



# *Go Further*

*Discussion-based, online learning  
to strengthen college and career advising*

## SREB

Go Alliance  
Academy

*in partnership with*



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

**Shifting financial aid processes ...**

**huge caseloads ...**

**a constant stream of  
administrative tasks ...**

**parent engagement ...**

**unrelenting deadlines ...**

**P**reparing students (and parents) to navigate college and career options is more complex than ever.

That's why we're providing you with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to deepen your knowledge about college and career advisement: the Go Alliance Academy.

The content, developed by experts in the field, is current and relevant. The digital platform is state-of-the-art. And the people behind the Academy – the Southern Regional Education Board's Go Alliance – are among the most trusted sources in the nation on college and career preparation.

The knowledge you gain will save you time in the long run. So the Go Alliance Academy is well worth trying out, even with your busy schedule.

### **The Method**

The Academy is a true learning community: You participate on your own time and your own schedule as part of a cohort, taking part in online discussions with colleagues, led by a professional facilitator.

Professional development courses are four to six hours a week, spanning four weeks; academic credit courses are six to eight hours a week, spanning four weeks. (See the back of this brochure for information about credits.)



# The Curriculum

The SREB **Go Alliance Academy** offers several courses on the topics that counselors, postsecondary advisors, teachers and principals need and want most:

## Building a College-Going Culture for All Students

Designed to help you strengthen your outreach to low-income students and those who would be first in the family to attend college. The four sessions will deepen your understanding of:

- the changing career landscape (and jobs of the future)
- the cultural beliefs of students and families that are sometimes a barrier to postsecondary education
- how school counselors and college access professionals can work together as a team to better serve students
- how to advocate to administrators and others for your unique role in helping students plan their next steps after high school
- how to act as a change agent to create college-going culture at your school to promote students' awareness of postsecondary options and increase their engagement in the planning process
- how to raise teacher and student expectations that education after high school is an option for all students

### SESSIONS

1. Understanding the National Workforce Landscape and 21st Century Careers
2. Cultural Competency and Equity
3. Understanding, Communicating and Advocating for the Role of the School Counselor in College and Career Planning
4. Creating a School-Wide, College-Going Culture

## College, Career and Academic Planning

A big-picture course with practical applications, designed to help you guide students as they make important decisions about their future. The course will enable you to:

- help students form a plan for high school and beyond, based on their careers of interest
- analyze data to uncover and address issues of equity in access to college prep opportunities
- gain a more comprehensive understanding of postsecondary options and communicate this information to students and parents so they can make more-informed decisions

### SESSIONS

1. Supporting Student Career Awareness and Development
2. Engaging Students in Career Awareness and Planning
3. Using Data to Address Equity and Guide Academic and Career Planning
4. Helping Students Make Postsecondary Choices

## Financial Aid and College Applications

Developed to deepen your financial aid proficiency to help students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply to college and other postsecondary education options. This course teaches you to:

- communicate the intricacies of financial aid, including terminology, to parents and students
- increase the number of FAFSA applications by students
- help parents and students understand the total cost of college as well as the variety of financial aid opportunities available to them
- collaborate with administrators, teachers and parents to prepare students for college admission tests
- assist students in completing the application process for education opportunities after high school

### SESSIONS

1. Guiding Parents and Students through the Complexities of Financial Aid
2. Assisting with the Financial Aid Process
3. Preparing for College Admissions Tests
4. Postsecondary Admissions: The Application Process

## College and Career Advising in the Middle Grades

Tailored specifically for school counselors and college access professionals in middle schools. Through this module, you will learn:

- how to act as a change agent to create a college-going culture at your school to promote students' awareness of postsecondary options and raise teacher and student expectations
- tools and strategies to help students connect career aspirations to academic planning, including employment-area forecasts and career clusters for your state
- how to use state-level career planning resources in your state
- how student engagement and motivation increases when planning for future careers
- ways to support students in their transitions from elementary to middle grades to high school

### SESSIONS

1. Developing a College-Going Culture in Your School
2. Career Planning
3. Academic Planning and Transitions
4. Engaging Middle Grades Students

*Be sure to visit [SREB.org/GoAlliance](http://SREB.org/GoAlliance), as we'll be adding more courses in the months to come.*

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### CURRENT COURSES (EACH HAS FOUR SESSIONS)

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### COMING SUMMER 2016

## College and Career Advising for Special Populations (6 sessions)

Students of different backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities require deeper knowledge about how to adapt advising to help choose (and plan for) postsecondary options. This course will give you:

- deeper understanding of special populations (and ways to build support systems for them)
- insights into helping diverse students explore postsecondary options and plan their academic choices accordingly
- ways to optimize the guidance you provide into the application process for college and financial aid — and making the transition to what's next

### For Teachers

## College and Career Advising for Educators (4 sessions)

As a teacher, you can play a key role in helping students identify and pursue their education beyond high school. This course helps you:

- understand better the national workforce landscape and 21st century careers
- contribute to the creation of a college-going culture at your school
- engage students as they become aware of careers and plan next steps after high school
- support students' exploration of postsecondary education and preparation for applying to college

### For Principals

## Working with Your School Counselors to Achieve School Improvement Goals (4 sessions)

This course helps principals engage with counselors to take the steps needed to achieve goals in school improvement. You will learn how to:

- develop leadership skills for change
- use data to assess and inform school change
- create a college-going culture
- work with your school counselors to achieve change

## The Components

Each course offered in the Go Alliance Academy includes:

- Goals for learning
- Online readings
- Online resources, such as lesson plans, how-to-guides and interactive websites

- Practical activities (online and offline)
- Short webinars and videos demonstrating practices proven to be effective
- A culminating project to help you implement on the job what you learned in training
- Resources to help you improve interaction with students immediately

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### **More on Louisiana Course Offerings:**

Tireka Cobb at [tireka.cobb@la.gov](mailto:tireka.cobb@la.gov) or (225) 219-0920

Juterh Nmah at [juterh.nmah@la.gov](mailto:juterh.nmah@la.gov) or (225) 219-3115

Visit us online at <http://www.osfa.la.gov/>

### **ABOUT THE GO ALLIANCE ACADEMY**

SREB's Go Alliance Academy aims to strengthen college and career advisement for students by providing school counselors, postsecondary advisors, teachers and principals with new and relevant knowledge. The Go Alliance Academy offers rigorous, discussion-based coursework – shaped by experts and peers in the field and extended through a digital online platform.

The Academy is available to colleges and universities, school districts and college access organizations in:

Arizona	Michigan
Alabama	Mississippi
Alaska	North Carolina
Delaware	Oklahoma
Georgia	South Carolina
Idaho	Tennessee
Kansas	Utah
Louisiana	Washington

The Go Alliance Academy is coordinated by the Southern Regional Education Board's Go Alliance, an interstate cooperative working to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll.

MORE: Alice Anne Bailey at (404) 879-5601 or **[SREB.org/GoAlliance](http://SREB.org/GoAlliance)**

# SREB

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