

COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's
Professional School Counselors



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Counselor Spotlight: Tina Chaisson



At Harry Hurst Middle School, we strive to be available and accessible to all of our students. We understand the importance of working closely with teachers, administration and students in order to have a school counseling program that is designed to enhance our students' emotional, behavioral, and academic achievement. We make it all work with a team approach.

Team Meetings

Our counselors attend weekly meetings with teams of teachers on our staff. I am responsible for three teams and approximately 370 students. During these meetings, we discuss student successes, identify students of the week and determine a student of the month based on the character education component of that month. We also conduct data reviews and identify students that may need more academic support. We discuss teacher and parent concerns for the emotional and behavioral aspects of our students, as well as attendance concerns. From these discussions, I then plan individual or group counseling sessions, make referrals to community resources and/or develop treatment plans.

Social Emotional Wellness Team

St. Charles Parish Public Schools has developed and implemented a Social Emotional Wellness (SEW) team at each school in our district. This team's responsibility is to identify and assist our students who may need support understanding and managing their emotions, achieving goals, maintaining positive relationships and making positive decisions. I am a co-chair for this committee on my campus. One of the main responsibilities of our SEW team this school year was to administer a universal screener that would flag students having difficulties in areas such as anger, loneliness, depression and anxiety.

One-Minute Meetings

I conduct "one-minute meetings" with every student on my roster, once every semester. I work collaboratively with the teachers as to not interfere with academic time. I place myself in an easily accessible location in the hallway, and the students come to me one at a time. I use Google Classroom to have them complete a five-question survey in the fall semester, which helps me to get to know them

better and gives them the opportunity to ask me questions. I can then use the data from their responses to shape my program and lessons for the year. I repeat this process in the spring, but with different questions to address their current needs. I again use the data for the remainder of the school year in my lesson preparations. The questions on the survey include academic, social, behavioral, and emotional topics.

Online Accessibility

Every one of the students at my school has access to their school counselors and our programs online. We have made this especially easy for them by implementing the use of Google Classroom. Within our Google Classroom, students can take a mindful moment, message me for a meeting, participate in Nearpod lessons, review our character education components, learn of health and wellness, and review topics such as anxiety, depression, anger, loneliness, friendship, bullying, and mindfulness.

I am so proud of being a part of such amazing school- and district-based teams. Whether we are together inside of the school walls or connecting remotely, working with colleagues who are so deeply committed to students—and so open to collaboration—helps every one of us stay strong.

Tina F. Chaisson, LPC-S, NCC, NCSC
Licensed Professional Counselor
Harry Hurst Middle School Counselor
2022 Louisiana Middle School Counselor of the Year

National School Counseling Week 2022

[National School Counseling Week](#) is a time to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors across the country. National School Counseling Week 2022 (#NSCW22) is February 7-11, 2022. Sponsored by the [American School Counselor Association](#), this annual event highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have on students' career and academic success.

As in years past, the LDOE is sponsoring Louisiana-specific activities throughout School Counseling Week, including the [Spring 2022 Counselor Institutes](#). The Department has created several Louisiana-specific School Counseling Week resources that schools and school systems may use to acknowledge their school counselors. Please visit the [Counselor Support Library](#) to download a zip file of these assets:

- PowerPoint template
- social media profile
- email signature
- postcard
- poster
- photo prop
- bookmarks
- valentine cards
- stickers for Avery label 22807



Email leslie.gilliland@la.gov to discuss ways the LDOE can help promote your school counseling week activities!

Professional Opportunities

2022 Jump Start Convention Updates

The 2022 Jump Start Convention is currently at capacity. A waiting list is open for the convention, which will take place in Baton Rouge on January 25, 2022. As tickets become available, those on the waiting list will have the opportunity to secure tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. A curated selection of sessions will be livestreamed via YouTube. Information on how to access the livestream is forthcoming. As a courtesy to attendees, the Department has reserved at room blocks at several hotels around the Raising Cane's River Center. Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Spring 2022 LDOE Counselor Institute Updates

Space is still available for the Spring 2022 Counselor Institutes. Please use the links in the chart below to register for the desired location; use the [waiting list request form](#) to indicate interest in attending any of the locations that reach capacity.

