



Louisiana Office Of Student Financial Assistance  
A Program of the Board of Regents



# LOSFA PROGRAMS 101

## MUCH MORE THAN TOPS

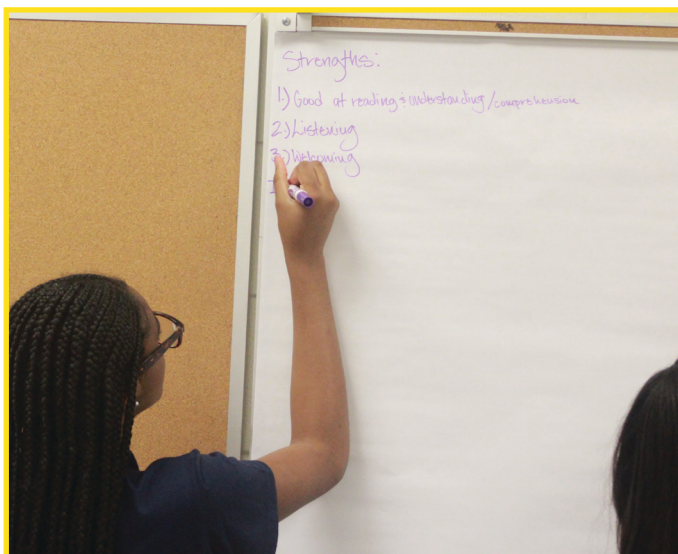
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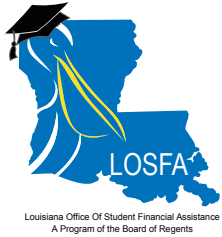
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# What is LOSFA?

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is a Program of the Louisiana Board of Regents. Our mission is to **promote, prepare for, and provide equity of college access** to all students in Louisiana's public, private, and proprietary schools.

LOSFA administers:

- Scholarship and grant programs
- Internal Revenue Code Section 529 college savings program (START)
- Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade Savings Program (START K12)
- 529A Program (LA ABLE)
- Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)
- TOPS Tech Early START (TTES-dual enrollment courses for high school juniors and seniors in eligible high demand occupations)
- Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship program
- LA Go Grant
- Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program
- John R. Justice
- TANF STEP
- GO Youth Challenge Program
- BESE Tuition Program for Teachers
- Regional Contract Program (RCP).



Our concentration is 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, currently serving **37,111 students in 75 schools in 24 school districts** across the state. In addition to providing intensive services to students from low income families and first generation attendees, we travel throughout the state to provide information on the programs we administer to any school, civic organization, or religious organization who requests a presentation.



**“Financial aid begins long before a student has to pay for college.”**

*-Sujuan Boutté*

Executive Director, LOSFA Programs



# HOW DOES LOSFA PROGRAMS Reach the State of Louisiana?

## PROMOTING COLLEGE ACCESS THROUGH THE MEDIA

LOCAL NEWS

### Block High School students receive college prep access and support from LOSFA



by: Sharon Cummings

Posted: Mar 6, 2019 / 02:20 PM UTC / Updated: Mar 6, 2019 / 02:20 PM UTC

(3/6/19) Louisiana high school students receive an education that takes them on one of two paths: post-secondary studies or the workforce. Following several reports about students at Block High School in Jonesville, Louisiana, protesting conditions they felt were not preparing them for college – due to lack of supplies and a need for certified teachers – staff at the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance offered help.

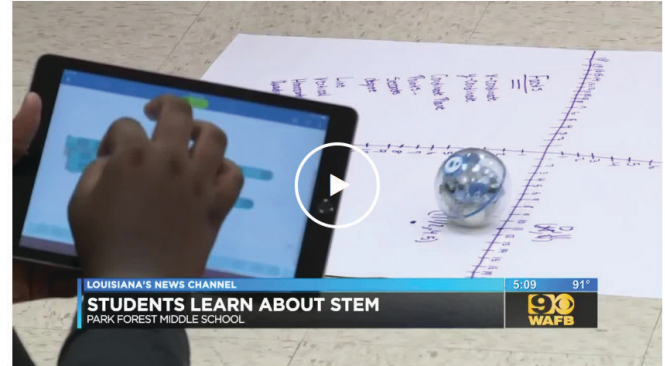
LOSFA's goal is to provide students with opportunities and initiatives that promote college access, to

WAFB9

LIVE NEWS WEATHER SPORTS THE INVESTIGATORS TRAFFIC HEADLINES

### Summer camp teaches students importance of STEM, arts

Students get hands-on experience through LA GEAR UP program



STEM camp at Park Forest Middle School

By Catherine Quant | June 19, 2019 at 5:42 PM CDT - Updated June 19 at 5:42 PM

BATON ROUGE, La. (WAFB) - Students around East Baton Rouge Parish are gathering at Park Forest Middle School for STEAM camp, learning the importance of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.

The week-long camp, in partnership with Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana GEAR UP, offers access to a college environment and promotes learning through activities with robotics, art, programming, and computer science.

82,298 views | Nov 16, 2018, 09:00am

### How Louisiana Led The Nation In FAFSA Completion

civic nation

Sujuan Williams Boutté, Ed.D. Brand Contributor  
Civic Nation BRANDVOICE

Dr. Sujuan W. Boutté, Executive Director for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, is a guest contributor for Reach Higher

For the 2018-2019 FAFSA cycle, Louisiana led the nation with the highest number of high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). With an overall FAFSA completion rate of 77.1%, Louisiana increased its completion rate over the previous year by 25.9%. Louisiana's success can be attributed to both Louisiana's new state financial aid policy and best practices developed by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

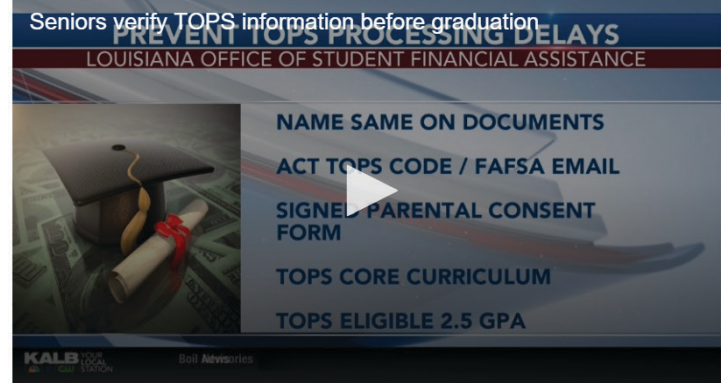
In December 2015, the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) passed a new state financial aid policy that intended to raise students' access to both federal financial aid and state financial aid such as the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)—Louisiana's state merit-based scholarship program. The policy, which was made effective for the Class of 2018, required all graduating high school seniors to complete the FAFSA, apply for TOPS through the online application, submit an opt-out form, or receive a waiver from their high school.

KALB

Weather Sports Legal Advocate Live Newscasts

Home / Local / Article

### High school seniors reminded to check TOPS award before graduation



Posted: Thu 10:59 AM, May 09, 2019 / Updated: Thu 8:00 PM, May 09, 2019



BATON ROUGE, La. (LOSFA) - The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is reminding high school seniors to take steps now, before they graduate, to make sure there are no delays when the office begins processing 2019 graduates for TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students) eligibility.

"If students don't make sure all their information is correct before

# HOW IS LOSFA PROGRAMS

## Addressing the Digital Divide During COVID-19?

### Virtual Assistance

#### FAFSA, TOPS RETENTION, TOPS ELIGIBILITY, LFOS VIRTUAL SESSIONS

##### VIRTUAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

LOSFA offered one-on-one and small and large group sessions and events via ZOOM. Sessions can be scheduled online, where constituents can select the type of assistance they need and select a convenient time to speak to a LOSFA representative. A total of **326** Virtual Office Hour sessions were conducted since the office transitioned to teleworking.

