

LOSFA LOOP

October 2015

Volume 8-10

From the Desk of the Executive Director



“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn”

Benjamin Franklin

Dr. Sujuan Boutté Many years ago when I was a classroom teacher, this was my philosophy. It was something I believed and implemented in my classroom then and it is something I carry with me now. Our Field Outreach Services staff team is on the road putting Franklin’s words into practice! Whether we see them leaving the office at 6am or returning from the road at 9pm, the excitement and passion they display for their work is awesome and contagious.

What’s the lesson and how are we getting students involved? The lesson is LOSFA’s 5-Point Match which is central to LOSFA’s Senior Game Plan. We get students involved by engaging them in active learning sessions during pep-rally style events called College Kick-Offs.

College Kick-off serves as the platform to unveil LOSFA’s year-long plan, known as the Senior Game Plan. The Senior Game Plan is set to a football theme. We are encouraging students to Kick-Off Their Futures; Learn the Plays; Avoid Fumbling the FAFSA and score a Touchdown by matching, applying and getting accepted to the postsecondary institution that will help them launch a career that allows them to get paid to do what they do best!

The Game Plan assists students with the step-by-step process of transitioning into postsecondary education. Elements of the 5-Point Match are taught through a relay game involving students in learning about ways to get connected to the postsecondary institution that best fits their needs.

The LOSFA coordinators work with school personnel to encourage the involvement of the school band, spirit groups and the area Trailblazer leaders. Our Trailblazer leaders have kicked the event off at some high schools and led the discussion on TOPS at others!

Our team members have been on the road non-stop the entire month of September conducting College Kick-Off events at Concentrated and Intensive services schools. The response was so overwhelming from the schools that the September event had to be carried over into October just to get to everyone who wanted to be on the schedule!

Those of us back at the office are able to get the feel for what students are doing and saying by following the events on our social media platforms. Students are encouraged to share their vocal and prose talents improv style as they relate the college message back to their peers and the videos of these impromptu performances are fun to watch! You can follow along too! Check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LOSFA>, on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LOSFA> or @LOSFA, on Instagram at <http://instagram.com/LOSFA001>.

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**From the Desk of the
Executive Director (continued)**

The team sent us a picture recently as they were wrapping up an event. The excitement on their faces after a long day on the road says it all!



Front Row; Charlie Lewis, Khristopher Hobbs, Claire Caillier. Back row: Timenee Thomas, Juterh Nmah; Dr. Tireka Cobb, Kyleigh Quiroga.

So if they are having this much fun- what are the students saying about what they learned through being involved? Keep reading to see!

Best,
S.

**2015-2016 College Kick-off
Events Mass Media Coverage**

#LOSFAmotivates and #TurnUpForCollege are trending on social media. Here are some excerpts of all the buzz being generated by the recent College Kick-Off Events throughout the state through our live on-site social media campaigns.

Here are a few quotes of what the students had to say about the College Kick-Off event via Facebook.



LOSFA at Glen Oaks High School

September 23 at 10:57am · Edited ·

Senior at Glen Oaks High School Martrelle Black will go into the military after high school, and in the future he wants to be a welder and get into real estate as well.

Black said he learned many facts about TOPS during College Kickoff and that you can get money for going to school and doing the right thing.

“College Kickoff is important because it benefits us, our families, and it’ll benefit our future careers,” Black said.



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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



LOSFA

September 23 at 10:44am ·

Senior Counselor at Glen Oaks High School Mary Cobb-Marshall's passion for guiding students to prosperous futures is evident in her work and persona.

Cobb-Marshall said LOSFA's programs provide students with many opportunities to thrive and bloom.

"These events are important because education is the key to the future, and the information and knowledge that they get concerning college will make them successful in the end," Cobb-Marshall said.



"It showed students how it is important to find the right college for them and doing what is right for them and not for other people," Frank said.



LOSFA

September 18 at 2:59pm · Edited ·

LB Landry Walker High School senior Davon Sibley said he appreciated everything covered during College Kickoff because he didn't know about the many available options and programs.

