

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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It's hard to believe a quarter of the year is behind us already! My name is Ashley Aucoin, and I am a professional school counselor at Lutchter High School. Welcome to the inaugural LDOE Counselor Connect Newsletter. This new monthly newsletter provides professional school counselors updates on state policies, statewide programs, and access to tools that assist the professional school counselor to achieve goals with their students. Every day I take on the challenge of providing personal counseling, academic advisement, and career guidance to my students as I strive to implement a comprehensive counseling program. Every day the task at hand looks a little different, and my role as counselor is ever-changing, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Because I know the second quarter will pass by just as quickly as the first, I have already begun planning for next semester when the students will begin modifying their individual graduation plans. I am both anxious and excited to begin this step as we now have two cohorts of current high school students who will be graduating with either a TOPS Tech [Jump Start Career Diploma](#) or a [TOPS University Diploma](#), and two cohorts of students who are still following the "historical" Core 4, Basic Core, or Career diploma requirements.

As I work to become as familiar with the new requirements as I am with the old, I know I will be relying heavily on the Department's new [All Things Jump Start web portal](#) and [High School Student Planning Guide](#). I am especially eager to learn about the new student opportunities featured in the portal, as well as ways to increase family and community engagement.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Regional High School Counselor Collaborative Meetings and [Jump Start Convention](#).

Spring 2015 Assessment Results

The Louisiana Department of Education released the spring 2015 assessment results at the district and school levels. Parents will receive their child's assessment results the week of November 9. To view the assessment results, please click [here](#).

Additionally, the Department has several releases scheduled in the coming weeks:

- **Week of October 26:** Public release of high school performance scores and letter grades
- **Week of November 9:** Individual student reports for LEAs, teachers, and families detailing scores and skills for every student
- **December:** elementary and middle school performance scores and letter grades released

PARCC Parent Resources Released

The Department has released a suite of resources to help parents and teachers prepare for the upcoming release of the 2014-2015 ELA and math student results the week of November 9. Principals and teachers are encouraged to use these resources to plan for and hold conferences with parents ahead of the release of student reports, in order to prepare parents for what they will learn about their child's performance on the PARCC assessments.

These resources include:

- [Parent Guide to PARCC Student Results](#): guide to help parents read and interpret the PARCC student reports, with accompanying online resources
- [Parent Conversation Guide for Teachers](#): talking points to help guide teachers' conversations with parents about the PARCC student reports during the month of October
- [PARCC Results Parent Night Presentation](#): PowerPoint presentation that schools and districts can use during parent nights in October to preview for parents the student reports, and what to expect from them about their child's performance on the PARCC tests
- [Model Parent/Teacher Conference Video](#): video of a model parent/teacher conference around the PARCC student reports
- [Parent Resource Packet for Districts](#): quick guide of strategies districts can use to communicate with parents regarding the release of PARCC results
- [Sample ELA Student Report](#)
- [Sample Math Student Report](#)

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Statewide Professional School Counselor Collaborative Sessions

Given Louisiana's new programs and policies, the Department is committed to increasing the amount of hands-on support we provide to professional school counselors. LDOE Network Teams will be providing counselor collaborative sessions throughout the 2015-2016 school year to provide counselors with the tools and information needed to ensure appropriate courses, and pathway selections for all students. Initial sessions began in September and will continue in November. Specific dates can be found in the [2015-2016 District Support Calendar](#).

High School Planning Guide

The [High School Student Planning Guide](#) includes a series of five chapters which show administrators, counselors, and teachers how to use key policies, programs, and resources to help students and schools achieve their goals. The Guidebook includes brief chapters on Planning for struggling students Focusing 9th and 10th grade students on mastering a set of foundational academic skills, Developing basic and advanced college and workplace skills in the 11th and 12th grades to prepare students for college and career success Counseling and supporting student access to graduation pathways and Earning recognition for school excellence through an accountability system.

2015-2016 District Support Calendar Update

The Department will release a monthly update to the [2015-2016 District Support Calendar](#). All new additions or revisions are highlighted in yellow so that districts can easily identify these changes.

Changes to note:

- Compass Information Training in October
- Online Test Security Training in October
- Assessment & Accountability call in November and March
- Monroe LDC training in November and December
- Location updates for Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations: November and January

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

All Things Jump Start Portal

The Louisiana Department of Education has launched a new, comprehensive "[All Things Jump Start](#)" web portal. The portal provides more than 200 valuable resources necessary for students interested in following a Jump Start pathway, and for teams of educators and industry officials to effectively implement Jump Start. The site contains information about Jump Start training, as well as student internships, teacher externships, and graduation course requirements.

The 2015 LOSFA School Counselor Workshops

Webinar #1 will cover program and legislative updates, program rule changes, and an overview of LOSFA's expanded outreach services. The first Webinar will also address recent legislation regarding parental consent forms and personally identifiable information, and the current and future status of Louisiana Connect. Webinar #1 will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 28 and will be repeated at 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 29.

Webinar #2 will feature a review of LOSFA administered programs, including a detailed review of TOPS requirements and eligibility processing issues. Webinar #2 begin promptly at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28 and will be repeated at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 29.

The dates and times for our webinars are as follows:

Webinar #1:

- Wednesday, October 28: 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, October 29: 1:00 p.m.

Webinar #2:

- Wednesday, October 28: 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 29: 9:00 a.m.

To start the registration process, please click on this link to register for one or both webinars: www.osfa.la.gov/webinars.

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 eighth 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, beginning December 15, 2015.

Save the Dates

January 19, 2016: Jump Start Convention - Location TBD

July 18 - 22, 2016: Jump Start Super Summer Institute - Lafayette

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