



PRESS RELEASE



From the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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College Access and Success Portal Contract Awarded

BATON ROUGE – ConnectEDU, a national company with designed portals currently being used by over 2.5 million students in 2,500 high schools and 345 colleges, has been awarded a contract to provide the State of Louisiana with an interactive Web-based portal that includes college access and career readiness services to all Louisiana students.

The services that will be incorporated into the soon to be launched Web site include, but will not be limited to:

- Creation and tracking of a 5-year plan (Individual Graduation Plan) beginning in the 8th grade as required by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE);
- Curriculum tracking (Core 4/Regents/Career/Taylor Opportunity Program for Students/others as defined by students and/or required by law);
- Scholarship searches;
- Internship matches;
- College application;
- Financial aid resources;
- Financial literacy resources;
- Student loan resources and tracking; and
- Job market trends (national and state).

Funding for the new contract is derived from a federal grant, The College Access Challenge Grant, which is administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) as designated by Governor Bobby Jindal.

The contract was awarded to ConnectEDU through a competitive process as the result of a nationwide Request for Proposals issued by the Louisiana Office of State Purchasing on behalf of LOSFA.

ConnectEDU is a national leader in delivering college and career planning portals that serve the needs of K-12 students, postsecondary students, non-traditional students, K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions and state agency partners in an easy-to-understand format. The objective of the portal is to provide a tool that will enable students and counselors to successfully manage their education and to launch their careers with a personalized tool that

leverages the wisdom and support of the adults who also play key roles in each student's success.

LOSFA is a state agency and the administrative arm of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority. Among the programs administered by LOSFA are Louisiana's premier merit-based scholarship program, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); the TOPS Tech scholarship program; the state's 529 college savings plan, the Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) program; the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship program; the Early Start and TOPS Tech Early Start dual enrollment programs; the Louisiana Go Grant need based aid program; the Chafee Educational Training Voucher (ETV) program; and the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment program. LOSFA's mission is to promote and provide college access and to remain Louisiana's first choice for college access information and assistance.

LOSFA is also extremely active in the dissemination of college access and financial literacy information within the state with a concentration on assisting students from low income families and first generation college attendees in locating and obtaining the resources necessary to pursue and complete a postsecondary education. To these ends, LOSFA regularly partners with other entities including the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Louisiana Department of Education, the Gear Up and Trio programs, the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and others.

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