



## *In This Issue*

**Counselor Spotlight: Dr. Ariel Mitchell**

---

**Strong Start 2020**

---

**Strong Start 2020**

---

**Student Opportunities**

---

**2020-2021 High School Planning Guidebook**

---

**Professional Opportunities**

---

**Professional Opportunities**

---

**Middle and High School News**

---

**In Case You Missed It**

---

## **Counselor Spotlight: Dr. Ariel Mitchell**



Dear Fellow Counselors,

Every new school year has the potential to transform us. This year, that potential is greater than ever. Many of us are taking on new responsibilities at school. All of us are balancing professional and personal obligations. As challenging as this time is, it also provides us the opportunity to transform our practice and deepen our understanding of state and national expectations-- regardless of the educational environment in which we choose to work.

- The [Department's Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) web page contains resources for families and up-to-date information and guidance for schools and centers.
- [School Counseling During COVID-19](#), from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), provides newly created resources and updates on how the virus affects ASCA members and the school counseling profession.
- The [Department's Strong Start 2020](#) web page houses the most current information, guidance and resources to support early childhood providers, school systems, educators and families with school reopening.

Please share these new resources with your colleagues as they, too, keep abreast of current and evolving guidance.

Of course, there are general recommendations from the Louisiana School Counseling Association (LSCA) that are always important:

1. Review [BESE Bulletin 741](#): Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators.
2. Implement a mechanism by which you can record how you spend your time. Google Suite is popular with many school counselors.
3. Create opportunities to share data with your school leadership team. It is important to discuss data and offer solutions.

One way that LSCA is working toward transformation is through our *LSCA Comes to You* initiative. *LSCA Comes to You* is our way of providing an invaluable benefit to our members, as leaders in the field share best practices to improve the landscape of school counseling throughout our state. Check out the [LSCA website](#) for more information and webinar dates.

As always, we look forward to engaging with you. And remember, the Louisiana School Counseling Association stands with you and for you!

Best,

Ariel Encalade Mitchell, PhD, LPC-S, LMFT, RPT-S  
President, Louisiana School Counselor Association  
Director of Counseling, Cognitive Solutions, LLC  
Graduate Professor of Counseling, Xavier University of Louisiana

## Strong Start 2020

### **2020-2021 Reopening and Operations Resources**

The Department has been working with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to provide updated resources and guidance on reopening and operations for the 2020-2021 school year. The most recent updates include room partition guidance, vision and hearing screening, gifted and talented screening, safety best practices and regulatory waivers.

The Department is holding office hours at 3:00 p.m. every Thursday for school system leaders and support staff to hear the latest updates on policy implementation, supportive guidance and tool development. Webinar details are listed below.

- Webinar Date and Time: Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- Webinar Phone Number: 301-715-8592
- Meeting ID#: 914 1946 1028
- Meeting Password: 408891

Please email [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov) with questions. Visit the [Strong Start 2020 web page](#) for resources to support educators and families.

## Census 2020

### **Louisiana Counts!**

Now that the deadline for Census self-response has been moved up one month, it is more crucial than ever for educators to support census efforts within their school and greater communities.

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students and younger children. This also includes funding our state needs for emergency planning, preparedness and recovery efforts.

Please help educate your community about the importance of being counted. Self-responses can be completed [online](#), by phone or by mail until **September 30, 2020**.

## Student Opportunities

### U. S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program

The [U.S. Senate Youth Program \(USSYP\)](#) Washington Week 2021 is currently on hold. Applications nationwide are not being accepted at this time. The Department will provide USSYP updates when available. Please email [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) for support.

## Rebates for Frontline Workers

[Act 12](#) of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session provides for a one-time rebate of \$250 for eligible workers who spent at least 200 hours working during the COVID-19 crisis from March 22, 2020 through May 14, 2020. Eligible workers include those essential for food assistance programs, bus drivers, childcare providers, and educators supporting public and private K-12 schools for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential functions. Applicants must earn \$50,000 or less per year to be eligible.