	8 - 11 a.m.	1 - 4 p.m.
February 8	Ouachita Parish	Bossier Parish
February 9	Rapides Parish	Lafayette Parish FULL
February 10	New Orleans	Livingston Parish

Although these events are best suited for middle and high school counselors, all are welcome to attend. Please see below for a list of meeting topics; email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for support.

- Welcome from Dr. Brumley
- National School Counseling Week
- Assessment and Accountability
- Act 458
- IGP Process
- FAFSA Updates
- Fast Forward
- Jump Start Updates
- Louisiana Seal of Biliteracy
- Purple Star Award
- National Guard

LCTCS Workshop for Secondary School Counselors

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) is hosting a workshop for secondary school counselors **February 1-2, 2022**. Delivered in two half-day sessions, [Empowering Student Success through Career Advising and Career Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) will provide school counselors with information and resources to connect students with opportunities aligned with their career passions. Participants will expand their existing strategies for effective career advisement and receive information about full range of education and career options with a specific focus on CTE and in-demand occupations to empower students to navigate the path to career and college success.

Participants will be able to

- identify and discuss the various components and benefits of a high-quality CTE program of study, including work-based learning, industry-recognized credentials and dual/concurrent credit;
- discuss the range of options available in CTE along with current workforce trends and know how to access information on CTE programs and the labor market in their specific state;
- gain effective strategies to assist secondary students with career exploration and development to implement in their community
- address implicit bias and equity to advance access to CTE and career advising for each learner; and
- develop strategic actions to reach students, families, administrators, other counselors and/or other stakeholders to communicate the value of CTE.

Participants will be expected to complete a pre/post workshop survey and commit to developing strategic, actionable steps that can be implemented within two months of completing the workshop. Seating is limited. Complete the [online registration form](#) to reserve a spot.

Please see the [overview document](#) for more information; email questions to careerandtech@lctcs.edu.

Teacher Leader Summit

The Department is celebrating the tenth year of the Teacher Leader Summit! “Making a Comeback” is the theme of the [2022 Summit](#), Tuesday, May 31 through Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Educators representing all content areas, librarians, counselors, early childhood directors, and school and network leaders are encouraged to [apply](#) to present at the Summit. [Presenter applications](#) and [Education Expo applications](#) are open until February 4.

[Registration](#) closes on April 15, or until capacity is reached. **Early Bird prices end March 2.** Please email questions to LDOEvents@la.gov.

Middle and High School News

2021-2022 Graduate Diploma to Include New BESE President’s Signature

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2021-2022 high school graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted by Friday, **February 4**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of the new BESE President, Jim Garvey. Diplomas utilized from this point forward should include the new signature. All other diplomas should be shredded, as they are no longer valid. Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Financial Aid Planning

[The Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) opened on October 1. Completing the application early is imperative to ensure students get the maximum aid available to them. Schools/school systems can get live, phone or online assistance with FAFSA completion events from the Department. FAFSA completion or having a waiver on file is a requirement for graduation and to count in the graduation cohort. Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov for more information or to set up an assistance visit.

In Case You Missed It

[NEVER MIND THE PERFORMANCE GAP: MORE NORTHEAST LOUISIANA STUDENTS APPLY FOR COLLEGE AID](#) (The News Star)

[3 WAYS TO HELP STUDENTS TO BE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILIES TO ATTEND COLLEGE](#)
(Education Week)

[DEPARTMENT SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM SPONSORS](#)
(Louisiana Believes)

[WHY SCHOOL COUNSELORS OF COLOR MATTER MORE THAN EVER](#) (Education Week)