



# Counselor Connect



**November 2024**

[Student Opportunities](#)

[Middle School News](#)

[Professional Opportunities](#)

[Resources](#)

[Reminders](#)

[Ask Coco](#)

[Scholarships/Funding Opportunities](#)

[Connect With Our Office](#)

[Monthly Calls](#)

## Student Opportunities

### **ACT College Prep Playlist: Essential Tips for Success**

**Please share with high school principals, assistant principals, and school counselors.**

ACT has created a playlist to equip students with expert advice from admissions professionals. The [video series](#) is perfect for students at any stage of their college journey, and covers writing standout essays, balancing academics, and finding the right college. Share with students and their families to help them navigate the application process with confidence.

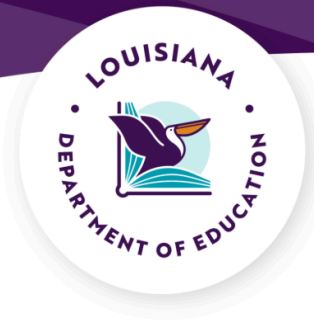
Please contact [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) for more information.

### **The Cedric Richmond Scholarship**

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

The Governor's Success Council is proud to announce that applications for the Cedric Richmond Scholarship Program are now open. The Cedric Richmond Scholarship is designed to support African American male students from Louisiana who demonstrate a strong commitment to their education and financial need.

The scholarship is available to individuals attending a public postsecondary college or institution in Louisiana. Funds awarded through the program are disbursed directly to the college, university, or institution indicated in the recipient's scholarship application.



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The Cedric Richmond Scholarship Program, serves as a beacon of empowerment and upliftment for African American male students throughout Louisiana. This scholarship epitomizes an investment in the future prosperity of Louisiana, by affording deserving young men the opportunity to pursue their academic aspirations without the encumbrance of financial impediments. The commitment to fostering equitable access to higher education remains resolute, and the Governor’s Success Council eagerly anticipates supporting the emergence of the next generation of distinguished leaders through this esteemed program”

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicant must be an African American male
- Applicant must be a Louisiana resident
- Applicant must be accepted by or currently attending one of Louisiana’s public colleges/universities.
- Applicant must be currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student.

Encourage students to visit the [Governor's Success Council](#) for more information and to access the application portal.

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

## **Louisiana Solid Waste Association Scholarship**

**Please share with counselors and school administrators**

Each year the Louisiana Solid Waste Association (LSWA) Board of Directors gives anywhere from 3-5 \$1000.00 scholarships to a high school senior attending any Louisiana university. The scholarships are in memory of three amazing gentlemen who believed in offering the chance to all to receive a higher education and blazed a trail in each of their industries. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is January 15.

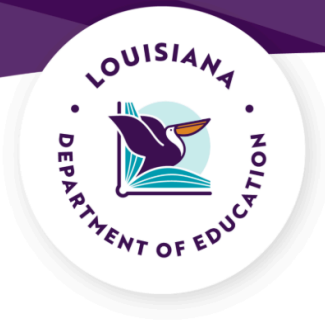
Please contact [info@swa.us](mailto:info@swa.us) with questions.

## **LOSFA's Virtual Apprenticeship Expo**

**Please share with high school students, school counselors, and administrators.**

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will host a virtual Apprenticeship Expo via Zoom on Wednesday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This year’s theme is “10 Years of Engagement, Expansion, and Innovation.” **Registration is required.**

Apprenticeships are instrumental in rebuilding the economy, advancing equity of access, building a pipeline to good quality jobs, and supporting underserved communities. During the event, Louisiana students and attendees will receive information on apprenticeship programs, processes, and outcomes through presentations from industry professionals and state and national workforce development administrators.



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The event will feature speakers from Ochsner Health System, The 1881 Institute, electrical training ALLIANCE, DOW Chemical Company, BASF, Apprenti, and Union Pacific Railroad.

Participants will receive information on apprenticeship programs, processes, benefits, and outcomes at this event. Through a series of interactive presentations from industry professionals and state and national workforce development administration students will:

- Discover an alternative pathway to high-paying and high-demand jobs
- Gain knowledge of soft skills necessary for workforce success
- Learn about Louisiana business and industry apprenticeship opportunities
- Interact and connect with statewide professionals and organizations

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

## Middle School News

### **Direct and Indirect Student Services**

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

Middle school counselors are able to enhance their school counseling programs by understanding the academic, attendance and discipline needs of students. When you provide direct and indirect counseling services to students, you are not only attending to their needs, but also the concerns of the school.

Direct student services include individual and group counseling sessions, assessing students abilities, and assisting students with making decisions about their future. Indirect student services include collaborating and consulting with teachers, administrators, parents, etc. to support student achievement. School counselors also refer students and families to community resources for additional assistance and support.

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

## Professional Opportunities

### **Fall 2024 Counselor Institute Presentation**

**Please share with school counselors and administrators**

Thank you to all who attended the Fall 2024 Counselor Institute sessions, we truly enjoyed seeing everyone again! We hope you benefited from the Accountability and Counselor Rubric presentations. The [presentation](#) is available for your review. Feel free to share with colleagues as you deem appropriate. Dates for the Spring 2025 Counselor Institutes will be released at a later date.

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



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## **Ethics and Law in Everyday Practice 2024**

**Please share with school counselors**

[ASCA@Home: Ethics and Law in Everyday Practice](#) offers 30 hours of in-depth programming to equip school counselors with tools to navigate the often-complex legal challenges in school counseling practice. School counselors are motivated by the desire to help youth of all ages successfully navigate the often confusing landscape of childhood and adolescence.

