



January 2021

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A Message from State Superintendent Cade Brumley



Dear Counselors,

February 1-5 is National School Counseling Week. As a lifelong educator, I know the invaluable role you play for your students, families and coworkers. I've always made a point to celebrate counselors — especially during this national recognition week.

You are central to a strong school culture and individual student success. This is even more true now. You've stepped into the gaps to serve students and their families from the moment this pandemic began. We will be post-pandemic soon, but you know your work during this crisis is far from over.

The theme of National School Counseling Week 2021 is *School Counselors: All In For All Students*. That is a true and fitting statement. Thank you for supporting your entire school family. Thank you for the many public and private victories you achieve for your students. Thank you for helping students explore their interests, find their passion and graduate ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Happy National School Counseling Week.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Louisiana ♥ SCHOOL COUNSELORS
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National School Counseling Week

School Counseling Week is just around the corner!

[National School Counseling Week 2021](#) is the week of **February 1, 2021**. School Counseling Week is an opportunity to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors across the country. Sponsored by the [American School Counselor Association](#), National School Counseling Week is an annual event that highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have on students' career and academic success.

The LDOE is sponsoring Louisiana-specific activities throughout School Counseling Week. Please look for a special edition newsletter next week, and visit the [Counselor Support Library](#) to download a [zip file](#) of these School Counseling Week assets:

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



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

Student Opportunities

Louisiana Young Heroes

Louisiana Public Broadcasting is accepting nominations for the 26th annual Louisiana Young Heroes program. A [Young Hero](#) is an exceptional young person who has inspired others through their deeds and strength of character, given significantly of themselves through public service, overcome adversity, exhibited extraordinary heroism, and/or excelled in academics.

Nominees must be Louisiana students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled at an academic institution or in a homeschool program. **The deadline for entries is Monday, March 15, 2021.** Please visit lpb.org/heroes to learn more and to submit a nomination.

BigFuture Days Virtual College Fairs

College Board will launch its inaugural BigFuture Days, a regional series of virtual college fairs to help connect high school sophomores and juniors with hundreds of colleges, admissions officers, and current college students. These events will give students a tailored experience that helps them establish connections and take action on important college planning tasks such as building a college list and identifying scholarships.

Students and educators may register for multiple events, including their current region and/or the regions that represent the schools they are most interested in attending.

- Saturday, February 6: **West and Southwest** 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. CST
- Tuesday, February 23: **Southeast** 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST
- Sunday, March 7: **Northeast** 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. CST
- Thursday, March 11: **Midwest** 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST

College Board has created an [educator toolkit](#) that includes robocall scripts, social media language, and other resources to help schools spread the word. Please visit the [BigFuture Days web pages](#) for more information.

HOBY Leadership Program

The Louisiana Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar (HOBY) is currently seeking nominations for their annual three-day summer leadership seminar. This program, which has been offered for over 40 years, brings together over 130 rising juniors from across the state for an immersive leadership development experience. Participants will be guided by a small-group leader throughout the weekend of **June 11-13, 2021**, when they will hear from local leaders, engage in team-building activities, learn how to build effective service projects, and experience peer-to-peer learning. Please visit bit.ly/hobylareg to learn more and to register a student from your school; email recruitment@hobylouisiana.org to join the HOBY mailing list.

Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program

The Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program—the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates—is a program of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF), Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). This scholarship will assist graduates in gaining the necessary training to earn industry employment in construction crafts fields that align with four- and five-star jobs that may lead to management positions.

- **Eligibility:** any high school senior with an NCCER credential who will earn a Jump Start Career Diploma and enroll in an LCTCS construction pathway program or an ABC training program in the summer or fall semester immediately following high school graduation
- **Award Amount:** up to thirty one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each

Applications are being accepted **January 26 through March 15, 2021**. Please review the [Construction Connect Scholars Program Application](#) or email megan.thompson2@la.gov for more information.

Professional Opportunities

2021 Spring Virtual Counselor Institutes

The 2021 Spring Virtual Counselor Institutes are scheduled to take place during National School Counseling Week!