**CLICK  
HERE**  
TO SCHEDULE  
A SESSION

*Virtual*  
**OFFICE HOURS**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

- **93** TOPS Initial Eligibility
- **49** TOPS Retention
- **15** Student Hub
- **90** START
- **79** FAFSA Assistance

(as of 9/4/2020)

##### VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS FEEDBACK:

**"It's just like getting face-to-face assistance."**

– Parent who received assistance from Ebony Holmes, on TOPS Eligibility

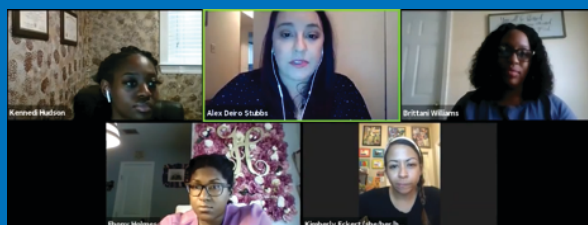
**"It was a good experience and I liked that I could see someone's face while getting my questions answered."**

– Parent who received assistance from Kayla Gros, on TOPS Eligibility

##### LIVE AND INFORMATIONAL VIDEOS

LOSFA participated in the following live and informational videos:

- TOPS and FAFSA Now Informational Video
- Stand for Children Live Video
- Southeastern Louisiana University's discussion on equitable changes to the Louisiana State Assessment System
- Keeping the Promise Town Hall, Part II: Facts, Figures, & Finances: Transitioning Students During COVID-19



### EMAIL STATS

**4,300**

incoming e-mails related to TOPS retention, TOPS eligibility, ACT, TOPS relief updates/changes due to Governor's Proclamation #41, FAFSA assistance, and START  
(as of 6/30/2020)

**313**

emails distributed to inform foster youth of LOSFA's Chafee Educational and Training Voucher

### TEXT STATS

#### HIGH SCHOOL

**58,908**

Texts Sent

**12,475**

Texts Received

(as of  
6/30/2020)

#### POSTSECONDARY

**2018-2019 2019-2020**

**COHORT:**

**COHORT:**

**74,170**

Texts Sent

(as of  
6/30/2020)

**132,913**

Texts Sent

(as of  
6/30/2020)

#### TOPS PROCESSING YEAR-BY-YEAR COMPARISON

**June 28, 2019**

Identified 38,066

Eligible 25,282

Ineligible 11,985

**June 26, 2020**

Identified 32,924

Eligible 22,427

Ineligible 9,983

**FAFSA**

## Now Campaign Results

Louisiana's FAFSA completion rates steadily increased each week throughout the FAFSA Now campaign. Louisiana currently ranks number two, with **78.4%** of seniors completing the financial aid form. That translates to **37,382** students out of 47,669 completing their FAFSA. Last year, we were ranked number one with 82.6% of students completing the form.

Data as of:	2020 Completion	Week to week change
5/1/2020	32,513	+ 569
5/8/2020	32,975	+462
5/15/2020	33,447	+472
5/22/2020	33,816	+369
5/29/2020	34,073	+257
6/5/2020	34,338	+265
6/12/2020	34,570	+232
6/19/2020	34,807	+237
6/26/2020	35,021	+214
7/3/2020	35,372	+351
7/17/2020	35,827	+455
8/23/2020	37,382	+1555

[mylosfa.la.gov](http://mylosfa.la.gov)





## Virtual Campaigns & Programs

### FAFSA NOW CAMPAIGN

**TARGET:** 2020 graduates who either have a submission error or have not completed their FAFSA

**INITIATIVE:**

- **1,464** FAFSA errors were identified, and LOSFA reached out to the students through email, social media, and phone calls to aid in the correction of these errors.
- LOSFA's FAFSA Now Campaign reaches out to students, parents, and families of Louisiana to encourage them to complete or renew their FAFSA.

### TOPS TECH CAMPAIGN

**TARGET:** 2019 graduates who will lose their award Fall 2020, if not accepted

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA's TOPS Tech Campaign ensures 2019 graduates know they must accept their award by Fall 2020 to avoid losing it. TOPS Tech can be used for an associate's degree or other short term training and education programs.

### FOSTER YOUTH CAMPAIGN

**TARGET:** 2020 graduates who indicated they were in foster care or aged out of foster care

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA's Foster Youth Campaign ensures 2020 graduates know about Chafee and other financial aid

### ASPIRE TO INSPIRE COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING PROGRAM

**TARGET:** 2019-20 mentoring students

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA's Aspire to Inspire Comprehensive Mentoring Program provides intensive mentoring support to students who are most at-risk.

### MENTORING FOR NURSING, ENGINEERING AND/OR ACCOUNTING MAJORS PROGRAM

**TARGET:** Students who are currently enrolled or interested in enrolling in one of these majors

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA is currently developing an online mentoring/support group.

### 7TH YEAR SERVICE PROGRAM

**TARGET:** 2019 Louisiana GEAR UP graduates currently enrolled in postsecondary institutions

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA provides support to 2019 Louisiana GEAR UP graduates who are currently enrolled in postsecondary institutions.

### LOUISIANA GEAR UP/LOSFA FIELD OUTREACH PROGRAMS

**TARGET:** 75 middle and high schools in 24 districts

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA provides college and career readiness support.

### GEAR UP ALUM CAMPAIGN

**TARGET:** Former GEAR UP students

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA created a volunteer network to support current GEAR UP students; inform alumni of any unused scholarship funds; and connect them with programs like Complete LA, administered by the University of Louisiana System.

### CONNECT2SUCCESS CAMPAIGN/SUMMER PROGRAMS

**TARGET:** Louisiana GEAR UP students and other middle and high school students

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA provides experiential learning opportunities in the following fields:

- Makerbots/3D Design Imaging
- Cybersecurity
- STEAM for Middle School
- STEAM for High School
- Robotics
- VISTA Scientific Illustration
- Education/Leadership
- Engineering
- Physics
- STILE Future Fest
- ACT (Virtual ACT Prep)

### CONNECT2SUCCESS TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

**TARGET:** Schools throughout the state of Louisiana

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA surveyed 75 schools throughout the state of Louisiana to determine the best way to reach the students, parents, and families.

### TOPS CORONAVIRUS Q & A

**TARGET:** Louisiana students and families

**INITIATIVE:** LOSFA put together a list of questions and answers to keep students and families informed of any changes to the rules or requirements for TOPS, to reach students and families via email, social media, text messaging, and mylosfa.la.gov.

### VIRTUAL TUTORING

**TARGET:** Louisiana GEAR UP students

**INITIATIVE:**

- Tutor.com is provided to Louisiana GEAR UP AP Students and facilitated at [www.tutor.com/lagearup](http://www.tutor.com/lagearup).
- Virtual tutors are provided by LOSFA/Louisiana GEAR UP using Google Classroom and Zoom in the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- English I, II
- Biology
- Civics
- Geometry

## Student VOICE



"Through the support of LOFSA, my high school was able to create opportunities for students to explore colleges outside of our area. In conversations with my classmates, I can see how their passion for attending college has grown as a result of the college campus experience. Resources such as computers, classroom supplies and test prep materials have helped both me and my peers to realize and achieve our post-high school goals. There are more students who can see themselves as college students."

**Anastasia Bryan**  
St. Helena College and Career Academy  
12th Grade Senior

## CONNECT2SUCCESS Partner Solutions

### GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

- **30** Hotspots to provide internet access to students wishing to participate in summer activities.
- **30** MS Surface Go Devices\*
- MS Teams\*\* will be used to reach students.

### SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

- **30** Chromebooks for summer programming and other activities.

### NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

- **92** MS Surface Go Devices\*
- MS Teams\*\* will be used to reach students.

\*The MS Surface Go Devices and the MS Teams online platform are both Microsoft (MS) products to simplify and enhance usability. Teachers will use the same devices to further prevent issues and help with trouble shooting.

\*\*MS Teams is similar to Zoom, Google Meet, and Webex. However, it also allows for synchronous chats and the permanent posting of PDFs Microsoft word docs, PowerPoint slide shows, and Videos (live and recorded) all in one place. The lessons and material will be recorded and posted on MS Teams\* for reference by students unable to log in synchronously.

## Other Virtual Services

- School and District Support
  - Technology
  - Electronic Academic/College Access Resources
- Phone Outreach (e.g. financial aid assistance, summer programs, mentoring, college & career advising, etc.)

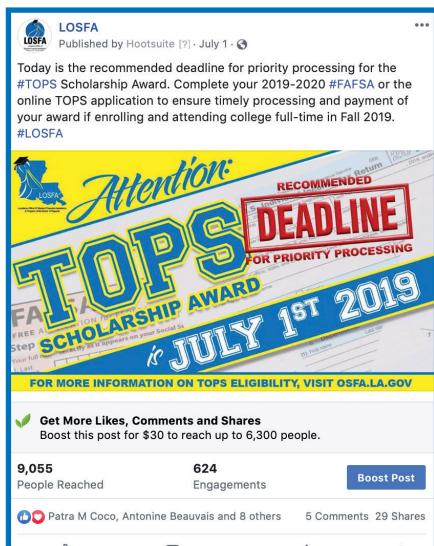
[mylosfa.la.gov](http://mylosfa.la.gov)

# HOW DOES LOSFA PROGRAMS

## Communicate with Parents and Students?

### SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Students, families, legislators, and other constituents can receive essential TOPS, financial aid, scholarships, and other college access resources via LOSFA's social media pages. Followers of the LOSFA accounts can see glimpses into what we do to promote, prepare for, and provide equity of access to postsecondary education via photos, informative posts and links, interactive content, and videos. LOSFA's social media platforms open a direct line of communication with students, families, legislators, and other constituents by providing an additional avenue of support and source of information.



