

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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Career Guidance and Planning

Discovering career interests should begin at an early age. As a child develops academically and socially, so should career readiness. Outlining a student's knowledge, attitudes, and skills ensures that he or she is holistically equipped to meet the early stages of challenges and demands that the world exposes children to today. By helping a student identify various career opportunities at their age-appropriate levels, the school counselor can administer career guidance activities and resources one-on-one and in group settings.

Tailoring meaningful opportunities to their unique skills, interests, understanding, and personality gives students the necessary tools to be successful as they grow older. When they develop a strong foundation of principles and values, more than likely, students will want to know and understand their purpose in life and have the meaningful success in life that supports their beliefs and values which leads them to successful careers.

Planning a career should not be a last-minute decision. When students are introduced to career exploration at an early age, it allows them time to develop those interests as well as discover the areas that they may or may not be drawn to. That is why when we develop a career-readiness mindset, students can see a career as something they could always enjoy doing. Money alone

should not be the sole driving force for choosing a career; instead, having a passion, a desire and love for what you do in life should be a determining factor.

Introducing various careers to young students can help us determine a good path for each of them to reach academic, social, and career goals. Early preparation such as interest inventories and job shadowing will spark further interest and establish the foundation for students to plan a career. School counselors serve a vital role in contributing to this.

Brenda Eccles
Professional School Counselor, Lafayette Parish School System

Counselor Connections

Apply to Lead a Session at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit

The Department is looking for knowledgeable educators to share resources and best practices with others around the state by designing and facilitating sessions at the [2018 Teacher Leader Summit](#). This is a great way for educators to expand their impact and showcase the work they are doing in their classrooms, schools, and districts.

Please submit your [application](#) on or before April 2, 2018, if you are interested in leading a session. Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions about the Summit.

Student Success Stories

The Department is looking for student success stories. Do you know a student who has earned a Jump Start credential and put it to work? Have you worked with students who never thought of going to college until they completed the FAFSA? We want to honor their stories and inspire others.

Please email doecommunications@la.gov to start the conversation. We will handle the rest.

LDOE Social Media

The Louisiana Department of Education uses [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) to share what's happening across the state. Please like and share the posts that are meaningful to you. You can also tag us in your own social media posts!

Individual Graduation Plans

IGP Updates and Reminders for Middle and High School Counselors

The Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)

- connects student's **academic and career goals** with **postsecondary** and/or **workforce plans**;
- tracks high school **graduation requirements**;
- documents **chosen pathway** (10th grade);
- indicates completion of **financial aid** planning (12th grade); and
- includes **annual signatures** from legal guardian and student.

By the end of 8th grade, counselors should work with students to

- develop a plan to guide 9th grade academic coursework and assist with exploring educational and career possibilities;
- list the required core courses to be taken through 10th grade; and
- identify elective courses to be taken in 9th grade, including remedial courses.

Note: IGP for students in transitional 9th grade must also include a plan for remediation supports. Per [Bulletin 1566](#) §503:

B.1.f.iii. Students enrolled in transitional ninth grade shall receive remediation in any subjects in which they did not score at or above proficient, as determined by BESE. A plan outlining such remediation shall be included in the student's individual graduation plan.

Progress pursuant to such specified academic supports shall be reviewed **at least once** during the school year in order to determine the effectiveness of the plan and allow for any necessary adjustments. The IGP [fillable form](#) has been updated to allow schools to indicate that the student's plan for T9 academic support is attached.

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

Financial Aid News

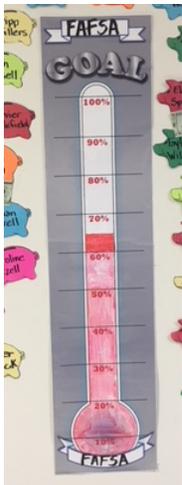
Federal Student Aid for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Did you know that there are [265 college programs](#) across the United States for students with intellectual disabilities? Did you know that many of these [programs offer financial aid](#)? Louisiana is one of [26 states](#) with higher education institutions that offer these programs.

Students taking the alternate assessment may qualify to receive federal funds to enroll in a [comprehensive transition and postsecondary \(CTP\) program](#) and should therefore be encouraged to submit the FAFSA before exiting high school.

Please visit [Think College](#) for more information about higher education options for people with intellectual disabilities. Email rebecca.hanberry@la.gov for more information about the programs in Louisiana.

Financial Aid Events



Spotlight: Delhi Charter School

Pam Lacombe from Delhi Charter School hosts FAFSA Completion Nights and meets regularly with seniors to monitor their progress. The FAFSA goal thermometer on the hallway bulletin board shows how the school is meeting its FAFSA completion goal.

What's happening in your school? The Department wants to share the great things professional school counselors are doing to help students fund their futures. Tag the Department in your social media posts, or email leslie.gilliland@la.gov to explore other ways to share ideas with colleagues across the state.

Regional Financial Aid Events

The [LDOE Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events](#) is a great way to announce your upcoming financial aid events. School systems who wish to publish financial aid-related events in the calendar should send the event name, date, time, specific location, and a brief description to LDEFinancialAid@la.gov.

FAFSA FAQs

[What's the difference between a submission and a completion?](#)
[Why is my number of FAFSA completions lower than I think it should be?](#)

Find the answers to these questions and more on the [Federal Student Aid Questions and Answers About FAFSA Completion Data](#) page.

Please see the LDOE [FAFSA Data Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for information specific to Louisiana.

Compete to Complete

Are you competing to have the highest FAFSA completion rate in your school system? The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid (LOSFA) sponsors the [Compete to Complete](#) challenge to demonstrate where schools rank in comparison to the others in their school system.

Advanced Placement Reminders

Please share this information with Advanced Placement (AP) coordinators.

AP coordinators should review their school's online [College Board account](#) to ensure that all orders have been properly placed and processed.

- March 30 is the deadline to order preadministration materials.
- All orders placed after the April 13 extension deadline will incur a \$55 late fee.
- April 20 is the final deadline to order AP exams.
- [AP Exams](#) start the week of May 7.

Please review the [AP Coordinator Annual Calendar and Deadlines](#) for important dates. For more information, please contact the College Board at 877-274-6474 or submit an inquiry using the [AP Services Form](#).

NCAA Updates

Students enrolling full-time at a NCAA Division I or II college or university in the fall of 2018 may request their [Final Amateurism Certification](#) starting April 1.

The NCAA Eligibility Center offers several resources for counselors and coaches working with students athletes.

- The new [NCAA International Best Practices](#) document is a resource for assisting students who have transferred to a United States school.
- The free [NCAA Initial-Eligibility Course](#) is an interactive course that familiarizes counselors and coaches with Division I and II academic requirements and the Eligibility Center registration and certification processes required for college-bound student athletes.
- The [Division I Quick Reference Sheet](#) and [Division II Quick Reference Sheet](#) help students understand the GPA and SAT or ACT score requirements.
- The [How to Upload Transcripts](#) tutorial demonstrates how to upload transcripts to the Eligibility Center.

For more information, please visit the [NCAA website](#).

In Case You Missed It

[LOUISIANA ANNOUNCES PLANS TO OVERHAUL EDUCATION IN SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS](#) (Daily Advertiser)

[HOW ONE DISTRICT IS SPREADING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING ACROSS ALL ITS SCHOOLS](#) (Education Week)

[WITH HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS, SCHOOL COUNSELORS JUST TRY TO 'STAY AFLOAT'](#) (NPR)

[EIGHT LOUISIANA SCHOOLS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT](#) (Louisiana Believes)



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