

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

April 28, 2016



Recently I have been reflecting daily how we as Professional School Counselors are charged with the task of guiding young minds to think and plan for their future. With the implementation of the [Jump Start Career Pathways](#), it gives students an opportunity to become certified and trained in a particular career field and earn a high school diploma concurrently. It is a daily mission to help the students we serve to lead, direct, and assist them in planning for their future.

Often the sophomore students have not made the big decision regarding what they want to do upon graduating from high school. On a day-to-day basis, Professional School Counselors meet with students individually to help determine what they would like to do for a career. Time and again, the process begins with a career interest inventory. Conversations between the student and counselor will help the student to map out their career interests. Based on what the student's interest, it will determine whether a four-year degree is necessary or if they can earn Industry-Based Certifications in high school for their career choice. If the student is interested in any of Jump Start credential opportunities that are offered at the school, they are encouraged, with the consent of their parent/guardian, to select the [Jump Start Career Pathway](#). The student will now have the opportunity to graduate with their high school diploma and Industry related credentials that will enable them to successfully enter into the workforce immediately following graduation.

It is best practice for the Professional School Counselor to update the student's [Individual Graduation Plan](#) and their graduation pathway in the Student Information System that each school system uses to electronically store student records. It is imperative that updates are made so that the student is registered for the correct courses according to their plan. Ensuring that graduation requirements are updated on a frequent basis is a task that should be done repeatedly so the student is aware of what course are needed to satisfy graduation requirements.

What a rewarding job we have as Professional School Counselors to help serve our students in this capacity. It will be exciting to see our students excel in high school and beyond with these great opportunities for their future!

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." - Abraham Lincoln

Mrs. Danielle Crockett, M.A., PLPC
Professional School Counselor
Tara High School
East Baton Rouge Parish School System

Student Planning Guidebook Webinar Series

The High School Student Planning Guidebook is a series of short documents showing administrators, counselors, and teachers how to use key policies, programs, and resources to help both students and schools achieve their goals.

Weekly Guidebook webinars will be held from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. on the dates outlined below:

May 5, 2016: Guide Overview & Developing Advanced and Basic College and Workplace Skills

May 12, 2016: Guide Overview & Counseling, Supports, Rewards, Jump Start Web Portal, Alternate Jump Start Pathways

Webinar information below: (*No pre-registration required)

- Click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/studentplanningguide/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Audio access: (800) 832-0736; room number: 2834406
- For additional information, please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov.

2016 Advanced Placement[®] Exam Administration

AP[®] Exams start the week of May 2. The complete exam schedule can be found [here](#). Please visit and review your school's online AP[®] coordinator account to ensure that your orders have been properly placed and processed [here](#).

As an additional resource, please take a moment to review the [AP[®] Coordinator Planning Calendar](#) for important dates and deadlines. For more information contact the College Board at 877-274-6474 or email apexams@info.collegeboard.org.

In an effort to educate parents, students, and all interested stakeholders on the value of AP[®], the Department, in collaboration with the College Board, has produced a student centered outreach flyer to be shared in advance of AP[®] testing in early May. To download the flyer, click [here](#).

ASVAB Career Exploration Program

Counselors and administrators observe, reinforce, and take pride in preparing students to be productive citizens once they graduate from high school. As an educator, familiarity with your students' abilities coupled with your experience in preparing students for post- graduation, makes you a valuable resource to students in your school as they decide what to do after high school. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) can assist with the challenges of guiding students through the difficulty of making career choices for the future. The ASVAB CEP has four components: the ASVAB Assessment, the Find Your Interest Personality Inventory, the ASVAB Career Exploration Guide, and the ASVAB CEP Website planning tool. The ASVAB CEP assessment provides three Career Exploration scores in Verbal Skills, Math Skills, and Science and Technology. The Career Exploration scores come from eight individual sub-tests covering Arithmetic reasoning, Paragraph Comprehension, Mechanical, Comprehension, Electronics Information, and etc. The three Career Exploration scores serve as one of several pieces of information the program can provide about students that can aid in the exploration of a wide variety of educational and career options. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program is offered at no cost or obligation to high

schools throughout the United States.

For more information visit the ASVAB program website at www.asvabprogram.com or directly contact one of the ASVAB CEP Program Managers for the state of Louisiana:

Southern Louisiana Parishes: F. Collin Henry at 504-678-3535 ext. 242

Northern Louisiana Parishes: James Sanders at 318-671-6080 ext. 263

Assessment Administration Update

Across the state, educators are preparing for the administration of the spring 2016 assessments. This section will provide LEAs with a weekly update on all information related to assessment preparation.

TEST ADMINISTRATION FOR DTCs

- **LEAP Assessments:** From April 1 to May 30, districts should complete the following:
 - **NEW** Teachers with Spanish-speaking students who are limited English proficient (LEP), and who have this accommodation on their LEP plan, should utilize the **online Math Spanish Practice Tests** available within INSIGHT
 - **April 11-May 6:** LEAP ELA and math online administration window. School test coordinators administer LEAP tests to students in grades 3 through 8.
- **EOC**
 - **April 22:** EOC registration window closes. School test coordinators should register testers in the [EOC System](#).
 - **April 25:** EOC administration window opens. School test coordinators administer EOC tests to students by May 20.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- **[Parent Guide to the 2016 LEAP Tests](#):** This document provides basic facts about the LEAP tests and links to helpful resources in order to support parents in understanding what students will experience on the tests. Please share this resource with principals, teachers, and parents.
- **[LEAP FAQ](#) and [Spring Assessments Resource for Teachers](#):** These documents provide basic facts about the LEAP tests and links to helpful resources in order to support test coordinators and teachers in understanding what students will experience on the tests.
- **LEAP Test Coordinator Manuals and Test Administrator Manuals:** These manuals provide LEAP test administration guidance for test coordinators and administrators. Manuals are available in [eDIRECT](#).
- **Social Studies Online Tools Training (OTT):** Online training tools for grades 3 through 8. Students and teachers should use the OTT to become familiar with the INSIGHT testing platform and the online testing tools (e.g., highlighter, magnification).
- **Social Studies Sample Task Sets:** Sample tasks sets illustrating how content and claims will be assessed on the grades 3 through 8 field tests are now available on the [Released and Sample Items](#) page.
- **Office Hours:** The Louisiana Department of Education hosts weekly office hours every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to answer any questions that teachers, supervisors, test coordinators, and test administrators may have regarding statewide assessments.