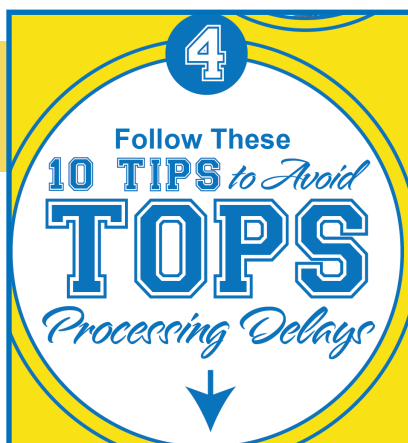
LOSFA Facebook post reminding students and parents of the TOPS Priority deadline for processing.



LOSFA Instagram post highlighting Block High School students

### LA NEXT MAGAZINE

LA Next Magazine is distributed to parents, counselors, and 100,000 juniors and seniors in the state of Louisiana, to provide resources that prepares students for life beyond a high school diploma



Track your TOPS award eligibility and status and receive your award letter FIRST via your Student Hub account. Once in college, all information relating to your continuing eligibility for TOPS and your TOPS postsecondary GPA will be delivered via your Student Hub account.

#### How do I log into the STUDENT HUB?

To log into Student Hub, go to LOSFA's website: [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov) and click on "Student Hub". In order to set up an account, you will need to use your assigned LOSFA ID or LA SecureID. Once logged into your account, you will be able to check your TOPS status, ACT Score, notifications, etc. While logged into your account, you will also have the ability to choose to grant your parent(s) permission to access your information via the "Parent Hub".

#### When will I know if I have TOPS?

TOPS processing for eligibility begins in June each year. You will be notified of eligibility by email. You can also monitor your TOPS eligibility status in your Student Hub account.

- 1 Spelling and punctuation matter! Your name, date of birth, address and e-mail address must be exactly the SAME on ALL documents, applications, etc.
- 2 Include the ACT TOPS code of 1695 or the SAT TOPS code of 9019 on all ACT/SAT test registrations.
- 3 Make sure your school has a parent-signed consent form granting LOSFA access to transcript data.
- 4 Make sure you are taking the required units that comprise the TOPS Core Curricula.
- 5 Be aware that TOPS Awards are based on TOPS Core GPA...not overall GPA...and GPAs cannot be rounded up or down.
- 6 You and your parent must each apply for an FSA ID and use them to electronically sign and complete your FAFSA.
- 7 FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is also the application for TOPS. The 2020-2021 FAFSA will be available October 1, 2019, at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
- 8 For TOPS Tech, a qualifying WorkKeys score of Silver and above can be used instead of a qualifying ACT score. If applicable, make sure your counselor has this score on file.
- 9 "Like" LOSFA on Facebook and/or "Follow" LOSFA on Twitter and Instagram for important TOPS information throughout the year.
- 10 Create a LOSFA Student Hub account to follow your progress towards earning a TOPS Award and also track your TOPS continuation eligibility throughout your postsecondary studies. Make sure your highest ACT score is reflected in your TOPS Tracker. If you cannot access your TOPS Tracker, that may indicate your school does not have a signed consent form on file for you.

[@LOSFA](https://www.facebook.com/LOSFA)
[@LOSFA](https://twitter.com/LOSFA)
[@losfa001](https://www.instagram.com/losfa001)



# SIGNAL VINE TEXT MESSAGING CAMPAIGNS

LOSFA's Signal Vine text messaging campaigns keep parents and students informed. Our contacts can be broken down by the TOPS award level for each student, which allows us to send personalized messages while targeting a specific group of TOPS recipients.

## Postsecondary Example Message:

DT

i tried logging in and it's not letting me

- 12/17/19 | 02:21 PM

EH

It looks like you already have an account set up. If you can't remember your username or password you can use your LOSFA ID to recover that information by clicking the links on the sign-in page.

Ebony Holmes - 12/18/19 | 03:59 PM

DT

Hi, i logged in and I don't see anything saying that I have TOPS for my spring semester when my GPA is from the fall semester is a 3.7.

- 12/31/19 | 06:00 PM

RB

Hi ! LOSFA has not processed Fall grades from Fletcher Technical Community College yet. LOSFA will be processing some grades tonight, so please check the Student Hub on Friday for a status update. Thank you.

Rhonda Bridevaux - 1/02/20 | 03:31 PM

## 2019-2020 CAMPAIGN

### POSTSECONDARY

Participants: 17,553  
Total Messages Sent: 51,798  
Total Messages Received: 1,349

### HIGH SCHOOL

Participants: 2,329  
Total Messages Sent: 4,611  
Total Messages Received: 2,129

**Meeting Students**  
*Where They Are*

### Did You Know?

*It takes the average person 90 minutes to respond to email, but only 90 seconds to respond to a text message.*

Source: Simple Texting


## High School Example Message:

JC

HighSchool

Hey

Have you renewed your FAFSA for the 2020-2021 school year? Be sure to log into fafsa.gov using your FSA ID and complete the new FAFSA. If you currently receive any federal aid, TOPS, and/or scholarships, it is vital to renew your FAFSA for the upcoming school year in order to meet important deadlines so that you may continue to receive all of your aid. Please let us know if you have any questions!



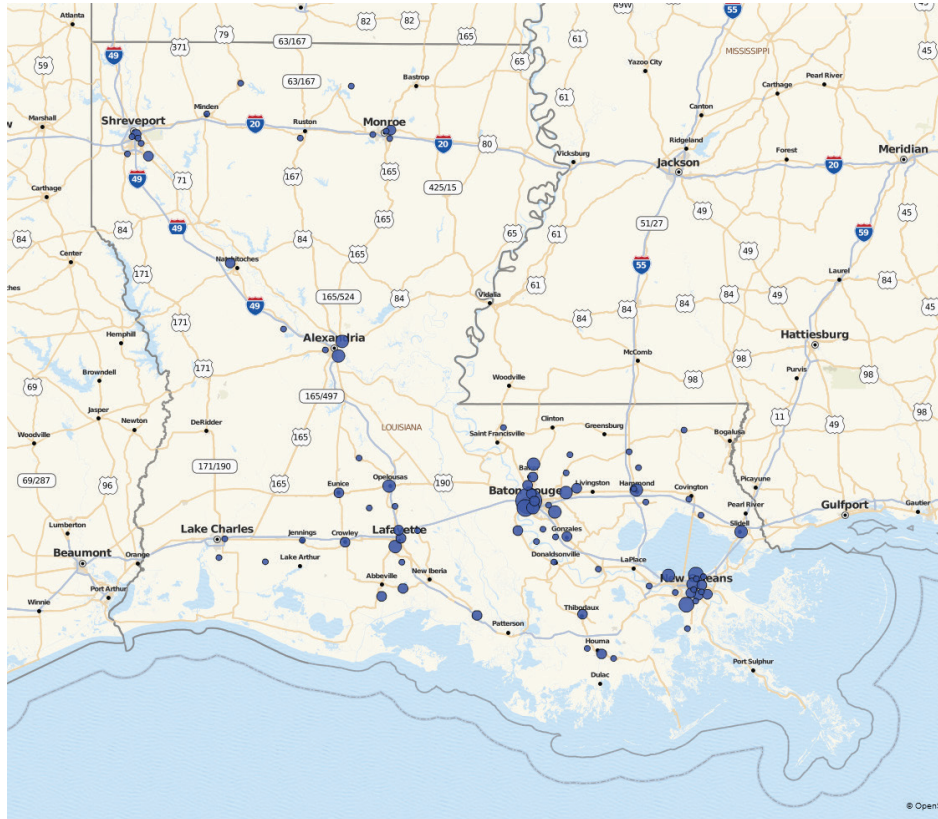
Elizabeth Sanchez - 10/21/19 | 01:29 PM

Hi it's Kyleigh and Liz, your GEAR UP coordinators! Have you scheduled your classes for next semester? Please reply YES or NO so we can assist you further!

