

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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The multifaceted work of school counselors helps to prepare students academically and emotionally for life beyond school. School counselors are often the school test coordinator and 504 coordinator as well as the person who enrolls students, hands out college pamphlets, and sends out transcripts. We counselors play a vital role in the overall success of a student. Our support has a positive impact on student outcomes, which translates into better grades, stronger friendships, and improved behavior.

Comprehensive school counseling comprises three primary domains: career and college development, academic development, and social/emotional development. We school counselors are trained to assess school programs by collaborating with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community stakeholders. This student-centered approach helps us identify potential stumbling blocks for students and assist our school team in developing strategies for closing the gaps and preparing students for challenges ahead.

At its core, the role of a school counselor is to cultivate trusting relationships. These connections help define the dynamics among counselors, students, and parents.

- Elementary school counselors assist parents, teachers, and administrators in identifying a student's strengths and observe and intervene with academic and behavioral or special needs concerns.
- Middle school counselors guide students through transitional years and establish supportive communities.
- High school counselors help students become intentional about their academic and professional options as they prepare for graduation. Now more than ever before, high school students rely on their counselors to provide accurate, comprehensive, and personalized guidance for postsecondary planning.

It's easy to see why the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) projects that employment of school and career counselors is projected to grow faster than average—8% between 2018 and 2028.

School counselors make a difference in the lives of students on a deeply personal level. In addition to guiding students' path through school and beyond, school counselors help develop the whole student—

personally, academically, and professionally. These are huge responsibilities, but they lead to substantial rewards.

The theme for National School Counseling Week 2020 is *School Counselors: Helping Build Better Humans*. Let's look at February 3 through 7 as an opportunity to both educate our school communities about the work we do and to celebrate our fellow school counselors!.

Veronica Douglas, LPC-S, NCC, NCSC
School Counselor, University Elementary
2019-2020 President, Louisiana School Counselor Association

National School Counseling Week 2020

[National School Counseling Week \(NSCW\)](#) is a time to highlight the countless ways school counselors ensure their students become productive, well-adjusted adults by supporting academic achievement, career development, and social/emotional development. Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, NSCW is always celebrated the first full week of February. **NSCW 2020 is February 3 through 7.**

Please follow the [Department](#) on social media to share your #NSCW2020 activities. Visit the [NSCW](#) website for ideas and inspiration, and download additional resources from the [LDOE Counselor Support Library](#).



Student Opportunities

Summer Leadership and Character Development Academy

The Summer Leadership and Character Development Academy (SLCDA) is an immersive leadership experience for high school sophomores and juniors. Participants complete the SLCDA equipped to improve the lives of those around them and postured to become better leaders. SLCDA 2020 will take place June 15-20 aboard the Marine Corps Base Quantico.

School counselors, coaches, parents, and mentors may nominate high school sophomores who demonstrate strong leadership and character traits. Sophomores who have participated in athletic, leadership, and self-oriented activities may nominate themselves.

The application window closes January 31, 2020. Please visit the SLCDA [website](#) for more information.

EMS Scholarship Opportunity

The [National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians](#) (NAEMT) Foundation works to strengthen and build a better future for EMS through funding EMS education and research. One of the challenges facing EMS today is recruitment and retention of EMS practitioners. In an effort to address this challenge, the NAEMT Foundation offers scholarship opportunities to individuals interested in pursuing a career in EMS. **The award is one-year NAEMT student membership and up to \$1,000, based on the cost of the EMS program.**

Applications are accepted between March 1 and April 30, and scholarships are awarded in June. Please visit the NAEMT Foundation [website](#) for more information.

Professional Development Opportunities

2020 Jump Start Convention: Sold Out

We look forward to seeing everyone who registered for the 2020 Jump Start Convention on January 28, 2020. Please visit the Galleria Walk and stop by the Counselor Resources table for all-new School

Counseling Week resources!

Convention attendees should be aware of the following:

- Garage parking is \$10.00 cash upon entry.
- Registration opens at 7:00 a.m.
- Purses, backpacks, tablets, and laptops are allowed.
- The event booklet will not be printed. A digital version of the [2020 Jump Start Convention program](#) is available.

