



# Counselor Connect



October 2024

[Student Opportunities](#)

[Middle School News](#)

[Professional Opportunities](#)

[Resources](#)

[Reminders](#)

[Scholarships/Funding Opportunities](#)

[Ask Coco](#)

[Connect With Our Office](#)

[Monthly Calls](#)

## Student Opportunities

### **Civics LEAP Transition**

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

[Bulletin 741](#) requires that all students must take the LEAP 2025 for all assessment-eligible courses (English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Civics, U.S. History.)

The bulletin also requires all students take and pass 1 course in each of three subject pairs.

- All students: Algebra I or Geometry
- All students: English I or English II

For students entering high school before 2024-2025

- All students: **U.S. History** or Biology

For students entering high school during or after 2024-2025

- All students: **Civics** or Biology

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



# Counselor Connect



## **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.

## Middle School News

### **Middle School Career Exploration**

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

[R.S. 17:183.2](#) states schools with grades 6-8 should incorporate activities which expose students to career and technical and academic fields of study. These activities may include field trips, guest speakers, community services, and other activities designed to introduce students to occupations in demand in Louisiana. At least six activities should be conducted at each grade level.

[Louisiana Star Jobs](#) and [My Life. My Way](#) are two websites that can be used as resources to assist students with career exploration.

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



# Counselor Connect



## Professional Opportunities

### **Fall 2024 Counselor Institute**

Please share with high school principals, assistant principals, CTE Supervisors and school counselors.

Registration links for the Fall 2024 Counselor Institute sessions are now open. Please share with your counseling colleagues and invite your CTE Supervisor to join in conversations regarding the new Accountability system implementation and the Counselor Evaluation Rubric. **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 22	<a href="#">West Monroe, LA</a>	<a href="#">Bossier City, LA</a>
October 23	<a href="#">Leesville, LA</a>	<a href="#">Lafayette, LA</a>
October 24	<a href="#">Mandeville, LA</a>	<a href="#">Luling, LA</a>

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

### **AP Coordinator Online Training**

Please share with AP Coordinators, 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 [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) with questions.



# Counselor Connect



## Resources

### **2024-2025 NCAA Eligibility Guide for High School Counselors**

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

The [2024-2025 Guide for High School Counselors](#) is now available! The guide is designed to assist you and your colleagues as you provide information to students and families on the initial-eligibility process.

The PDF version is available via the High School Portal's [Resources](#) page. Watch for release of additional updated resources in the coming weeks!

Contact NCAA at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) or (877) 622-2321 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 school counselors and school administrators**

The U.S. Department of Education has revamped the FAFSA application. The 2025-2026 application will open on or before December 1, 2024.

Students and families should begin creating and/ or resetting username and passwords (FSA IDs) well in advance of the opening date.

The [2025-2026 FAFSA](#) application (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS).

A [TOPS application](#) is on the LOSFA website (if you want TOPS only).

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



# Counselor Connect



Please consult the following chart when determining if a student is included in your graduation cohort:

Graduation Cohort Inclusion?	What dates are used?
Student is a member of the <b>district graduation cohort</b>	The student was enrolled on October 1 of the third and fourth year of high school. Does not have to be the same school.
Student is a member of the <b>school cohort</b>	Student is a member of the <b>district cohort</b> <u>and</u> is enrolled at this site on February 1 of fourth year.
Dropouts	Dropouts count at the last school of record regardless of any October enrollment.

## Scholarships/Funding Opportunities

[Chick-Fil-A Community Scholars](#) (Deadline: Wednesday, October 30)

[National Space Club Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Friday, November 1)

[Elks Most Value Student Competition](#) (Deadline: Tuesday, November 12)

[10 Words or Less Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Friday, November 15)

[James Alan Cox Student Photojournalism Scholarship](#) (Deadline: Friday, November 15)



# Counselor Connect



## Ask CoCo

### Q & A With COounselor COnnect!

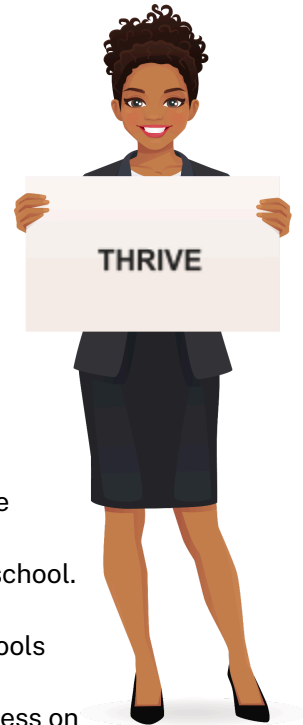
**Q: Where can I find information about the new Louisiana Accountability System? Does any of it affect counselors?**

- The “Accountable” Counselor

**A:** [Grow.Achieve.Thrive](#) is Louisiana’s revised K-12 accountability system. The plan’s name comes from its three core student expectations. Louisiana expects all students to grow academically year-over year, achieve proficiency on key content, and thrive beyond high school.

**Thrive** is the component that closely aligns to the work of the school counselor. High schools will be measured on the number of students graduating on time and students showing readiness on a nationally recognized exam. Students can accelerate through a university, career, or service accelerator. The acceleration choice is not dependent on the graduation pathway.

Feel free to review the [August 30 Counselor webinar](#) for additional information. The LDOE is in the process of compiling chat questions from all of the Accountability webinars. The approved FAQ is scheduled to be uploaded to the Accountability website later this month. This document should assist in a better understanding of Grow.Achieve.Thrive.





# Counselor Connect



## 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 Safe and Healthy Schools/Medicaid/School Safety
<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="#">October 10 at 10am</a>
Office of Career and College Readiness	<a href="#">October 17 at 3pm</a>
Safe and Healthy Schools	<a href="#">October 24 at 2pm</a>
Child Welfare and Attendance	<a href="#">November 7 at 8am</a>

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