

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

In This Issue

A Message from Superintendent Brumley

Strong Start 2020

Louisiana Counts: Census 2020

Student Opportunities

Professional Opportunities

Middle and High School News

In Case You Missed It

A Message from Superintendent Brumley



Dear Colleagues,

Throughout my career as a teacher, coach, principal, school leader, district superintendent and now state superintendent, I have always valued our school counselors. I understand how important your work is, and know that during this pandemic our students and educators need the support of school counselors more than ever.

Whether it's scheduling, engaging our parents, or helping our students through the challenges they face in life, you are there as a trusted advisor. With the many needs of our students, we will never have enough counselors in our schools. Our students need you. Our educators need you. Our families need you. Regardless of what the school day looks like when classes resume, continue to go the extra mile to keep our students on track and step into the gaps for our families.

I appreciate you and the work you do. As I begin my work at the Louisiana Department of Education, know that you have an advocate as state superintendent.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education



Strong Start 2020

In partnership with the [Louisiana Department of Health](#) and the [Resilient Louisiana Commission](#), the Department recently released [guidance](#) for how schools across the state can reopen for the 2020-2021 school year by taking actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. While each district will ultimately decide how schools will operate, the guide offers best practices for districts to consider as they prepare for various reopening scenarios and explains how health requirements will change during each of the reopening phases. It also offers information about how to respond to COVID-19 positive or presumptive positive case on campus.

In addition to the [School Reopening Guidelines](#), the Department has developed a variety of resources to support educators and families as they plan for a strong start to the 2020-2021 academic year. Resources of interest to school counselors include [Diagnostic and Screener Guidance](#), [Guide to Supporting the Well-Being of Students and Staff](#) and [Mental Health Leadership Team Guidance](#). Please visit the Strong Start 2020 web page and the Strong Start 2020 Library for more.

Louisiana Counts: Census 2020

[Current data](#) show that Louisiana ranks 44th in the nation in Census self response, but there is still time to reverse that trend. The Census 2020 self-response phase has been extended to **October 31**, giving Louisiana residents more time to be counted. Additionally, the educational resources have been updated to include [Home and Distance Learning Activities](#).

The Census determines billions of dollars of federal funding for a variety of programs that support millions of Louisianans. Census data is used to determine eligibility for a variety of federal programs, compute formulas for fund allocation, rank projects, and set interest rates. The Census is the basis for our congressional representation in Washington D.C., and it provides the data used to draw district lines. Please encourage your school community to [complete the Census](#); visit the [LDOE 2020 Census Toolbox](#) for resources.

Student Opportunities

Build Your Future Scholarship

Build Your Future (BYF) has partnered with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) to provide ten scholarships of \$2000 each to applicants pursuing craft professionals training in the construction industry. ABC/BYF is accepting applications until **July 6**. Please visit the [BYF scholarship page](#) for more information.

CTE Student Scholarship

The [Horatio Alger Association](#) is now accepting applications from students who have completed high school and will be enrolled in a CTE program at an accredited nonprofit postsecondary institution in the fall. This year, the association will award 1020 [scholarships](#) at up to \$2,500 each. Applications are due **August 15**.

Professional Opportunities

Super Summer Institute Digital Training

The [Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities Guide](#) has been updated to include additional Quest for Success, Emergency Medical Responder Initial, CPR Instructor and NCCER training opportunities. Please visit the [All Things Jump Start page](#) for more information. Email jumpstart@la.gov for support.

Continuing Education from American School Counselor Association

[ASCA On Air](#) webinars are always free to American School Counselor Association (ASCA) members. **All webinars recorded from March 15 through August 31, 2020, are also free to nonmembers-- either live or on demand.** Earn CEUs by viewing ASCA webinars and taking a short [quiz](#). In the upcoming webinar on July 22, 2020, *Making MTSS Work*, participants will learn how to align multi-

tiered systems of support (MTSS) with comprehensive school counseling programs (CSCPs) and gain related information on school counseling delivery, the use of data, cultural responsiveness, and evidence-based practices. CSCPs and MTSS work in tandem to provide a systemic, data-driven, equity-focused framework to support all students' academic, career, behavioral, and social/emotional functioning. [Visit the webinar event page to learn more or to register.](#)

Johns Hopkins Equity and School Reopening Webinar Series

The [Johns Hopkins University](#) eSchool+ Initiative is hosting a six-week webinar series on equity and K-12 school reopening. Webinars started on June 22 and will be held on Mondays through July 27, 2020. Sessions will feature panelists representing a variety of school and school system roles, including prominent researchers in the field of education. Visit the [Pathways to Adult Success COVID-19 Resources page](#) for associated documents and recordings of live sessions. Please email schoolhealth@jhu.edu for more information.

FAFSA Completion Webinars from NCAN

The National College Attainment Network (NCAN) has launched the FAFSA Completion Summer Institute Webinar Series with the goal of helping attendees develop plans for increasing FAFSA completion in their communities. Attendees will receive planning templates after each webinar. The FAFSA Completion Summer Institute Webinar Series is free to NCAN members and \$150 for non-members. Visit the [webinar series web page](#) or email ncan@ncan.org for more information.

Conversation Cafe for Counselors in High School Redesign Schools

The impacts of COVID-19 and the quest for social justice have increased the demands on school counselors and asked them to find new ways to connect to students and parents. **On July 9, 2020**, The [Everyone Graduates Center Cross State High School Collaborative](#) will host a conversation cafe to allow school counselors to share insights, ask questions, and engage in peer discussion. The conversation cafe format allows people to come together and make sense of our world. Please visit [the meeting registration page](#) to register in advance.

Middle and High School News

CDF End-of-Year Report

Districts, charter schools and special schools should complete the [FY 2019-2020 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End of Year Report](#) and submit it to jumpstart@la.gov by July 31. Schools systems can reference the total [FY 2019-2020 Final Career Development Allocation](#) in order to complete the report. Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

FAFSA Assistance

Assistance is available via phone or Zoom session for any student who needs help completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#). Please email ldefinancialaid@la.gov.

TOPS Core Curriculum GPA

Act 346 of the 2020 Regular Session of Louisiana Legislature includes a provision that delays the implementation of increased TOPS Core Curriculum GPAs required for a TOPS Performance or Honors Award. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, students would have to achieve a 3.25 to qualify for a Performance Award or 3.50 to qualify for an Honors Award. Act 346 delays the implementation until 2022.

2020-2021 Course Choice/SCA Catalog

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training and dual enrollment course providers. Registration for Course Choice 2020-2021 will open on July 1. Schools will register students directly with the course provider, college and/or university. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the [Course Choice Reporting System](#). Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) and [2020-2021 Preliminary Course Choice Catalog](#) for more information; email sca@la.gov for support.

In Case You Missed It

[LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEW ORLEANS OFFER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS DURING PANDEMIC](#)

[LDOE AND LPB TO TELEVISION HIGH-QUALITY MATH INSTRUCTION THIS SUMMER](#)

[AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION RACE AND EQUITY RESOURCES](#)

[LOUISIANA 2020-2021 SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDANCE](#)

[TENNESSEE SCHOOL REOPENING TOOLKIT: COUNSELING](#)

[2020 TEACHER LEADER VIRTUAL SUMMIT SESSION ARCHIVE](#)



YOUR RESPONSE MATTERS

Shape your schools.

Louisiana
COUNTS

United States
Census
2020