For the past several years, the Department has hosted regional school counselor institutes (formerly counselor collaborations) every fall and spring. In 2020, the Office of Career and College Readiness hosted the Fall Counselor Institute online via Zoom, and the Spring 2021 Counselor Institute will be offered in the same format.

Please encourage school counselors to register for one of the sessions by following the corresponding hyperlink below. Registrants will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

- [Register here](#) to attend at 9:30 a.m. on February 2
- [Register here](#) to attend at 1:30 p.m. on February 3

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for support.

Middle and High School News

Fast Forward

On January 6, 2021, the Department released the [Planning Grant Request for Applications](#) (RFA) for the new [Fast Forward](#) initiative, a program designed to increase the number of associate degrees and high-demand apprenticeships earned by Louisiana high school students.

Interested school systems must submit the [Fast Forward Planning Grant Application](#) by **February 10, 2021**. Please visit [Fast Forward](#) on the web for the RFA, sample pathways, planning template, and presentation decks; email stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.



Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Opportunity

The Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway launched across the state of Louisiana in order to provide a K-16 pre-education program for both TOPS University and TOPS Tech diploma-seeking students. This pathway is designed to recruit talented students to the teaching profession and cultivate the next generation of Louisiana's educational leaders. In the 2021-2022 school year, the LDOE will lead a series of support structures for systems and schools interested in launching or expanding the availability of the pathway.

Limited funding is available to support curriculum adoption, professional development, initial training, and student organization or credentialing costs related to the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway in the 2021-2022 school year. To apply, systems should complete and submit the [Funding Application](#) to by **January 29, 2021**. Please email questions to believeandprepare@la.gov.

Advanced Placement Updates

Course Audits

The last day to complete the initial submission of course materials for 2020-21 AP course authorization is **January 31, 2021**. Course authorization for the 2020-21 school year ensures access to AP Score Reports when they become available next summer and that the course is listed on the [AP Course Ledger](#).

Important: Course authorization also ensures teachers maintain access to AP Classroom in 2021. Teachers who do not have a current year authorization by January 31 will lose access to AP Classroom and other resources.

Exam Ordering

AP coordinators should submit new exam orders and ensure all students who intend to test have an "Order Exam" status of "Yes" in [AP Registration and Ordering](#) by **March 12, 2021**, 11:59 p.m. ET. Make sure second-semester class sections are created in AP Registration and Ordering for all AP courses at your school that began after the fall ordering deadline and join codes have been shared with students. Ensure students enroll in the class sections for the AP courses they are taking. See the [2020-21 AP Coordinator's Manual, Part 1](#) for information about creating class sections, distributing join codes, student enrollment, and ordering exams.

Please email meredith.mcgovern@la.gov for more information.

World Languages Education

In accordance with [Bulletin 741](#) (page 50), students with knowledge of a language other than English may earn Carnegie credit for a World Language (WL) course by taking a nationally recognized proficiency exam in which the student demonstrates a minimum proficiency in the target language that corresponds with the [Louisiana World Languages Standards](#). See the Department's [World Languages Carnegie Credit](#) guidance for more information.

In 2014, the Louisiana legislature passed RS 17:273.4, instituting the State's Seal of Biliteracy. High school students that meet all requirements for graduation and who have also obtained a proficiency level of Intermediate-High or above in one or more languages, other than English, and who obtain a composite score of 19 or above in Reading and English on the ACT are eligible for this special academic graduation endorsement. See the Department's [Louisiana Seal of Biliteracy Endorsement](#) document to review the guidelines and to request diploma seals for graduation.

Please email the Department's World Languages Specialists at language.acquisition@la.gov for additional information or guidance regarding World Languages.

In Case You Missed It

[LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOLS TARGETED FOR SWEEPING CHANGES: 'IT CAN BE A REAL GAME CHANGER'](#) (The Advocate)

[LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES BOLD CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS PILOT SUPPORTED BY BESE, BOARD OF REGENTS](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE AWARDS \\$8 MILLION TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO HELP FAMILIES WITH DISTANCE LEARNING](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[LEADING WOMEN TO STEM CAREERS](#) (MultiBriefs)

[30 K-12 EDTECH PREDICTIONS FOR 2021](#) (eSchool News)