"It was very helpful because later on in life, I will be able to use this information for better opportunities," Sibley said.



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LOSFA

September 23 at 3:48pm

Senior at Ville Platte High School Gabrielle Frank said she learned about FAFSA and financial aid opportunities while having fun during College Kickoff this afternoon.

2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



LOSFA

September 18 at 2:44pm · 🌐

LB Landry Walker High School senior Lanise Danfield sang “Brave” by Sara Bareilles this morning at College Kickoff because she said it’s an encouraging song. She said besides learning about college this morning, she learned that it is important to uplift her classmates and those around her.

“I learned that you’re supposed to encourage everybody and you’re not supposed to put anyone down,” Danfield said. “Teamwork is the best work.”



LOSFA at Jeanerette Senior High School

September 18 at 2:14pm · 🌐

Meet Trailblazer and senior at Jeanerette Senior High School Tang’Jermeka Londo. Here is what she had to say about being a Trailblazer.

LOSFA: “Why did you want to be a Trailblazer?”

Londo: “I feel like I’m a very good leader, I like helping people and most of all, I like guiding people.”

LOSFA: “What did you get out of College Kickoff?”

Londo: “I learned about the five point match to college. They taught us more about FAFSA and LOSFA. I liked that we got to be involved in the event.”

LOSFA: “What do you hope to accomplish as a Trailblazer?”

Londo: “As a Trailblazer, I hope I can lead [my peers] to go to some kind of college whether it’s a trade college, technical college, I don’t care what it is, as long as they go somewhere.”



LOSFA at East Feliciana High School

September 14 at 11:21am · Edited · 🌐

Meet Trailblazer Attorney General and senior at East Feliciana High School Brianna Dunn. Here is what she had to say about her future as a Trailblazer.

LOSFA: “Why did you want to be a Trailblazer?”

Dunn: “Because I like meeting new people and it was a better way for me to get to know FAFSA better and to learn more about it. I also wanted to learn more about the LOSFA state office and to just enjoy myself as a senior.”

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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)

LOSFA: “What do you hope to accomplish as a Trailblazer?”

Dunn: “I hope to get everyone that’s college bound to go to college and to know about LOSFA and FAFSA. I also want to let [my peers] know that you can be anything you want to be. Just be great and don’t let where you’re from hinder you because some people think that just because we’re from East Feliciana Parish none of us can be anything, but I know that is not the case.”



many other reasons as well. I also liked the freestyle that we did because me and Timenee [Thomas] did a good job.”



LOSFA

September 4 at 1:30pm · 🌐

“A lot of the students here don’t realize that all of these programs are out there to help us and get us on the right track on going to college. When we have events like these, they sit us down and talk to us, and they have fun activities to keep us interested and we learn about all of this stuff so we can use it in the future and get us on track,” said Bastrop High senior Joseph Schwartz. #GeauxRams #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates



LOSFA at West St. John High

September 9 at 11:44am · 🌐

West St. John High School seniors Trevon Borne (left) and Malik Hutchinson (right) weighed in on their favorite part of College Kickoff:

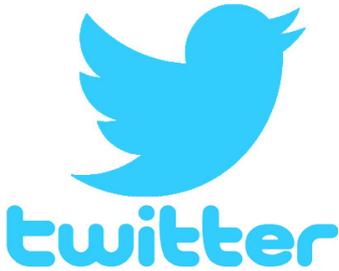
Borne: “I’d have to say it was during the rap, because it cheered everybody on and it showed everybody that they can go to any college they want to. And I liked the activity because it was basically about teamwork and pushing everybody.”

Hutchinson: “I found out that you could get a scholarship not only for being left-handed, but for



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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



Here are a few tweets from a successful College Kick-off event held at Westgate High School in New Iberia, Green Oaks High School in Shreveport, IMSA-West in Plaquemine, Broadmoor High School in Baton Rouge, H. L. Bourgeois High School in Gray, Rayville & Mangham High in Rayville, Madison High School in Tallulah, RENEW in New Orleans, West St. John High School in Edgard, and Washington-Marion High School in Lake Charles.