Please note that potential attendees will not be available to register on site as there are no additional seats available. However, a live stream of the opening session will be available at 7:40 a.m. on the Department's Vimeo channel. Please email jumpstart@la.gov for more information.

2020 Louisiana ACT Summit

Based on the theme, *Louisiana Forward: Opportunity, Growth, and Prosperity*, the Louisiana ACT Summit features breakout sessions, keynotes, and networking time focused on preparing students for success in both colleges and careers.

When: Wednesday, March 11

Where: Pennington Biomedical Research Conference Center, Baton Rouge

Visit the summit [website](#) for more information about this event, and follow @ACT #ACTStateOrgs for the latest conference updates. Email Shirley.Antolik@act.org with specific questions.

Advanced Placement (AP) Training

The College Board offers several training opportunities for AP coordinators and teachers throughout the year. Upcoming coordinator training sessions include topics such as second-semester exam orders, late orders, and exam day preparation. These sessions are applicable to AP coordinators, principals, and other school staff.

The *Preparing for the Exam* online training session is offered several times through March 10. Visit the [webcast page](#) for more information; see the College Board For Counselors [web page](#) for additional resources.

Middle and High School News

2019-2020 Diploma Orders

The deadline to order diplomas for 2019-2020 graduates is **Friday, February 6, 2020**. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution. **One diploma request per school system** must be submitted through the [2019-2020 Diploma Order Form](#). Note: the form will submit automatically upon completion. Please email jumpstart@la.gov for assistance.

2018-2019 Perkins Core Indicator Reports

2018-2019 Perkins Core Indicators reports are now available in the Select Published Reports section of the [C.A.T.E. portal](#). Please email jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

ACT News

New Weekly Accommodations Q&A Call

From now until April 14, ACT accommodation analysts will answer general questions related to qualification guidelines for specific accommodations and supports, documentation requirements, and decision appeals.

When: Tuesdays from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m.

Where: <https://meet.lync.com/actinc/monroemi/FLVD8G3V>

ACT Resources

Resources for 2019-2020 can be located on the [ACT State Testing](#) site, including guides and tutorials

about relevant tasks for test preparation, administration, and [interpreting scores](#). The [ACT Schedule of Events](#) contains all important dates and deadlines.

Financial Aid Planning

The LDOE has staff available to assist seniors with financial aid planning and completing the FAFSA to meet graduation requirements. Please visit the LDOE financial aid planning [web page](#) for information, or email ldofinancialaid@la.gov for assistance.

TOPS Tech Early Start

The [TOPS Tech Early Start](#) award provides up to \$600 per academic year for any eligible student who wishes to concurrently enroll for up to six credit hours per semester in order to pursue certification in an [eligible program](#) at a public or nonpublic college or an [approved training provider](#).

To qualify for the TOPS Tech Early Start award, a student must be a junior or senior in a Louisiana public high school who has prepared a five-year education and career plan that includes a sequence of related courses with a career focus as provided by the high school career option.

Please visit the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) [website](#) for more information

Student Athlete Amateurism Certification

Prospective student-athletes enrolling for the first time at a Division I or II school must receive a final amateurism certification before being eligible to compete.

To receive amateurism certification, prospective student-athletes should

- register with the NCAA Eligibility Center;
- completely and accurately fill out the "Sports Participation" section;
- request final amateurism certification promptly; and
- monitor tasks assigned to their account.

Situations that may impact a prospective student's amateur status include taking a break between high school and full-time collegiate enrollment; using a recruiting agency, scholarship agent, or scouting service; receiving funds to participate in a sport or to offset training expenses; accepting prize money based on performance at a competition; and being represented or marketed by a professional sports agent.

Visit the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) for more information on [amateurism](#) and for additional resources.

In Case You Missed It

[LOUISIANA EDUCATION TASK FORCE CALLS FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT](#) (New Orleans City Business)

[WHITE STEPPING DOWN AS LOUISIANA EDUCATION CHIEF](#) (Associated Press)

[NEW HIGH SCHOOL PUTS FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE](#) (Education Week)

[OPINION: SIX LESSONS FROM LOUISIANA ABOUT HELPING STUDENTS OBTAIN FEDERAL AID FOR COLLEGE](#) (The Hechinger Report)