KQ

# STATEWIDE OUTREACH EVENTS

19,367 students, parents, guidance counselors and members of the general public, were assisted by LOSFA staff from July 1, 2018 to June 7, 2019 through LOSFA public information and communications outreach events. (2018-19 Data)



## FINANCIAL AID SEMINARS

LOSFA joins students and parents year-round for junior and senior meetings to educate families on Free Student Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completions and financial aid before students complete the FAFSA. These seminars include counselor training, which introduces counselors to the FAFSA mobile application, and sessions with former United States Department of Education (USDOE) employees that have experience in financial aid.



COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA APPLICATION

WHAT WILL I NEED TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA? • CREATE A NEW FSA ID

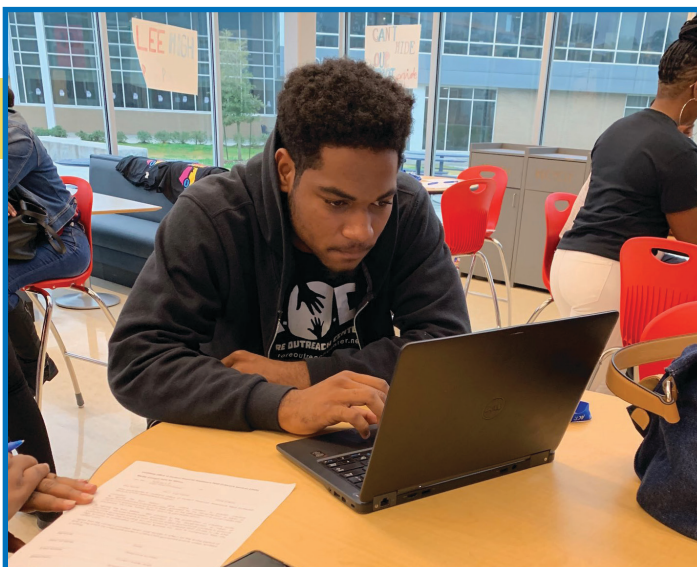
**Note:** LOSFA's Compete to Complete website showcases high schools around the state of Louisiana competing to see which school has the most FAFSA completions.





## TOPS SEMINARS

TOPS seminars provide information on Louisiana's Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). These seminars include information on program requirements in high school and continuation requirements once students enter postsecondary education institutions. TOPS retention seminars cater to students who were awarded TOPS, giving students information on how to avoid cancellation and/or suspension of their TOPS Award. Pre-TOPS retention workshops will provide students the information needed to determine whether the student is progressing successfully toward TOPS Award eligibility.



## LOUISIANA COLLEGE APPLICATION AND ACCESS MONTH

Louisiana College Access Month (LCAAM) is designed to assist 12th grade students in navigating the complex college admissions process. During this month, students are encouraged to apply to at least one postsecondary institution of interest. During LCAAM, students also receive assistance in conducting career and military searches, and are encouraged to complete the application process.



**Did You Know?**  
*Applying to 2 colleges instead of 1  
increases college enrollment by 40%.*

Source: College Board Advocacy & Policy Center

## FAFSA COMPLETION EVENTS

LOSFA offers one on one support, and line by line assistance with students and parents to complete the FAFSA.

### FIX YOUR FAFSA EVENT

LOSFA hosted a Fix Your FAFSA event this year to assist students and parents with completing the FAFSA, and correcting errors in completing the 2018-19 FAFSA Completion cycle.

For the second year in a row, Louisiana ranked 1st in the nation for having the highest overall FAFSA completion rates.

According to the National College Access Network's (NCAN) FAFSA Tracker, 78.7 percent of Louisiana's 47,837 seniors have completed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid before the priority deadline. The priority deadline ensures that TOPS is processed successfully in time for the fall semester.

### FAFSA TOURNAMENT

LOSFA hosts an annual FAFSA Tournament at high school basketball tournaments to assist students and parents with completing and correcting the FAFSA.

### GEAUX FAFSA HELP LINE

Students and school counselors can email [GeauxFAFSA@la.gov](mailto:GeauxFAFSA@la.gov) to receive FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion assistance and help in understanding and navigating the student financial aid process.



# HOW DOES LOSFA PROGRAMS

## Help Students Plan for their Future?

### COLLEGE MATCH & FIT WORKSHOPS & 5-POINT MATCH: COST OF CHOICE

In an effort to assist students with understanding the cost of choice for their chosen post-secondary institution, a cross curricular lesson was developed specifically aimed at the costs of textbooks. These lessons were created for the different institutions in the state of Louisiana and each is unique in terms of the specific books needed for classes.

The lessons provide students with textbooks that are seen in common freshman classes such as English, Math, Psychology, and History. The students begin by researching the cost of textbooks for each listed class using the institutions' bookstore. Students record the bookstore price and add all of the prices together to receive their total. The second part of the activity has students researching alternative textbook websites, such as Amazon and Chegg, in order to try to reduce the costs of their textbooks.

Upon completion of the activities, students are provided with a list of tips for saving money when buying their textbooks which includes ideas such as renting, borrowing the required book from someone, using a past edition (with permission from their professor), among other ideas.

Match and fit activities are provided to students in order to help prepare them for their first year in postsecondary education. These match and fit activities provide an opportunity for students to research their top three postsecondary institutions, including required GPA and ACT scores. Students take their top institution and research the cost of attendance for the school, including tuition and fees, housing, meal plans, miscellaneous costs, books and supplies, and out-of-state fees, if applicable. Students then research schools' specific facts including class size, graduation rate, retention rate, distance from home, the number of undergraduate students enrolled, and school accreditation.

**KICK OFF YOUR 5-POINT MATCH AT UNLOCKMYFUTURE.ORG!**

**MEET THE LOSFA 5-POINT MATCH!**

**UNLOCK YOUR CAREER PATH AND GET PAID FOR WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO!**

If you've found your career code, you're already off and running with the LOSFA 5-Point Match tool! It's all about discovering what you do better than anyone else, and turning what you love into an actual living. Make sure to check out the My Keys section at [unlockmyfuture.org](http://unlockmyfuture.org) for a bunch of resources that will guide you through the other match points and help you to create your career prep plan. These will all play big parts in helping you create the roadmap for your future.

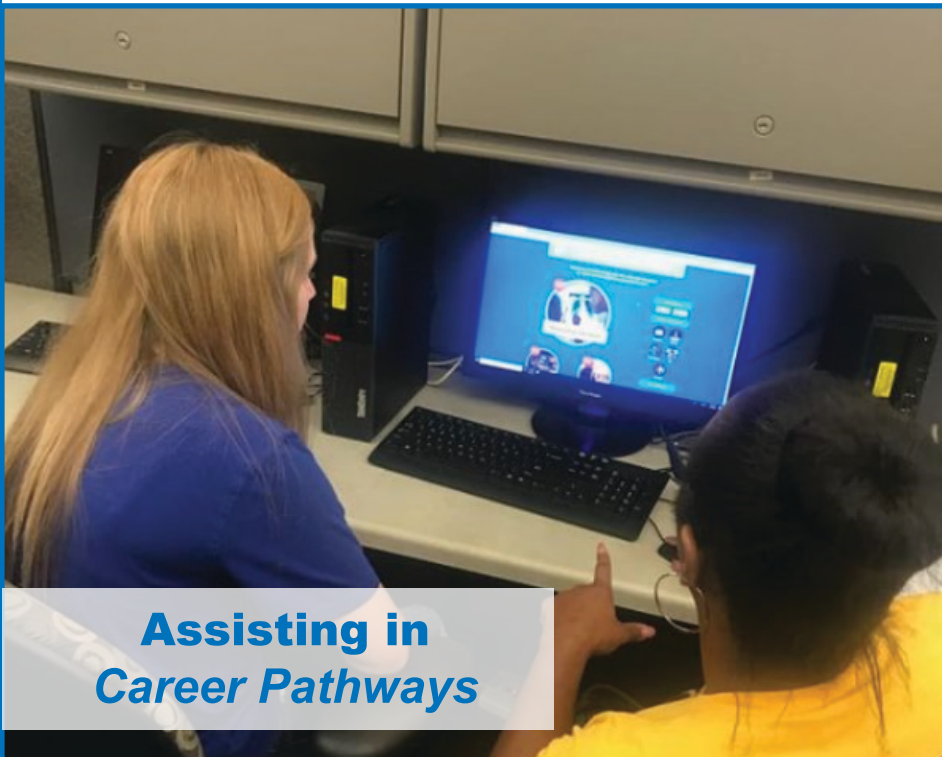
The LOSFA 5-Point Match tool helps make sure Louisiana kids like you have everything you need to prepare for awesomeness in school and beyond. You're in the driver's seat, now—where you're headed is all up to you!