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "Think about 'What can I do now as a senior to set me up for success in college and beyond?'" #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates

8:05 AM - 17 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "We look at 5 key factors to match you with the best college for you" #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates #CollegeKickoff

8:03 AM - 17 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Senior Darreyon Lee at Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy set the tone yesterday on what it means to #TurnUp4College pic.twitter.com/Kt2k8S7XM2

11:10 AM - 16 Sep 2015

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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "We will be back in the spring to recognize your acceptance into college"
#LOSFAmotivates #TurnUpForCollege

7:40 AM - 16 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "We do not round GPAs. If you have a 2.49, you have a 2.49, not a 2.50"
#TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates

7:29 AM - 16 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "Never go to fafsa.com; they will charge you to complete an application"
#TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates

1:11 PM - 15 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "There is free money for you to use towards college, but first you'll need to fill out the FAFSA" #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates

7:23 AM - 15 Sep 2015

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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Good morning Broadmoor Buccaneers! We are here to #TurnUpForCollege with the class of 2016! pic.twitter.com/fEbmhJV75b

6:28 AM - 15 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "You need to make at least a 20 on the ACT to receive TOPS"
[@SULabKittens](https://twitter.com/SULabKittens) #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates

12:41 PM - 14 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Great energy coming from the senior Braves at H.L. Bourgeois this morning!
#TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates pic.twitter.com/kxDNAZgiyx

7:33 AM - 11 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Madison High senior Di'onta Allen imparting knowledge to his classmates through a college freestyle #TurnUp4College pic.twitter.com/ZgcIQPwPO6

9:57 AM - 10 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Hobbs: "Be mindful of what you spend your loans on" #necessities
#TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates

12:08 PM - 9 Sep 2015

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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Ready, set, GEAUX! College Kickoff is at ReNEW in #Nola! #TurnUpForCollege
#LOSFAmotivates pic.twitter.com/uRn1zhwuey

12:06 PM - 9 Sep 2015



West St. John High
@WestStJohnHigh



College kick off activity,WSJH Class 2016..@HeidiTrosclair @Stjohnsupe
@qtimoll pic.twitter.com/OEhWzYAmYt

8:24 AM - 9 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Thomas: "Orientation is one of the most important things you will have to do
before you begin your freshman year" #TurnUpForCollege

8:17 AM - 9 Sep 2015



LOSFA
@LOSFA



Today, we will be stopping by Washington-Marion High School to
#TurnUpForCollege with the Charging Indians class of 2016 #LOSFAmotivates

9:01 AM - 8 Sep 2015

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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



Instagram

Here are some topics students at Edna Karr High School in New Orleans, Jeanerette High School in Jeanerette, Westgate High School in New Iberia, H. L. Bourgeois High School in Gray, Madison High School in Tallulah, Ponchatoula High School in Ponchatoula, and St. Helena College and Career Academy in Greensburg discussed at the College Kick Off and all of the valuable information provided.



losfa001

September 22, 2015 4:16pm
 Edna Karr High School

Senior Cougar at Edna Karr High School Dionté McGruder said he feels more prepared for college after attending and participating in our College Kickoff event this morning. “The most important thing I got out of today’s event was that I learned more about the financial part of college,” McGruder said. “I now know there are other options instead of loans, like TOPS. I can use the FAFSA to apply for TOPS and other forms of financial aid to pay for college.” Thank you @ednakarr_ for allowing us to host College Kickoff with you all this morning! #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates #CollegeKickoff



losfa001

September 18, 2015 2:29pm
 Jeanerette Senior High School

Jeanerette Senior High School senior Macy Broussard said she learned about important tools and programs to aid in the journey to post-secondary education during College Kickoff. “I think it was very helpful because a lot of us really don’t know how to get into certain things that we want to do,” Broussard said. “Some people think that you just go to college to be a doctor or a lawyer, but you can go for anything, like carpentry.”