However, everyday situations can become complicated. That's why a strong ethical foundation to guide your responses to students, families and staff is essential. Using the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors and ASCA position statements as a guide, [ASCA@Home 2024](#) will help you enhance your understanding of ethics and clarify your role in addressing the various complex topics you encounter while supporting students every day. [View the full session lineup.](#)

**Attendees who view all sessions can earn up to 3.2 CEUs/32 Contact Hours.** Sessions are available to attend on demand through December 5, 2025.

Access to ASCA@Home is \$99 for ASCA members, \$249 for nonmembers. [Enroll now](#) or [download a registration form](#) to mail in with payment. If you're paying by a Purchase Order, please email your PO's and the ASCA@Home registration form to [asca@schoolcounselor.org](mailto:asca@schoolcounselor.org).

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

## **AP Coordinator Online Training**

**Please share with AP coordinator 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.

Contact [caronda.bean@la.gov](mailto:caronda.bean@la.gov) with questions.

## **ACT College & Career Readiness Webinars**

**Please share with counselors and teachers**

In November, ACT is offering live virtual [College & Career Readiness Workshops](#) that take a deep dive into the pressing topics in K-12 education.

The Fall 2024 College & Career Readiness Workshop Webinars will be held on the following dates:

- November 12 - Best Practices in Preparation: Tools for Accelerating Student Growth
- November 13 - How Do You Support All Students for College and Career? Learn How from a School Counselor of the Year



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- November 14 - Planning for the Future: Student Choices and Postsecondary Success
- November 19 - National ACT College & Career Readiness Workshop

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

## **College Board: AP Precalculus Webinar**

**Please share with AP teachers, testing coordinators, high school counselors, and administrators.**

College Board is offering a [webinar](#) to examine the [AP Precalculus](#) course framework. The webinar will also offer support for schools offering AP Precalculus in their schools/districts.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 12 at 10 a.m.
- **Meeting ID (Microsoft Teams):** 213 813 266 266
- **Passcode:** LkxcAb
- **Webinar Phone Number/Conference ID:** 1-469-225-3872; 313 019 714#

Please contact [fhordge@collegeboard.org](mailto:fhordge@collegeboard.org) with questions.

## **Fast Forward Convention and CWA Summit**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors, administrators, and school counselors.**

Registration for the 2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit will be released in November. This event will be held on **Tuesday, February 25** at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette, LA. This year's conference will provide professional development opportunities around career and technical education, work-based learning, industry partnerships, workforce readiness, and child welfare and attendance.

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

## **National Apprenticeship Week**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, CTE teachers, and school administrators.**

The 10th anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is this year from November 17-23 so start planning your events now! This year's theme - ***10 Years of Engagement, Expansion, and Innovation***

NAW is a nationwide celebration where employers, industry representatives, labor organizations, community-based organizations, workforce partners, educational institutions, and federal, state, and local government agencies host events to showcase the successes and value of registered apprenticeships. Apprenticeships strengthen our economy by developing a highly skilled workforce to meet industry needs, create pathways for career seekers to catapult into good jobs, and advance racial and gender equity. NAW gives registered apprenticeship sponsors the opportunity to showcase their programs, facilities, and apprentices in their community.

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



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## Resources

### **2024-2025 High School Planning Guide**

**Please share with high school counselors, school and district administrators.**

The [2024-2025 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 prepares every student for college and career success. The Louisiana High School Planning Guidebook is published annually.

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

### **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](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.

## Reminders

### **Financial Aid Planning**

**Please share with administrators, counselors, students, and families.**

The U.S. Department of Education has revamped the FAFSA application. The 2025-2026 application will open on or before December 1. Students and families should begin creating and/ or resetting usernames and passwords (FSA IDs) well in advance of the opening date.

- Fill out the [2025-2026 FAFSA](#) application (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS.)
- Fill out a [TOPS application](#) on the LOSFA website (if you want TOPS only).

If you would like to order free copies of Lela's [FAFSA Completion Guide & Workbook](#) for your seniors, please [Ann Carmichael](#).

Please contact [ldefinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov) for more information.



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## Ask CoCo

### Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

**Q:** Since the FAFSA is no longer a graduation requirement, where can I get more information to help my students prepare for college (college selection, financial aid, degree completion)?

- The “Guiding” Counselor

**A:** In addition to topics covered in the [Financial Literacy course](#), a beneficial tool available to all students is LOSFA’s [5-Point Match tool](#) that helps connect students and their career choices. An overview of a few of LOSFA’s resources/programs can be found on the [MyLOSFA 101](#) webpage.



## Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[Festival of the Bonfires](#) (Deadline: Sunday, December 1)

[NROTC Navy Nurse Program Option](#) (Deadline: Tuesday, December 31)

[Louisiana Tech University Presidential Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Wednesday, January 15)

[Louisiana Tech University Outstanding Student Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Wednesday, January 15)

[BigFuture Scholarships](#) - Earn entries in monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships by planning your future. Scholarships do not require an essay, minimum GPA, nor test scores. (Monthly)



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## Connect With Our Office

### 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 Allocation/Course Choice
<a href="mailto:jumpstart@la.gov">jumpstart@la.gov</a>	Questions related to Jump Start
<a href="mailto:healthyschools@la.gov">healthyschools@la.gov</a>	Questions related to healthy schools, healthy communities, and whole child
<a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a>	Questions related to pupil progression
<a href="mailto:transcripts@la.gov">transcripts@la.gov</a>	Questions about duplicate high school transcripts for graduates

## Monthly Calls

Alternative Education	<a href="#">November 14 at 10 a.m.</a>
Office of Career and College Readiness	<a href="#">November 21 at 3 p.m.</a>
Safe and Healthy Schools	No November call scheduled
Child Welfare and Attendance	<a href="#">December 5 at 8 a.m.</a>

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