**YOUR KEYS**

The LOSFA 5-Point Match tool is all about helping Louisiana students get started on the path to success. The best career choices for you, how to pay for the education you need, where you meet admission standards and more—the 5-Point Match has got you covered.

**YOUR FUTURE IS READY TO BE UNLOCKED! VISIT UNLOCKMYFUTURE.ORG TODAY!**

Academics, Skills & Interests, Academics, Cost of Choice, Social and Emotional, Wellness



Assisting in Career Pathways



## CONNECT2SUCCESS SCIENCE FRIDAY



## FLY TOUR

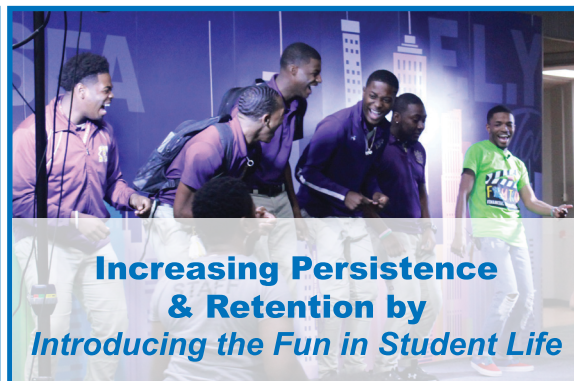




## FLY TOUR

(Financial Literacy for You)

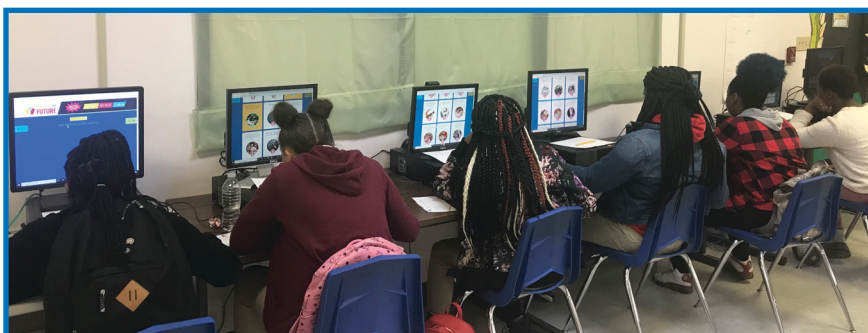
The FLY Tour is a theatrical presentation that provides college access information and resources in an effort to increase financial awareness, academic performance and participation in college preparatory events. The FLY Tour takes place on various college campuses - during the academic year – to demonstrate a college-going culture and prepare middle and high school students for success beyond a high school education.



**Increasing Persistence  
& Retention by  
Introducing the Fun in Student Life**

## ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

Aspire to Inspire (A2I) is a comprehensive mentoring program that was founded in 2015. This program was designed with the intention of engaging and helping 6th through 12th grade male and female students identified as needing additional support in-and-out of the classroom. Initially, A2I began as a one-on-one mentoring program but has grown into a small group and large group mentoring program, serving hundreds of mentees across the state of Louisiana.



**Eliminating Self-Doubt &  
Developing Confidence**



# HOW DOES LOSFA PROGRAMS

*Empower Students, Counselors, and Teachers?*

## LOSFA TRAILBLAZER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The LOSFA Trailblazer Leadership Program provides financial aid and college access training with the added benefits of leadership and mentoring skills training for 9th – 12th grade high school students. The purpose of the program is to prepare Trailblazers for life after high school. Activities include how to access, complete and submit a formal application for college admission, financial aid, scholarships, and housing, among other postsecondary educational opportunities.



**Developing  
Future Leaders**

## FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

The Financial Literacy Program is a customized program designed with each postsecondary institution's curriculum in mind. Through the partnership, LOSFA's program goals are to

- Build knowledge of economic, academic, cultural, and social capital,
- Empower students to recognize the importance and connection between managing finances and degree completion,
- Foster a financially literate community for first-year, continuing, and non-traditional students, and
- Promote holistic student development.

Sessions are held with students to discuss how to borrow loans responsibly and avoid student loan default. Professional development trainings are also held with financial aid call centers and the college success skills instructors at postsecondary institutions to discuss strategies to advise students on loan borrowing, train them on general financial aid policies and procedures, and share best practices to advise students on verification, loans, and more.



**Teaching  
Money Management Skills**



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LOSFA professional development and specialized learning opportunities aim to increase student achievement and college and career readiness by improving knowledge and skills of district staff, LOSFA On-Site School Coordinators (OSSCs), Louisiana GEAR UP Explorers' Club Sponsors, counselors, and other district/school personnel (i.e., principals, teachers). Students also receive professional development to sharpen their leadership and team-building skills, strengthening the college going culture in their school. Professional development may range from a one-day conference to a multi-year advanced course. Trainings and courses are facilitated in person and/or online during the school day and/or outside of normal school hours, through one-on-one interactions and/or in group settings.

LOSFA, in partnership with the Louisiana Counseling Association, awards participants with Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for successfully completing certain courses and professional development

## COUNSELOR WORKSHOPS

Each Fall, LOSFA conducts half-day workshops for high school counselors at several locations around the state. These workshops are designed to update counselors about the student financial aid process so they can best assist their students in preparing for their crucial first year of college. At each workshop, LOSFA representatives instruct counselors on the latest changes to both federal and state aid programs, FAFSA Completion and other LOSFA services. There are also workshops for middle school counselors designed to provide tools and resources to promote early college and career awareness.



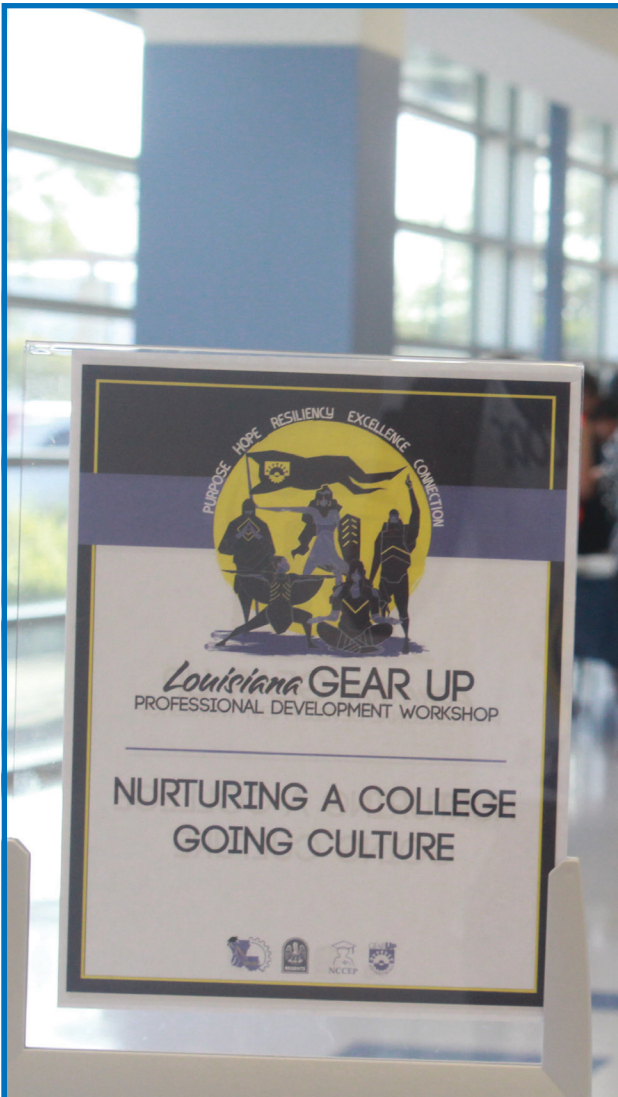
## SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD (SREB) GO ALLIANCE ACADEMY