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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)



losfa001

September 17, 2015 10:22am
 Westgate High School

LOSFA rep Timenee Thomas addressing the senior Tigers of Westgate High School during College Kickoff #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates



losfa001

September 11, 2015 12:45pm
 H. L. Bourgeois High School

Meet Trailblazer and senior at H.L. Bourgeois High School Amber Peltier. She serves as Senate President for the Trailblazers.

We met with Peltier today at College Kickoff at H.L. Bourgeois and this is what she had to say about her future as a Trailblazer.

LOSFA: "Why did you want to be a Trailblazer?"

Peltier: "Because I see a lot of issues going on between my peers. A lot of them are stressed out about college and I didn't really know that much [about college]. I wanted to learn more for me and for them as well about college." #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates



losfa001

September 11, 2015 12:10pm

"I learned about the different programs to use to look up to find free money for financial aid to use towards college, and I learned about the different colleges to go to and the requirements to go to them" said Madison High School senior Di'onta Allen.

During College Kickoff at Madison High School, Allen became a rockstar by sharing college inspired freestyle with us and his classmates and by actively participating throughout the event.



losfa001

September 4, 2015 12:44pm
 Ponchatoula High School

"This will be my first time with one of my kids graduating. [College Kickoff] refreshed my memory about a lot of things. These events are important to parents who aren't familiar and to inform kids about all of the

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2015-2016 College Kick-off Events Mass Media Coverage (continued)

different resources that are available,” said Brenda Thompson, mom of senior Dominique Thompson and freshman Victoria Thompson at Ponchatoula High School. #PonchatoulaHigh #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates



losfa001

September 3, 2015 10:41am

📍 St. Helena College and Car

We had a great first stop on our College Kickoff tour at St. Helena High School! Thank you to the dedicated teachers and administrators for having us this morning. Our goal is to inspire and motivate high school seniors across Louisiana to apply and prepare for college #LifeBeyondHighSchool #TurnUpForCollege #LOSFAmotivates #GeauxHawks

The participant numbers to the right primarily include seniors, but in some instances there were freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and parents attending the College Kick-Off events!

2015-16 College Kick-Off Completed Events	
School Name	# of Participants
St. Helena College & Career Academy	53
Ponchatoula High School	50
Bastrop High School	200
Washington-Marion High School	112
West St. John High School	51
ReNew	50
Rayville High School	56
Mangham High School	44
Madison High School	55
H. L. Bourgeois High School	253
E. Feliciana High School	79
Southern University Lab School	103
Broadmoor High School	280
Green Oaks High School	72
IMSA - West	79
Converse High School	34
Many High School	17
Ebarb High School	17
Florien High School	31
Negreet High School	29
Pleasant Hill High School	14
Zwolle High School	43
Westgate High School	220
Jeanerette High School	60
L. B. Landry Walker High School	324
IMSA - East	19
E. Iberville High School	6
Scotlandville Magnet High School	300
Edna Karr High School	510
Glen Oaks High School	260
Ville Platte High School	60
Grand Total	3481

October is Louisiana College Application Month

October has been proclaimed “Louisiana College Application Month” by Governor Bobby Jindal.

Louisiana College Application Month is coordinated by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) in partnership with the University of Louisiana System, Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA), Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP), Louisiana Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (LACRAO), Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU), the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), the Lafayette GEAR UP program, and Louisiana TRIO programs.



Louisiana College Application Month is being held at high schools across the state throughout the month of October. As part of the American College Application Campaign (ACAC) initiative, Louisiana College Application Month seeks to increase the number of students who are applying to college early in their senior year with a focus on first-generation and low-income students as well as students who may not otherwise apply to college.

