast! Smile with hosts Derek and Karli as we converse with superstars and unsung heroes in education. Hear from fellow AP coordinators and colleagues in AP: essential updates, best practices, and stories from schools worldwide.

Please contact caronda.bean@la.gov with questions.

2025 Louisiana ACT Summit

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

Registration is open for the [2025 Louisiana ACT Summit](#), which will take place February 6 at the Pennington Biomedical Research Facility in Baton Rouge from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This event will provide attendees with opportunities to gain new perspectives, expand their knowledge, and find solutions to problems facing the education and workforce landscape.

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



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ACT Webinar on latest ACT enhancements

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

[Registration](#) is open for the ACT webinar, which will detail the latest ACT enhancements. ACT experts will help prepare participants for the implementation timeline and answer any questions about changes to the test. If you cannot attend, a recording will be sent to those who register. The webinar will take place on December 12 at 10 a.m.

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

Work-based Learning/Internship Teacher Coordinator Training

Share with CTE supervisors, principals, school counselors, and secondary supervisors.

YouthForce NOLA has been approved to provide WBL Internship Teacher-Coordinator Training. The training equips educators with the knowledge and tools to design, implement, and manage effective high school internships aligned with the new Louisiana work-based learning requirements and evidence-based practices. By the end of the training, educators will have developed personalized plans to support real-world learning experiences. [Registration](#) is currently open, with the first session starting December 10.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

Resources

2024-2025 ACT Counselor's Guide

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

ACT is offering a **free** [Counselor's Guide for the 2024-2025 school year](#). The guide will provide information regarding national offerings of the ACT test, tools and resources to help support students, season-based timelines for juniors and seniors, test preparation, and so much more.

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

LOSFA: TOPS Guide

Please share with school counselors and partners supporting students.

The [TOPS Guide](#) places all of the essentials about the TOPS Scholarship into one publication to better assist counselors, students, and parents with understanding the requirements to earn and maintain TOPS, award levels, how to apply, access the Student Hub, and avoid processing errors.

Please contact losfa.counselors@la.gov with questions.



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2024-2025 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders

Please share with school counselors, principals, and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2024-2025 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the electronic form by February 7. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The LDOE will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact suzette.rabalais@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

College Board Deadlines for AP Exams

Please share with advanced academic leadership, AP coordinators, and counselors.

The College Board would like to remind school systems of upcoming deadlines:

- **January 24:** Deadline to submit [accommodations requests](#) to Services for Students with Disabilities
- **January 31:** Deadline to submit [AP Course Audit](#) Materials for Course Authorization and Renewal
- **March 14:** Deadline for AP coordinators to submit final updates for [AP Exam Orders](#)

Please contact caronda.bean@la.gov with questions.



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Ask CoCo

Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

Q: I'm a new school counselor. I was told Louisiana has updated the counselor evaluation rubric. Where can I find information to learn about the rubric?

- The "Newbie" Counselor

A: For the 2024-2025 school year, systems may choose to continue the Legacy (COMPASS) evaluation process or transition to the [LEADS](#) evaluation process. Full implementation for all systems will take place in 2025-2026. LEADS evaluations for counselors include the [Louisiana Counselor Rubric](#) for the qualitative portion of evaluation. For additional information, please view the [Counselor Webinar](#) and the [companion deck](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.



Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest](#) Deadline: December 31

[Top Ten List Scholarship](#) Deadline: December 31

[Unigo \\$10K Scholarship](#) Deadline: December 31

[Zack Zolin Scholarship Foundation](#) Deadline: January 1

Monthly Calls

Alternative Education	December 12 at 10 a.m.
Office of Career and College Readiness	December 19 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools	No December Call Scheduled
Child Welfare and Attendance	January 9 at 8 a.m.



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Connect With Our Office

Office of Career and College Readiness Contact Information

highschoolacademics@la.gov	General Questions and Graduation Requirements
ldefinancialaid@la.gov	Financial Aid Policy or FAFSA Questions
sca@la.gov	Supplemental Course Allocation or Course Choice Questions
jumpstart@la.gov	Jump Start Questions
healthyschools@la.gov	Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities, and Whole Child Questions
ppp@la.gov	Pupil Progression Questions
transcripts@la.gov	Duplicate High School Graduate Transcripts Questions

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