

# COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for  
Louisiana's Professional  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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As we approach this busy yet exciting time of year, we are eager to embark on the new counseling tasks that will shape the future of our Jump Start students. Exploring the options with our Jump Start students will provide us all with opportunities to assist students as they choose pathways that will open doors to the future career that ignites their passion for lifetime learning. These opportunities also highlight our need to examine current counseling tools and provide us the chance to explore new counseling tools as we guide students to their chosen diploma pathway.

Explaining the Jump Start process and the various options available is of the utmost importance. The [planning tools](#) we use must be easy for counselors, educators, parents, and students to understand in order for them to be truly invested in their future. One of the tools counselors may use is the [Counselor Support Tool Box](#). The Tool Box has many important documents and resources that are placed at the counselor's finger tips. The Guidance for [Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Selection one-pager](#), Individual Student Planning Resources, and the Counselor Resource Library are all extremely important tools for counselors to utilize. In addition at Jena High School we will be utilizing assembly grouping, small groups, and one-on-one counseling to assist students as they choose their pathway. We plan to host newly implemented Parent Brunches during which we will have parents visit our campus to explore pathway options concerning their students. All students will be given materials to help them discuss Jump Start with their parents and spark discussion at home. Options for the busy parents who are unable to attend evens include email conversations, phone conferences, and scheduled appointment times when needed. There will also be some availability for counseling during extracurricular activities. The tools we currently use to provide students guidance on diploma pathways include the information garnered from their [PLAN test results](#), their performance on current coursework, and their interests in various career areas.

The challenges we face seem daunting but it is important that we remember the amazing opportunity we have to provide help and guidance to young people as they make big decisions based on their passions. Fulfilling this need is why school counselors do what we do. The collaboration of many people will be required to make these changes successful, but we have the tools and resources to make those collaborations happen. We at Jena High School are excited about the opportunities now available to our students and wish you and your students many successes in the coming future.

**Samantha Cotten Manning**  
Professional School Counselor  
Jena High School

## High School Diploma Orders

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2016 graduates and reissued high school diplomas. We suggest you order enough to cover midterm and summer graduates, and printing errors. Thus, we recommend at least a 10 percent overage. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution. Districts will be billed directly by State Printing for orders made after the March 11 deadline and throughout the school year.

Beginning with 2016 graduates, submission of the "Documentation For A Certificate of Achievement" form is not required due to Louisiana's student privacy law (R.S. 17:3914) that provides for limitations and prohibitions on the collection and sharing of student information. LEAs will continue ensuring that students exiting with a Certification of Achievement are indicated in the Special Education Reporting (SER) System and Student Information System (SIS). Only one order form should be submitted for each public school district. Lab schools, Type 2 Charter schools, special schools and nonpublic schools that administer the state's assessments should also submit an order form.

Please email completed order forms (by March 11) and questions to [zoa.bain@la.gov](mailto:zoa.bain@la.gov).

## 2016-2017 District Planning Guide

The [2016-2017 District Planning Guide](#) is now available and serves as the primary planning tool for LEAs in making academic and programmatic decisions for the upcoming school year. LEAs should use the guide in conversations to reflect on the data from this past school year and implement necessary changes to ensure that they meet both educators' and students' goals in 2016-2017. To support this process, the guide provides key planning decisions, available resources, and available funds for the following focus areas for the 2016-2017 academic year:

- Developing high-quality instruction in every classroom
- Preparing children for kindergarten
- Creating a path to prosperity for every student

Please contact [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) or your Network Leader with questions.

## 2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute

The Department will co-host the 2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) July 18-22, 2016 at South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette. SSI will provide teacher certification training for Jump Start Statewide Industry Based Certifications. Registration will open in mid-March and will be published in the LDE newsletter and placed on the [All Things Jump Start webpage](#).

The Department will pay training costs as well as provide lunch for secondary instructors attending SSI. Districts are responsible for all travel expenses and a nominal registration fee (\$150.00/instructor) for which districts may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2015-2016 Carl Perkins Funds.

Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov).