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone, or access audio via phone bridge: (800) 832-0736; room number: 3423602

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

May Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call

The May Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 3, 2016**, at 9:00 a.m.

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

- Meeting Name: District Test Coordinator Monthly Meetings
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Access audio via phone bridge: 1-800-832-0736; room number: 3423602
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

2016 School Accountability Tools

The Department will release a 2015-2016 School Performance Score (SPS) Overview presentation and the 2016 SPS calculator in the [Accountability Library](#) by Friday, April 22. The calculator is to be used for the purpose of estimating 2016 SPS and closing out school leader evaluations prior to the August 15 deadline for submitting data in the Compass Information System.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions regarding the calculator, or compass@la.gov with questions regarding principal evaluations.

LEA Pupil Progression Plans

The Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) is the comprehensive plan developed and adopted by each LEA that establish policies and guidelines local school districts use to determine whether students will be promoted to the next grade, retained in the current grade, or advanced (or skipped) to higher grades. Pupil Progression Plans also outline the criteria for high school graduation. In order to address any new legislation relative to promotion and student progression, the 2016-2017 Pupil Progression Plan template will be made available in June following the close of the 2016 Legislative Session. The deadline for submission will be extended into mid-October.

For more information regarding the 2016-2017 Pupil Progression Plan, please email your request to PPP@la.gov.

LOSFA - Assistance for Students and Parents with Financial Aid

LOSFA's mission is to promote and provide postsecondary access. LOSFA representatives can help

students and parents register for FSA IDs and complete their FAFSA applications. Representatives can also help parents and students interpret Student Aid Reports and answer questions about student award letters, the FAFSA verification process and federal and state aid programs. Representatives are available to provide a variety of financial aid seminars and additional information for workshops, parent nights and community events. LOSFA also sends out text message reminders for students and updates its social media accounts with additional resources.

For more information: www.osfa.la.gov.

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 with the subject line "FAFSA Completion Project".

2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute

The 2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) is July 18 - 22, 2016 at South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette, LA. The Institute, co-hosted by the Louisiana Department of Education, South Louisiana Community College, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, will provide teacher certification training for Industry-Based Certifications aligned with [Jump Start Statewide Pathways](#) and the [Louisiana Industry-Based Certification \(IBC\) State Focus List](#).

Registration REQUIRES use of a Purchase Order #, which should be provided to instructors by the Career and Technical Education Supervisor. To register, click [here](#). For a list of Lafayette Jump Start SSI discounted hotels, click [here](#).

The Department will pay training costs and provide lunch for secondary instructors attending SSI. Districts/Charters are responsible for all travel expenses and a nominal registration fee (\$150.00/instructor) for which Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2015-2016 Carl Perkins funds may be used. Each district / charter will be invoiced for total registration fees due and will submit payment no later than June 17, 2016 to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Education
Appropriation Control
ATTN: Michelle S. Hill
P. O. Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Instructional resources (books, etc.) will be mailed to CTE supervisors, by June 15, 2016, for distribution to registered instructors. Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to JumpStart@la.gov.

Career and Technical Education (CATE) Data Collection

The C.A.T.E. data system, found [here](#), will open from **May 16, 2016, to July 1, 2016**, for districts to submit 2015-2016 Career and Technical Education data as required for reporting of Performance Core Indicators to USDOE Office of Career and Technical Adult Education. We will provide a series of webinars to give guidance to district and school users regarding required data submission and "new" system functionality.

The webinars are scheduled for:

- Thursday, May 5, 2016: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 10, 2016: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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

- Meeting Name: C.A.T.E. for Districts/Charters and Schools
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/catefor2016/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

As there is a limit to participants, we recommend sites with more than one participant log in as one user. For additional information, please email martha.moore@la.gov.

2016 Teacher Leader Summit Sessions Released

The 2016 Teacher Leader Summit, which will take place **June 1-3** at the New Orleans Convention Center, will offer a variety of sessions for professional school counselors, classroom teachers, school administrators, and district administrators.

Sessions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Early childhood
- K-12 curriculum and instruction (ELA, math, social studies, science)
- Assessments and accountability
- Grants and federal programs
- English language learners
- Special education
- High school opportunities and Jump Start
- Principal support
- Believe & Prepare
- Data systems

Click [here](#) for a full session list. Please note that these sessions are subject to change; the Department will release a final session list and schedule in May. An updated list including session rotation information will be released in early May.

Anyone interested in attending the summit should contact his or her district's Teacher Leader point of contact. Please reach out to LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov or DistrictSupport@la.gov with questions related to the summit.

Social Studies Instructional Support for 2016-2017

To ensure instructional priorities are met in every social studies classroom in the state, districts need strong and coordinated curriculum, assessments, and professional development in social studies.

Curricular choices are local decisions, and districts are free to use any materials that they choose.

To support districts in the selection process, the Department is conducting a review of social studies curricula and will [post reviews](#) throughout the spring and summer.

Additionally, the Department released [guidance](#) to help districts implement strong and coordinated curriculum, assessments, and professional development in social studies.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)