### Collegiate Athletics Compliance Informational Session

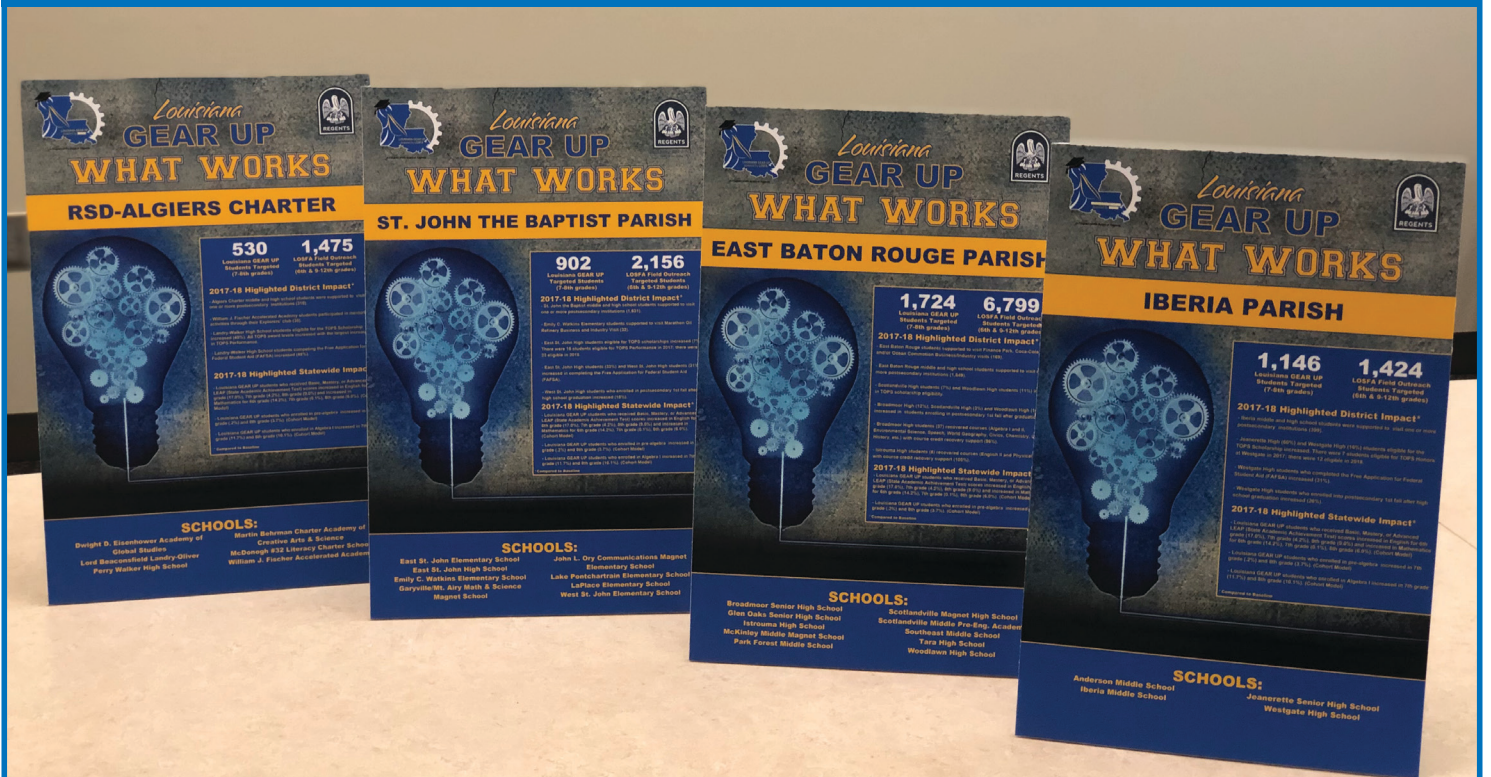
The LOSFA's Go Alliance Academy hosts Collegiate Athletics Compliance Informational Session which provides information to school counselors and college access professionals regarding compliance requirements including, but not limited to, purposes and functions, student-athlete eligibility information, and student-athlete registration information for the major athletic associations (NCAA, NJCAA, and NAIA).

The session provides financial aid and scholarship information for school counselors and college access professionals to effectively advise their student-athletes to prepare for their transition to postsecondary education as student-athletes.





## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT





# What Programs Does LOSFA RUN?

PROGRAMS CURRENTLY FUNDED	PROGRAM OVERVIEW	PRIOR YEAR STATISTICS (FY 2018-19)			FUNDING TYPE	CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATION (FY 2019-20)
		PARTICIPANT TYPE	# SERVED	DOLLARS		
TOPS – Taylor Opportunity Program for Students	Merit Based Aid – Scholarship program	Undergraduate	56,232	\$302,180,317	SGF	\$251,830,114
Louisiana GO Grant	Need Based Aid – Grant program	Undergraduate	25,584	\$28,423,258	SGF	\$59,202,426
Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship	Grant -La. Scholarship for forestry, wildlife and fisheries majors	Undergraduate Graduate	15 11	\$29,000 \$31,000	SD	\$28,429,108
John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program	Loan Repayment - Assists prosecutors and public defenders with student loan debt	Currently the Federal FY 18-19 program funds are on hold at the federal level. When funds are released they will be distributed as follows: \$19,500 to 10 Prosecutors and \$19,500 to 5 Public Defenders			Fed	\$63,245
Chafee Education and Training Voucher – Administered for DCFS	Special Purpose - Provides assistance to students who have aged out of foster care	Aged-Out Foster Youth	58	\$225,417	IAT	\$267,824
GO Youth Challenge Grant	Merit Based Aid – Scholarship program	Undergraduate	13	\$21,449	SGF	\$200,000
BESE Tuition Program for Teachers	Grant - Assists current teachers to enroll in courses at Louisiana colleges and universities at the state's expense.	Teachers	13	\$13,162	SGF	\$20,000
START Saving Program	Earning Enhancements – Louisiana's 529 Qualified College Saving Program	Account Owners	64,873	\$979,939,108	SGF	\$1,900,000
LA ABLE Program	Savings Plan - Disabled Individuals - Louisiana's 529(a) Qualified ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Program	Account Owners	248	\$817,024	Current LOSFA Staffing	
START K12 Program	Savings Plan - Louisiana's 529 Qualified Elementary/Secondary school Saving Program	Account Owners	515	\$985,351	Current LOSFA Staffing	
Paul Douglas – Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program	Loan Repayment Collections – to be remitted to the Fed. DOE	This appropriation is budget authority to collect repayments and remit those payments to US DOE. Program has been inactive since 1994-95.			Fed	\$50,000
Regional Contract Program (RCP)	Loan Forgiveness – Assists La residents to study Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine or Podiatry at select out-of-state institutions.	New Program for LOSFA			SGF	\$97,516
Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program – Administered for DCFS	Special Purpose–Vocational Education and Adult Education training for TANF/FITAP recipients	Adult Ed Voc Ed	0 4	\$0 \$5,879	IAT	\$441,538
LA GEAR UP (La Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)	High Poverty Middle & High School Students – Seven-year federal grant to increase preparedness and success of low-income students in postsecondary education	6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Graders & 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Freshmen	11,492	\$4,382,290	Fed	\$3,500,000
LOSFA Field Outreach Services (LFOS)	Outreach Services – Preparedness and success for post secondary education	6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Graders	23,614	\$1,712,615	SGF	\$1,758,624
LOSFA Public Information & Communications (PIC)	College Access Services – Statewide Provision of Information on College Access and Financial Assistance Programs	F2F Contacts Electronic Contacts	19,005 38,063	\$1,055,419	Fed SGF	\$255,565 \$1,246,703





# HOW DOES LOSFA PROGRAMS

*Help Families Save for K-12, College, and Disability Services?*

## START SAVING PROGRAM

The Student Tuition Assistance & Revenue Trust (START) Program was designed to help families contend with the growing cost of educating their children.

Administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), under the direction of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATA), the START Program is an Educational Savings Account recognized as a Qualified Tuition Program under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

An account is used to save for Qualified Higher Education Expenses at any accredited college, university or proprietary schools (in-state or out-of-state).

### ADVANTAGES

- 10 investment funds are available
- The State of Louisiana will match up to 14% of deposits each year with Earnings Enhancements
- Tax Advantages: Earnings used for Qualified Higher Education Expenses are exempt from state and federal taxes
- Deposits can be made through automatic bank debit, payroll deduction, or direct payment (including lump sums).

**NO FEES** are charged to participants in the START Saving Program.



## START K12 SAVINGS PLAN

The State of Louisiana is proud to offer the new START K12 savings plan, which allows families to save for tuition expenses\* related to attendance at eligible Louisiana schools that provide kindergarten through twelfth grade instruction. An eligible school is a public or approved nonpublic elementary or secondary school in Louisiana that contains any of the grades kindergarten through twelve.

Any funds remaining after a child graduates from high school can be rolled over into a START Saving Plan.

### ADVANTAGES

- Five investment funds are offered to meet the unique circumstances of each Account Owner. These options range from very conservative to very aggressive.
- An Account Owner may select one or more investment funds with various equity mutual funds, and age-based track funds.
- Up to \$10,000 per year may be used to pay the Qualified Tuition Expenses of the Beneficiary at any Louisiana school that provides kindergarten through twelfth grade instruction.
- Disbursements are exempt from federal taxes if used to pay Qualified Education Expenses, which means the program does not pay taxes that could reduce your return on investments.
- Deposits can be made through automatic bank debit, payroll deduction, or direct payment (including lump sums). There is no limitation on the frequency of deposits, and the minimum deposit amount is only \$10.