As stated in 2014 by former Louisiana State University Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management, Dr. David D. Kurpius, applying before November of the high school senior year:

- Increases your opportunity to get the on-campus housing you desire
- Increases your opportunities for high-performing student programs

- Increases your chances for admission to the Honors College
- Increases your opportunities to be considered for discipline (major) specific scholarships
- Increases the assistance you will get from the university to help you enroll
- Increases your opportunities to participate in pre-college programs

LOSFA Executive Director, Dr. Sujuan Boutté, added, “Applying early also increases your chances of being accepted to your first choice school; increases your likelihood of being able to apply and be accepted to summer bridge programs that allow you to get a head start at the institution; and increases your ability to plan in advance for any

fees associated with enrollment-which occur before scholarships, grants and loans are disbursed.”

During Louisiana College Application Month, students at participating high schools will be assisted as they complete college applications during the school day with the goal of each participating student submitting at least one college application. During Louisiana College Application Month, students may apply to any of Louisiana’s 10 community and technical colleges, 10 independent colleges, and 18 public universities.

In part, the Governor’s Proclamation reads, “Whereas the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) in collaboration with other state agencies,

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October is Louisiana College Application Month *(continued)*

higher education institutions and college access programs are working together to connect learners with opportunities for greater access, persistence and demonstrable success across the state; and whereas, all Louisiana high school seniors may participate in this initiative, thereby receiving assistance from trained school staff and volunteers in completing a college application; now, therefore, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as LOUISIANA COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH in the State of Louisiana.”

According to the United States Department of Education, young adults with postsecondary credentials earn more than those with just a high school diploma or its equivalent. College is defined as any education beyond high school. “Thus,” Dr. Boutté added, “there are many college paths ranging from certificates and credentials to four-year degrees; all of which can be paid for with various LOSFA awards. Whether you start with TOPS Tech Early Start in high school and earn up to 24 hours of college credit in a top-demand occupation; TOPS Tech to earn a two-year degree; or TOPS to enroll

in and complete a four-year degree: It’s your choice, it’s your future, and you can count on LOSFA to help.”

In 2014, during the month of October, 3,437 seniors at 57 high schools in 25 parishes completed 4,066 college applications as part of Louisiana College Application Month.

As compared to a pilot College Application Week conducted in 2013, the 2014 figures represent a:

- 128% increase in the number of participating high schools
- 127% increase in the number of participating parishes
- 165% increase in the number of participating students
- 188% increase in the number of applications completed and submitted

To join the discussion about Louisiana College Application Month on Twitter, follow #ApplyToCollege and/or #GeauxApply.

State Department Scholarships for High School Study Abroad

The U.S. Department of State recently announced scholarships for American high school students to study abroad.

Applications are now being accepted for several study abroad programs for U.S. high school students. These merit-based scholarships include international airfare, tuition, and program costs, as well as meals and living accommodations (often with a host family). The programs have no language prerequisites, and gap year students are encouraged to apply as long as they meet the age requirements.

Please note that each program has a separate online application process, and application deadlines vary from late October through early January. Visit the program websites or www.exchanges.state.gov for specific information and application deadlines.

- The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) offers merit-based scholarships to study one of seven critical foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian, and Turkish. The

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State Department Scholarships for High School Study Abroad *(continued)*

NSLI-Y program is designed to immerse participants in the cultural life of the host country, provide formal and informal language practice, and spark a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures. The application deadline for summer 2016 and academic year 2016-17 programs is October 29, 2015. Visit www.nsliforyouth.org for more information.

- The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad Program offers merit-based scholarships to spend an academic year in countries that may include Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, and Turkey. This program increases understanding between people in the United States and people in countries with significant Muslim populations. Students live with host families, attend local high schools, do community service, and complete a capstone project. Applications for academic year 2016-17 programs are due December 1, 2015. Visit www.yes-abroad.org for more information.

- The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX) offers merit-based scholarships for

an academic year in Germany. The program was established in 1983 to celebrate German-American friendship based on common values of democracy. Students live with host families, attend local schools, and participate in community life in Germany. For more information and application deadlines, visit the organization in charge of recruitment for your state at www.usagermanyscholarship.org. Deadlines for U.S. applicants range from December 1, 2015 to January 15, 2016, depending on state of residency.