The Louisiana Department of Revenue is accepting applications at [FrontlineWorkers.la.gov](http://FrontlineWorkers.la.gov) until **October 31, 2020**. For more information, read [Revenue Information Bulletin 20-020](#); email [leslie.hill@la.gov](mailto:leslie.hill@la.gov) with questions.

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum

Through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, all public and private schools and students will be provided free access to Edgenuity's online Purpose Prep content library which includes

- character and leadership development
- college and career readiness
- mental health and wellness
- personal development
- social and emotional success

School systems and schools can sign up to participate in this program by completing an addendum with the state and working directly with Edgenuity's [sales representative](#) to implement and manage their students' access to the content library. The agreement and addendum can be found on the Department's [Data Sharing Agreement](#) web page.

Please email [roe.wilkinson@edgenuity.com](mailto:roe.wilkinson@edgenuity.com) to contact Edgenuity or email [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions.

## Professional Opportunities

### College and Career Readiness Webinars from ACT

ACT offers two online ACT College and Career Readiness webinars and several product webinars that focus on specific solutions. The 2.5 hour Full College and Career Readiness Workshop will be offered Wednesday, November 4 and Tuesday, December 1. One-hour product-specific webinars are starting in September. Please visit the [ACT webinars](#) page for more information.

## Middle and High School News

### Missing PII in eScholar

LOSFA cannot load transcript data for students with missing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in eScholar. This is preventing recent graduates from being processed for TOPS eligibility. The quickest and most efficient way to verify graduates who are missing PII is for Student Transcript System (STS) data managers to access the PII Report from STS. Please email [rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov](mailto:rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov) for more information.

### **2020-2021 SCA/Course Choice Portal**

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. The [SCA Portal](#) is now open for 2020-2021 reporting. The 2020-2021 [Preliminary Course Choice Provider Director](#) is also now available. Schools will register students directly with the course provider, college and/or university. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Procedures](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the Course Choice Reporting System. Please contact [sca@la.gov](mailto:sca@la.gov) with questions.

### **Jump Start Fact Sheet Updates**

The Department releases newly redesigned [Industry-Based Credential Fact Sheets](#) on a weekly basis. Fact sheets include

- STS codes and examples of each IBC
- certification resources to prepare for the exam
- system requirements for computer-based testing
- direct links to accommodations and language access information (when available)
- information on costs (when available)

For more information, please e-mail [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

### **NCAA News**

#### **E-learning, Distance and Hybrid Coursework Update**

In an effort to provide clarity to students and parents making decisions regarding the 2020-2021 academic year, the NCAA Eligibility Center is providing additional [guidance](#) regarding distance, e-learning or hybrid options made available by schools with NCAA-approved core courses. The Eligibility Center will continue to monitor the environment and make determinations on extension of other COVID-19 relief policies as more information becomes available.

#### **2020-21 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete**

The [2020-2021 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#) is now available for download. The guide is designed to assist you, athletic directors, coaches, college-bound student-athletes and their families with understanding the initial-eligibility process.

#### **COVID-19 Automatic Waiver-2021-22 Enrollment**

Given the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the educational environment, the NCAA Eligibility Center has partnered with the NCAA membership to identify changes to the initial-eligibility certification process for students who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution during the 2021-22 academic year. Please refer to the [NCAA Eligibility Center COVID-19 Response FAQs](#) for more information.

## **In Case You Missed It**

[LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S JUMP START PROGRAM EXPANDS CAREER OFFERINGS, CERTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[REOPENING RULES OF LOUISIANA PUBLIC SCHOOLS: BESE VOTES IN FACE MASK, SOCIAL DISTANCING POLICIES](#) (The Advocate)

[AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2020 RAMP SCHOOLS](#) (American School Counselor Association)

[AMID PANDEMIC, FEWER STUDENTS SEEK FEDERAL AID FOR COLLEGE](#) (Associated Press)



*Visit [MY2020CENSUS.GOV](https://my2020census.gov) to respond online  
or call 1-844-330-2020 to respond by phone.*

Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov) powered by

