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# COUNSELOR CONNECT

DEPARTMENT of  
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A Publication for  
Louisiana's Professional  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

May 26, 2016



My name is **Tristen Bergholtz** and I am a professional school counselor at Woodlawn Middle School in East Baton Rouge Parish. While the end of the school year is marked with excitement, graduations, and anticipation of future events, there is also an air of uncertainty for the changes your school, district, and state have in store for you in your role as a professional school counselor for the upcoming school year. Such times of transition make for great periods of reflection and remind me of a book commonly given to graduates of all ages, *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Dr. Spencer Johnson. Just as we tell our students on a daily basis, we must also remind

ourselves that *how* we respond when change enters our lives speaks volumes about the success and outcomes we will experience in the future.

This year school counselors became increasingly familiar with change as the state rolled out several initiatives and opportunities to provide every Louisiana student a pathway to prosperity (e.g., a push for Financial Aid Planning, updates to Jump Start and the diploma pathways, the culminating end-of-year event for educators -The Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit) For many of these initiatives, professional school counselors were relied upon to help implement the changes they entailed and sometimes it felt like we were told "the cheese is moving," but you're not going to get a map to find it. With so many added responsibilities and modifications to the systems we know and understand, I encourage you to take time to congratulate yourself for "moving with the cheese" and thus, successfully completing another school year.

When we are in the day-to-day aspects of our jobs and bombarded with the infinite number of problems or crises that may arise, as school counselors it is easy to forget about the goals we set for ourselves and our comprehensive school counseling programs. As you transition into the next school year and prepare to act with intention, consider the following lessons you would hope students would take away from Dr. Johnson's book and apply those to the changes the future has in store for you as a school counselor:

1. Change happens. Changes are made with the intent of better meeting our students' needs.
2. Anticipate change. After reflecting on what worked and what didn't, changes *should* be made in order to improve.
3. Monitor change. Get involved with the decision-making process.
4. Adapt to change quickly. Resisting change for an entire school year won't move you or your students any closer to accomplishing the goals we need to achieve.
5. Enjoy change. How can you make the best of the situation?

6. Be ready to quickly change and enjoy it again. Next year will have its own set of new initiatives and programs... and they are intended to best meet the needs of our students.
7. Change and win! What new things can *you* bring to the table and how will these benefit your school's students, teachers, and parents?

Taking time this summer to reboot yourself personally and professionally will enable you to be proactive and preventative next school year-both of which are critical to being a quality professional school counselor and allowing you the ability to more readily adapt to change.

**Tristen Bergholtz, M.Ed.**  
**Professional School Counselor**  
**Woodlawn Middle School**

*"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." -Lily Tomlin*

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## Jobs for America's Graduates - Louisiana Grant Opportunity

The Department has released an RFA regarding the availability of Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) funds for FY 2016-2017. The grant will provide funding to support students who have major obstacles in their lives that could disrupt school completion and/or hinder successful entry into the workforce or postsecondary educational programs aligned to Jump Start Pathways. The JAG-LA Program also supports the efforts of the Jump Start initiatives by offering career readiness to school model curriculum, mentoring, financial aid planning, and follow-up to seniors. The application can be found [here](#) . Projects will be funded contingent upon funds made available for the JAG-LA Program. Applications are due **Wednesday, June 8**.

For additional information, please contact [Dianna.Keller@la.gov](mailto:Dianna.Keller@la.gov) .

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## Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) "Match and Fit" Planning Website

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) announced the launch of its new "Match and Fit" College Access and Career Planning website: <http://www.unlockmyfuture.org> . The Website utilizes LOSFA's "Five Point Match" approach to career and postsecondary education provider selection.

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## Course Choice/Supplemental Course Academy

Registration for SCA provided coursework will occur directly with the Course Provider facilitated by a school representative. Schools will be responsible for providing student contact information directly to the course provider. The [2016-2017 provider directory](#) provides detailed information for each BESE approved course provider on how to register. The directory also provides a brief description of each provider and their course list.

Funds allocated through SCA target the following type of courses for high school credit:

- Career and technical preparation
- Academic work required to achieve TOPS
- Advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources
- Dual enrollment
- Intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation

Students seeking dual enrollment coursework should continue to register directly with the post-secondary institution through the school counselor.

Link to provider directory on web:

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/course-choice/2016-2017-provider-directory.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

For additional questions please e-mail [sca@la.gov](mailto:sca@la.gov) .

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## College Board Data Sharing Agreement

Pursuant to R.S. 17:3914, LEAs must have a contract or data sharing agreement in place with private vendors that deliver services in order to share personally identifiable student data. The Department has executed and posted a data sharing agreement **with College Board** on the Department's website [here](#) .

LEAs should download the addendum from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to [LDEData@la.gov](mailto:LDEData@la.gov) in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with College Board for testing and reporting purposes.

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

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## 2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute

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 **closed** April 19, 2016. Registrants will receive a final registration confirmation email by June 6, 2016.

In May, districts/charters will receive an invoice, via email, indicating total registration fees due by June 17, 2016. Each district/charter should submit payment to:

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

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## 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](http://www.asvabprogram.com) or directly contact one of the ASVAB CEP Program Managers for the state of Louisiana:

F. "Collin" Henry Jr.  
Program Manager (ESS)  
ASVAB Career Exploration Program  
New Orleans, LA  
Office: 504-678-3535 ext. 242  
Fax: 504-678--8925  
Email: [floyd.c.henry.civ@mail.mil](mailto:floyd.c.henry.civ@mail.mil)

## CollegePoint Opportunity

CollegePoint is an initiative designed to increase the amount of high achieving low- and moderate-income students nationwide that apply to, enroll in and graduate from top colleges and universities. Partnered with organizations that provide virtual college advising, CollegePoint supports eligible high school juniors and seniors during the entire college process. Advisors help students develop the list of schools to which they will apply; provide feedback on students' personal statements and college applications; walk students and families through completing the FAFSA; assist with the completion of scholarship applications; advise students as they weigh their acceptance letters and financial aid awards; and support students during the summer transition from high school to college.

To be eligible for this free opportunity students must:

- Have a minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 90 or 3.5;
- Have a maximum family income of \$80,000;
- Be at or above the 90th percentile on the ACT, PSAT or SAT.

In order to sign up please visit [www.collegepoint.info](http://www.collegepoint.info) and for additional information contact Brett Kimmel, Chief Program Officer, America Achieves College Access and Success, at [brett.kimmel@americaachieves.org](mailto:brett.kimmel@americaachieves.org)

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:custserv@osfa.la.gov) with the subject line FAFSA Completion Project.

## Career and Technical Education (CATE) Data Collection

The [C.A.T.E. data system](#) 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.

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](mailto:martha.moore@la.gov) .

### LDOE Contacts

John White

State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

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