For more information on exchanges sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, visit www.exchanges.state.gov or watch a video about U.S. high school student exchanges. To receive printed brochures and/or posters about study abroad opportunities, send an email with your request to youthprograms@state.gov.

For information on having an international experience without leaving home, consider hosting a Department of State-sponsored exchange student. Learn more at <http://hosting.state.gov>.

FAFSA Changes for 2017-2018 Announced

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) process that will impact millions of students. Starting next year, students will be able to:

- **Submit a FAFSA Earlier:** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

- **Use Earlier Income Information:** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income

information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

The FAFSA is the application that college or career school students must complete to apply for federal student aid, which includes Pell Grants, federal student loans, and work-study opportunities. In addition to determining eligibility for federal student aid, FAFSA information is used by many states, colleges, career schools, and private organizations to determine

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FAFSA Changes for 2017-2018 (continued)

eligibility for nonfederal student aid. Completing the FAFSA is the gateway to accessing funds for college for approximately 20 million students each year.

The FAFSA is currently available for applicants to complete on January 1 for the upcoming application cycle. However, many deadlines for state aid are as early as March. For some students, the current FAFSA application cycle is not aligned with college admissions application deadlines, which typically occur in the fall prior to the FAFSA launch. As a result, time is a critical factor for applicants qualifying for aid. Finally, in addition to the timing of the launch of the FAFSA, the availability of an applicant’s income and tax information may lead students—and, where applicable, their parents—to mistakenly think they are not able to file a FAFSA until they file their tax return. This may cause students to miss out on some federal, state and/or institutional financial aid.

The 2016–17 FAFSA will be the final FAFSA to launch on January 1. Students who need to complete the 2016–17 FAFSA will be able to access and submit the form anytime between Jan. 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017. Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, the start date will

move from January 1 to October 1 of the previous year. This means that students who complete the 2017–18 FAFSA will be able to submit the form anytime between Oct. 1, 2016, and June 30, 2018.

In addition to changing the FAFSA launch date, the requirements for reporting income information is changing. Currently, FAFSA applicants provide income information from the “prior tax year.” For example, 2016–17 applicants must report 2015 income information. Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, applicants will provide income information from one tax year earlier—the “prior-prior” year. This means that the 2017–18 FAFSA will collect 2015 income information. As a result of this change, more students and families will be able to complete their FAFSA using income information imported electronically from the IRS, using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), rather than submitting applications with income estimates that may need correcting, or worse, waiting until the previous year’s tax return has been filed.

The following table provides a summary of key dates during the transition to using the early FAFSA submission timeframe and earlier tax information.

WHEN A STUDENT IS ATTENDING COLLEGE (SCHOOL YEAR)	WHEN A STUDENT CAN SUBMIT A FAFSA	WHICH YEAR’S INCOME INFORMATION IS REQUIRED
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016



Parents and students receive assistance in completing the FAFSA during College Goal Sunday in February 2015.

Commission Amends Rules to Set the End of Academic Year as the Deadline for Achieving TOPS Annual Renewal Requirements

At its August 20, 2015, meeting, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission amended the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to set the end of the Academic Year as the deadline for achieving all TOPS Annual Renewal Requirements: earning 24 Hours and achieving the required cumulative grade point average requirement. This Rule Change is effective beginning with the 2014-15 Academic Year except for those students whose TOPS Status would be adversely affected by applying the new rule. For those students, the rule change will be effective beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year.

LOSFA will reprocess AY2015 Grades with the updated deadline shortly. The records of those students positively affected will be updated, and they will be notified by e-mail. The TOPS Dispositions of all other students will not be changed unless a record fails to complete processing. Those records, as well as records being updated due to the receipt of new grade information and payment requests, may show the following Dispositions:

Disposition 033 Renewal Pending AY Hours.

