

COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's
Professional School Counselors



January 2023

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Student Opportunities

HBCU Band Combine

Share with school counselors, band directors, and students.

The New Orleans Legacy Association of Bands, Inc. (NOLA-B), is hosting its Third Annual HBCU Band Combine on **Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The HBCU Band Combine is designed to give high school seniors and juniors a chance to earn scholarships by auditioning with multiple Historically Black College & University bands in a single day. The objective is to build confidence in our talented musicians by connecting them with the schools they love and wish to join and to prepare students for competitive opportunities to be accepted into diverse institutions.

This event will host workshops, panel discussions and vendor information tables. The workshops and panel discussions will include financial planning hosted by FAFSA representatives, HIV/AIDS education and prevention hosted by a health professional. The event will also offer workshops for the local band directors in the area. Vendors include local businesses and community organizations, members of collegiate fraternal organizations and alumni associations.

For more information, please visit [NOLA Legacy Bands](https://www.nolalegacybands.org) or email combine@nolalegacybands.org.

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Financial Aid Planning

Please share with counselors and persons responsible for FAFSA completion.

It is a requirement for graduation for seniors to submit a FAFSA (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS), fill out a [TOPS application](#), or opt out and have a waiver on file. Assistance is available by phone, online, and in person.

Please contact ldfinancialaid@la.gov with questions.

Professional Opportunities

Spring 2023 Counselor Institutes

Please share with middle and high school counselors, assistant principals, CTE supervisors and secondary supervisors.

Registration for the Spring 2023 Counselor Institutes is now open. **Each participant must register through Eventbrite**, and registration is on a first come, first served basis. These institutes will provide policy updates, resources, and communications that are pertinent to middle and high school counselors. Maximum registration is based on location capacity.

Date	8 - 11 a.m.	1 - 4 p.m.
February 28	Bossier Parish	Ouachita Parish
March 1	Rapides Parish	TBD
March 2	East Baton Rouge Parish	St Tammany Parish

Please contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

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Teacher Scholarships for AP Summer Institutes

Please share with AP Teachers, Counselors, and Administrators

The [College Board](#) is offering several competitive scholarship programs to teachers to defray the cost of valuable professional development. For 2023, the College Board is offering 3 different scholarship programs.

- **[AP Fellows](#)**: Provides scholarships of up to \$1,000 to AP teachers at schools serving underrepresented and/or low-income students.
- **[AP Rural Fellows](#)**: Provides scholarships of up to \$1,500 to AP teachers at rural schools serving low-income students.
- **[AP Capstone™](#)**: Provides fee waivers covering tuition for AP Capstone professional development to AP Seminar and AP Research teachers at schools meeting specific criteria.

The deadline for all applications is February 14, 2023. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to attend an AP Summer Institute and have no other source of funding.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Middle and High School News

2022-2023 High School Diploma and Seal Orders

Please share with Counselors and Administrators

The [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) is now open to request diplomas for 2023 high school graduates.

The electronic form should be submitted by **Friday, February 3, 2023**.

Only one form should be submitted for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact transcripts@la.gov with questions.

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Guidance for Individual Graduation Planning and Diploma Pathway Selection

Please share with CTE supervisors, school counselors, school leaders and school system leaders.

A quality [individual graduation plan](#) (IGP) is crucial for student success. Per BESE [Bulletin 741](#), students work with their school counselors to complete an IGP by the end of grade 8; school counselors, students and families review, update, and sign the IGP every year until the student graduates. Refer to the [IGP Guidance document](#) for additional information.

Please contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

Spring Course Choice Reporting

Please share with CTE supervisors, school counselors, school leaders and school system leaders.

The [SCA Portal](#) is open for Spring 2023 reporting. Schools register students directly with the course provider college and/or university. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Procedures](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the Course Choice Reporting System.

The [SCA Portal](#) will close at 5 p.m. on January 23 for Private Provider enrollments and on March 10 by 5 p.m. for Public Higher Education Providers.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

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Ask CoCo

Q & A With COUNSELOR CONNECT!

Q: STS is opening soon, what should I look for?