**NO FEES** are charged to participants in the START K12 Saving Program. The START K12 Saving Program is charged management fees on monies in mutual funds offered by The Vanguard Group.

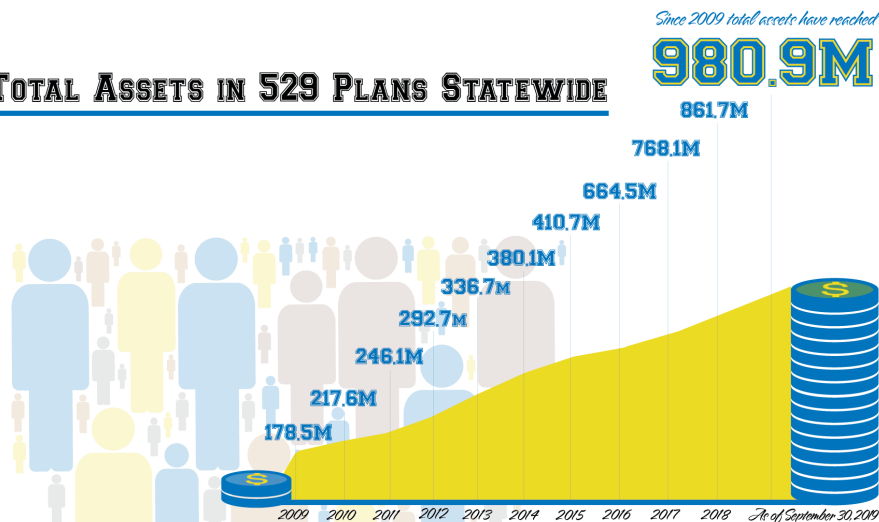
**\*NOTE** that START K12 funds can only be used to pay tuition. If your school is eligible, but does not charge tuition, you cannot use START K12 funds for any expenses necessary to attend those schools.

## LA ABLE

Louisiana Achieving a Better Life Experience (LA ABLE) is a program which allows families to save for disability related expenses of their loved ones (e.g., education, housing, and transportation). The advantage of this program is that it allows the family to save without worrying about whether the assets in an account will be counted as an asset for purposes of determining eligibility for federal and state benefits programs such as Medicaid and Social Security.

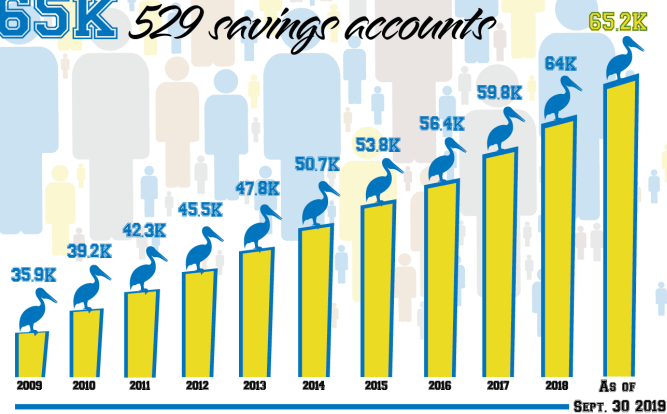
## START SAVING PROGRAM STATEWIDE

### TOTAL ASSETS IN 529 PLANS STATEWIDE



### TOTAL 529 SAVINGS ACCOUNTS STATEWIDE

There are **65K** 529 savings accounts



### AVERAGE 529 SAVINGS ACCOUNT SIZE STATEWIDE

The average account size of 529 savings plans continues to **GROW.**

**\$4,963**  **\$15,037**

2009 ..... As of Sept. 30, 2019

As of September 30, 2019, **40%** of 529 savings accounts in Louisiana received contributions through automatic funding.



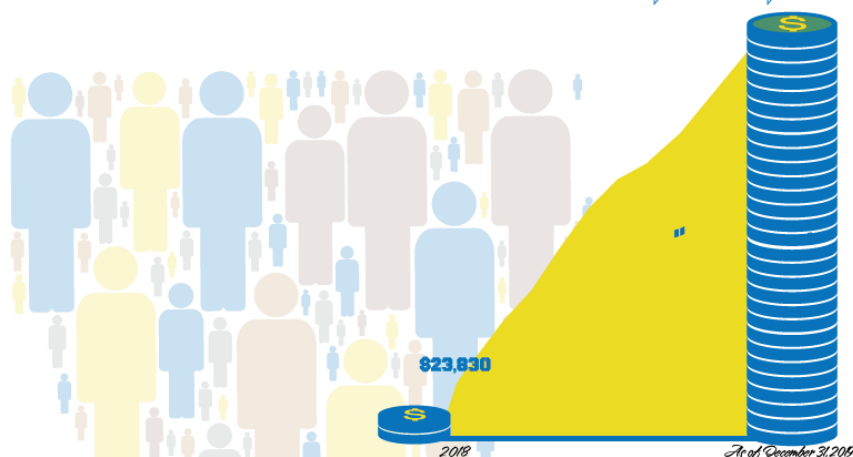
## START K12 PLAN STATEWIDE

### TOTAL ASSETS IN START K12 ACCOUNTS STATEWIDE

(PROGRAM START DATE: 12/13/2018)

Since 2018 total assets have reached

**\$2,222,826**



### TOTAL START K12 ACCOUNTS STATEWIDE

There are **430** START K12 accounts



### AVERAGE START K12 ACCOUNT SIZE STATEWIDE

The average account size of **START K12** accounts continues to **GROW**.

**\$1,036**



**\$5,169**

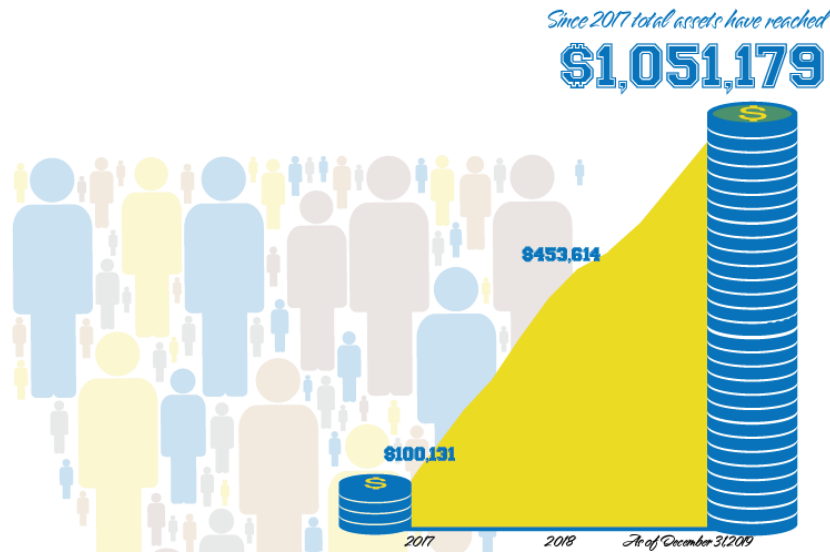
2018 ..... As of Dec. 31, 2019

As of December 31, 2019, **71%** of **START K12** accounts  
in Louisiana received contributions through automatic funding.

\*NOTE that START K12 funds can only be used to pay tuition. If your school is eligible, but does not charge tuition, you cannot use START K12 funds for any expenses necessary to attend those schools.

## LA ABLE PLAN STATEWIDE

### TOTAL ASSETS IN LA ABLE ACCOUNTS STATEWIDE



### TOTAL LA ABLE ACCOUNTS STATEWIDE



### AVERAGE LA ABLE ACCOUNT SIZE STATEWIDE

The average account size of LA ABLE accounts continues to **GROW.**

**\$3,230** ..... **\$4,551**  
2017 ..... As of Dec. 31, 2019

As of December 31, 2019, **82%** of LA ABLE accounts  
in Louisiana received contributions through automatic funding.