The student's TOPS Cum GPA is 2.0 or higher but the student earned less than 24 hours through the end of the Spring Semester/Term or Spring or Summer Intersession. Student must earn enough hours by the end of summer to meet the 24 hour requirement. Additional information is provided on the Student Eligibility Page:

- 331 Maintained Continuation GPA*; or
- 332 Achieved Continuation GPA*.

*Both Codes are eligible for Summer Payment, if student is otherwise eligible.***

Disposition 034 Renewal Pending GPA.

The student has earned 24 or more Academic Year Hours and has a GPA of 2.0 or greater, but he does not possess Continuation GPA (2.3 or 2.5, as applicable).

This student is eligible to receive his TOPS Award for summer, if otherwise eligible to receive summer payment. The student must achieve Continuation GPA by the end of the summer.

Disposition 042 Suspended for GPA

Under the new rules, the following apply:

If the student was in good standing for the spring semester, then

421 – Student was in good standing for the spring semester. By the end of spring, student has not earned required hours or grades for continuation but did meet SAP. Summer is payable if otherwise eligible for summer payment.

422 – Student was in good standing for the spring semester. By the end of spring, student has earned the required hours and met SAP, but did not meet the cumulative GPA requirement. Summer is payable if otherwise eligible for summer payment.

If the student was not in good standing for the spring semester, then

423 – Student has not earned the required hours and did not meet SAP. Student must earn at least 24 hours by the end of summer and bring his cumulative GPA up to that required for continuation (2.3 or 2.5, as applicable).

424 – Student has earned the required hours and met SAP. Student must bring his GPA up to that required for continuation (2.3 or 2.5, as applicable).

NOTE: A student's disposition is subject to change throughout the summer. If a student does not enroll during the summer or any intersession after the conclusion of the spring semester, his disposition will remain the same for the beginning of fall semester as it was at the end of the spring semester. However, if a student enrolls in summer or in any intersession

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Commission Amends Rules to Set the End of Academic Year as the Deadline for Achieving TOPS Annual Renewal Requirements (continued)

after the conclusion of the spring semester, his disposition may change with every enrollment. For example, at the end of spring semester, student is 033 Renewal Pending AY Hours – Maintain Continuation GPA. Student enrolls in intersession immediately following the spring semester, and at the end of the intersession, his disposition changes to 034 Renewal Pending GPA. Then, he enrolls in summer school and at the end of summer school, his disposition changes to 001 Approved Renewal. Then, the student enrolls in summer intersession, and his status code changes to 042 – Suspended Due to GPA. This is the student’s final disposition going into the fall semester.

***TOPS Tech awards will be paid for summer enrollment if the student has a 2.0 or greater at the end of the spring semester.

TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Awards

will only be paid for summer under the following circumstances:

- The summer session is required in the student’s degree program for graduation and the student enrolled for at least the minimum number of hours required for the degree program, or
- The student will graduate in the summer session, or
- The courses taken during the summer session are required by the student’s degree program and are only offered during the summer session, or
- The student is enrolled in a technical program on a full-time basis, or
- The student has earned at least 60 hours and has signed an acknowledgement that use of TOPS for a summer will reduce their total TOPS eligibility by one semester/quarter/term.

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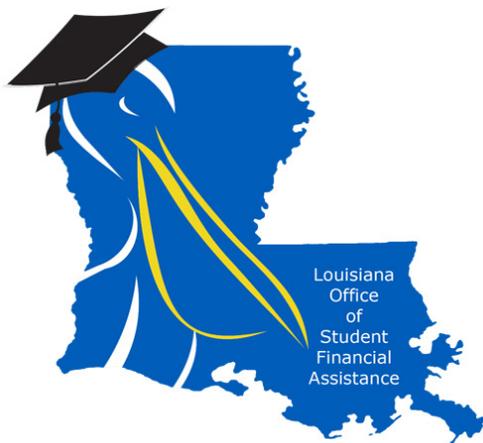
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For submissions, opinions, or comments for the LOSFA LOOP,
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