## Third Quarter Professional School Counselor Collaborative

In order to support Professional School Counselors with the [Individual Graduation Planning \(IGP\) process](#) for students this spring the Department is increasing the amount of hands-on support provided to professional middle and high school counselors. The Department Network Teams are starting [3rd Quarter counselor collaborative sessions](#) to provide counselors with the tools and information needed to ensure appropriate courses, and pathway selections for all students. Specific dates can be found in the 2015-2016 District Support Calendar.

Please email [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov) with questions.

## Student FAFSA Completion Data

The Louisiana Office of Student and Financial Assistance (LOSFA) has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that now allows LOSFA to communicate FAFSA completion rates with each Local Educational Agency (LEAs) in the state as well as with certain college access service providers, provided that those LEAs and service providers enter an agreement with LOSFA. LOSFA is partnering with the state's school boards and college access providers to ensure that all high school seniors have an opportunity to complete the FAFSA. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact LOSFA at [custserv@osfa.la.gov](mailto:custserv@osfa.la.gov) with the subject line "FAFSA Completion Project".

## LOSFA College Goal Sunday

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and the Louisiana Association of Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) will co-sponsor Louisiana's 8th annual College Goal Sunday events on February 28 and March 6, 2016. College Goal Sunday is a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion event held at postsecondary institutions around the state. Financial aid professionals from the host institutions' Financial Aid offices are on-hand to provide one-on-one, line-by-line, FAFSA completion and submission assistance. The event registration form will be available on the LOSFA website, [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov)

LOSFA can help students and parents with the FAFSA application process. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact LOSFA:

- Email LOSFA at [custserv@la.gov](mailto:custserv@la.gov)
- Access LOSFA via web at [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov)
- To speak to a representative call LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626

## Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) Supervisor/Principal Webinar

Per the JAG-LA Grant Assurances, the district/agency JAG-LA Supervisor and Principal are to attend a mandatory JAG-LA Supervisor/Principal meeting provided by the Department. The meeting will be via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2016. The webinar will provide in-depth information regarding the JAG-LA Program(s) under your supervision. If you are unable to attend the webinar at the time provided, please contact Dianna Keller at [dianna.keller@la.gov](mailto:dianna.keller@la.gov) for updated information or questions.

**Webinar Login Information:** (\*No pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: JAG-LA Supervisors/Principal Webinar
- Click [here](#) or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r28ilrr6s14/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Select *Listen only* mode

## Special Education Processes and Procedural Safeguards Handbook Update

The [Louisiana Special Education Processes and Procedural Safeguards Handbook](#) has been updated as of February 2016 to reflect the recent changes to the BESE Board. The only change to this document is the removal of the 2013 BESE Membership list. Districts may continue to use the translated versions of the 2013 document until further notified.

Guidance documents related to planning appropriate high school experiences for [students eligible for the Act 833 pathway](#) and [students assessed on LAA1](#) are available in the "Students with Disabilities" library under the "Guidance" section. These are the same training materials used in the November and January Supervisors/Teacher Leader Collaboratives.

## Accessing Assessment History

In prior years, LEAs had the ability to download and search student test history via LEAPWeb. Beginning in early February, this functionality will shift to LEADS, and LEAs will have the ability to download and search assessment history through the portal. Both extracts and reports will be available for LEAP, iLEAP, EOC\*, PARCC, LAA1, LAA2, and ELDA assessments. Full details were provided in the February [DTC](#) and Data Coordinator Webinars.

\*EOC will also be available via the EOC reporting system through July 2016.

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

## NCAA Clearinghouse/Division I Requirements

Students who enroll full time at an NCAA Division I school this fall must graduate high school and meet ALL the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses:
  - Four years of English
  - Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
  - Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
  - One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of the seventh semester. Once students begin their seventh semester, they must have more than 10 core courses completed to be able to repeat or replace any of the 10 courses used in the preliminary academic certification.
- Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in their core courses.

- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching their core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances their test score and core-course GPA. If students have a low test score, they will need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If they have a low core-course GPA, they will need a higher test score to be eligible.

For more resources regarding these changes, visit [NCAA.org/student-athletes/play-division-i-sports](http://NCAA.org/student-athletes/play-division-i-sports) or the [Division I Academic Requirements Guide](#).

## LDOE Contacts

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## LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

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