- The "Proactive" Counselor

A: Before you review STS, verify that student data is correct in your local system. This will ensure the data uploaded by your systems' Data Manager is accurate when uploaded to STS. In STS, counselors can pull an **Export Summary to Excel report** from the Print & Export tab above the student list.

The **Export Summary to Excel report** is an excel spreadsheet for all students listed in the STS Student list. It displays their grade levels, the 3 calculated GPAs (Overall, Diploma, and TOPS), the diploma paths, the career option codes (pathways), FAFSA, Met GEE/EOC (assessment), and Parental Consent. You can apply a filter to sort out students you need for example:

- ❖ Any CA student without a career option code
- ❖ Any CA student without an IBC
- ❖ Any student without a FAFSA
- ❖ Any student without Parental Consent



CURRENT TOPS AWARDS

Award	TC	TJ
TOPS Award	Opportunity Performance Honors	Tech
Diploma Pathway	TU	CA
Core Units Required	19 Units	21 Units
GPA	2.5 (TOPS Opportunity Only)	2.5

- CoCo

Do you have any questions and you're not sure who to ask? CoCo is here to support her fellow counselors! Send all your counseling related (or unrelated) questions to CoCo and she will respond in this section. Questions will be reposted anonymously then answered. Some answers may require research, so they may not always be answered in the order in which they are received. All questions will be acknowledged; here or directly to your inbox!

Please email shelneka.adams@la.gov CoCo's assistant, all questions. The subject line should read: ASK COCO!

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Reminders

Information from past Counselor Connects that you may have missed.

2023 Louisiana ACT Summit

Please share with high school counselors and student stakeholders.

[Registration](#) is open for the 2023 Louisiana ACT Summit.

Location: Pennington Research Conference Center; Baton Rouge, LA

Date: February 7, 2023

Cost: \$125

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Financial Aid Support

Please share with high school counselors and student stakeholders.

Reminder: The 2023-2024 [FAFSA](#) for the 2022-2023 high school year opened on October 1, 2022, and the [Louisiana Department of Education \(LDOE\)](#), the [Louisiana Education Loan Authority \(LELA\)](#) and the [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance \(LOSFA\)](#) are available to lend support.

Please email any or all of these offices to discuss your needs.

- LDOE: ldofinancialaid@la.gov
- LELA: carmichael@lpfa.com
- LOSFA: breanna.paul@la.gov

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LSCA School Counselor of the Year Nominations

Please share with all counselors.

Reminder:



LOUISIANA SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

School Counselor of the Year Nominations



<p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employed as a <i>School Counselor</i> for a minimum of 3 years• Member of LSCA Division of Louisiana Counseling Association as of October 1, 2022• Implements a comprehensive school counseling program, providing services to all students in academic, personal/social, & career development areas	<p>Important Dates & Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each district may nominate one counselor at the elementary, middle, & high school levels (only 3 names and applications should be submitted per district)• Please notify school counselor of his/her nomination• Nomination deadline - March 11, 2023• Application deadline - March 24, 2023 12:00 PM CST• www.lsca.schoolcounselorawards.org/scov
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If you have questions, contact Mrs. Danielle Cole-Thomas, dtcole80@gmail.com 337.280.4164 or Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler, acryersumler@stcharles.k12.la.us 985.785.7214

LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators

Please share with all school system employees.

Reminder: Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed psychologists or therapists through your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

What can we treat? Addiction, Adolescent Counseling, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, Attention Deficit, Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Depression and Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss Counseling, Insomnia, Marriage and Family Counseling, Postpartum Depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Work-related Stress Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com and enter Service Key: **LDOE**. When the system asks for payment, enter Coupon Code: **TEACH**. Please email anywherecare@ochsner.org or for 24/7 technical support, call 855-667-9711.

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

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Office of Career and College Readiness Contact Information

highschoolacademics@la.gov	General questions about the office and about graduation requirements
ldefinancialaid@la.gov	Questions related to the financial aid policy or for assistance with FAFSA completion
SCA@la.gov	Questions related to Supplemental Course Academy/Course Choice
jumpstart@la.gov	Questions related to Jump Start
PPP@la.gov	Questions related to pupil progression
collegereadiness@la.gov	Questions related to dual enrollment or Advanced Placement
studentwellbeing@la.gov	Questions related to well-being and healthy communities.