# How Does LOSFA PROGRAMS PROVIDE INTENSIVE OUTREACH SERVICES to Limited Income Students & Families?

## BY COUPLING STATE FUNDS WITH A FEDERAL GRANT, KNOWN AS GEAR UP

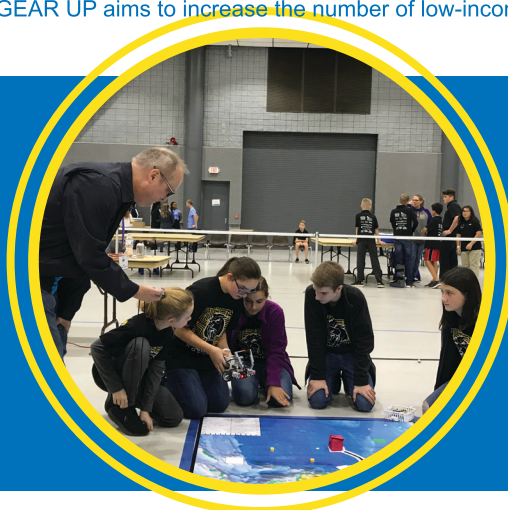
### WHAT IS GEAR UP?

A federally funded national initiative, Louisiana GEAR UP (Louisiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, which awards grants to states or partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools.

The State of Louisiana has received three GEAR UP state grant awards. In 2016, Louisiana was awarded the third grant, a seven-year \$24.5 million award. In 2008, Louisiana GEAR UP received a six-year grant for \$18 million, with a cohort of 6th and 7th grade students. In 2002, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Louisiana a six-year, \$12.5 million GEAR UP grant, which became a seven-year, \$15 million award. This federal grant\* award must be matched dollar-for-dollar with state+ or private funds or in the form of documented in-kind contributions.

In partnership with 15 school districts, Louisiana GEAR UP aims to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

**2019-2020**  
**LA GEAR UP**  
**TARGET GRADES:**  
**9TH - 10TH GRADES**  
**AND 6TH - 12TH IN**  
**SABINE**



**2019-2020**  
**LA GEAR UP**  
**TARGET STUDENTS:**  
**12,567**

## LA GEAR UP SERVICES

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)^

Go Alliance Academy PD Sessions  
College & Career Planning PD Sessions  
Financial Aid/FAFSA PD Sessions

### COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING^

Traditional Mentoring Session  
Group Mentoring Sessions  
Peer Mentoring Sessions  
College Access Club Activities

### TOPS/FAFSA/FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS^

TOPS Eligibility Requirement Workshops  
FAFSA/FSA ID Completion/College Goal  
Sunday Workshops  
Financial Literacy Workshops

### TOPS, FAFSA, & GENERAL FINANCIAL AID SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

START (Louisiana's 529 College Saving Program) Seminars and Workshops  
F.L.Y. (Financial Literacy for You) Tour

### COLLEGE/CAREER COUNSELING ADVISING^

LOSFA's 5-Point Match & Fit Tool Courses and Sessions  
Google Expeditions (Virtual College Tours) Sessions  
College Kick-Off & Senior Year Game Plan Events and Sessions  
Louisiana College Application & Access Month LCAAM) Events and Sessions  
TOPS Check/Retention Workshops and Sessions  
Leadership/Transition Summits  
College Acceptance Day/Award Ceremonies  
21st Century Scholar Ceremonies  
College Access Browsers  
Cross-Curricular College Access Activities  
Direct-to-Student Text Messaging Services  
College/Career Counseling Sessions

### COLLEGE/CAREER ACCESS SUPPORT

ACT/SAT/Standardized Test Prep Supports  
Academic/ELA/Math Support/Tutoring Supports  
Advanced Placement/International  
Baccalaureate Supports

Campus Field Trip Supports  
Dual Enrollment Supports  
Positive Behavior Supports  
Business and Industry Pilot/Visits Supports  
Postsecondary Summer Enrichment/Bridge Programs  
Industry Visits/Career Fairs Supports

### OTHER 529 PLAN SERVICES LA ABLE (ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE)

Programs; Louisiana's 529A Saving Plan for Persons with Disabilities Seminars and Workshops

^These services can be requested by any Louisiana school (public or private), church, or community organization through an Event Request Form.

**Narrowing  
Opportunity Gaps**

# WHICH SCHOOLS

## *Currently Receive Intensive Services?*

### *House of Representatives*

#### **District 3**

Linwood Public Charter +

#### **District 7**

Converse High School \*  
Pleasant Hill High School \*

#### **District 11**

Lincoln Preparatory School +\*

#### **District 14**

Neville High School +\*  
Robert E. Lee Junior High School +

#### **District 16**

Bastrop High School +\*  
Carroll High School +\*  
Carroll Junior High School +  
Delta Junior High School +  
Morehouse Junior High School +

#### **District 17**

Martin Luther King Junior High School +  
Wossman High School +\*

#### **District 18**

Livonia High School +\*  
Rougon Elementary School +  
STEM Academy +\*  
Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary School +

#### **District 20**

Block High School +  
Sicily Island High School +

#### **District 21**

Madison High School +\*  
Madison Middle School +

#### **District 23**

Red River High School +\*  
Red River Junior High School +

#### **District 24**

Ebarb High School \*  
Florien High School \*  
Many High School \*  
Many Junior High School \*  
Negreet High School \*  
Zwolle High School \*

#### **District 28**

Red River Charter Academy +

#### **District 29**

Glen Oaks Senior High School +\*

#### **District 34**

Oak Park Middle School +  
Ray D. Molo Middle Magnet School +  
Washington/Marion Magnet High School +\*

#### **District 36**

F.K. White Middle School +  
LaGrange High School +\*

#### **District 48**

Iberia Middle School +  
Westgate High School +\*

#### **District 49**

Jeanerette Senior High School +\*

#### **District 56**

Emily C. Watkins Elementary School +

#### **District 57**

East St. John High School +\*  
East St. John Preparatory Academy +  
John L. Ory Communications Magnet Elementary +  
Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School +\*  
LaPlace Elementary School +  
West St. John Elementary School +  
West St. John High School +\*

#### **District 61**

Istrouma High School +

#### **District 62**

East Feliciana High School +\*  
East Feliciana Middle School +

#### **District 63**

Baker Middle School +  
Park Ridge Academic Magnet School +  
Scotlandville Magnet High School +\*  
Scotlandville Middle Pre-Engineering Academy +

#### **District 66**

Woodlawn High School +\*

#### **District 67**

Capitol High School +  
McKinley Middle Magnet School +

#### **District 68**

Lee Magnet High School +\*  
McKinley Senior High School +\*

#### **District 69**

Broadmoor Senior High School +\*  
Southeast Middle School +  
Tara High School +\*

#### **District 72**

St. Helena College and Career Academy +\*

#### **District 81**

Garyville/Mt. Airy Math & Science Magnet School +

#### **District 86**

Independence High Magnet School +

#### **District 96**

Anderson Middle School +  
New Iberia Senior High School +\*

#### **District 97**

Pierre A. Capdau Charter School +

#### **District 100**

Einstein Charter High at S.T.R. +  
Einstein Charter Middle at S.T.R. +

#### **District 101**

Belaire High School +\*  
Park Forest Middle School +

#### **District 102**

Edna Karr High School +\*  
Lord Beaconsfield Landry-Oliver Perry Walker High +\*  
Martin Behrman Charter Academy of Creative Arts & Sciences +

+This school is a **LOSFA Field Outreach Services** participant, which operates using **state funds**.

\*This school is a **Louisiana GEAR UP** participant, which operates using **federal funds**.

**Don't see a school listed in your district?**

**This is due to limited state and federal resources.**



# WHICH SCHOOLS

## *Currently Receive Intensive Services?*

### *Senate*

#### **District 2**

East St. John High School +\*  
East St. John Preparatory Academy +  
Garyville/Mt. Airy Math & Science Magnet School +  
West St. John Elementary School +  
West St. John High School +\*

#### **District 3**

Pierre A. Capdau Charter School +  
Einstein Charter High at S.T.R. +  
Einstein Charter Middle at S.T.R. +

#### **District 6**

Woodlawn High School +\*

#### **District 7**

Edna Karr High School +\*  
Lord Beaconsfield Landry-Oliver Perry Walker High  
Martin Behrman Charter Academy of Creative Arts and Sciences +

#### **District 12**

Independence High Magnet School +

#### **District 14**

Capitol High School +  
Istrouma High School +  
McKinley Middle Magnet School +

#### **District 15**

Baker Middle School +  
Belaire High School +\*  
Glen Oaks Senior High School +\*  
Park Forest Middle School +  
Park Ridge Academic Magnet School +  
Scotlandville Magnet High School +\*  
Scotlandville Middle Pre-Engineering Academy +  
Southeast Middle School +

#### **District 16**

Broadmoor Senior High School +\*  
Lee Magnet High School +\*  
McKinley Senior High School +\*  
Tara High School +\*

#### **District 17**

East Feliciana High School +\*  
East Feliciana Middle School +  
Livonia High School +\*  
Rougon Elementary School +  
STEM Academy +\*  
St. Helena College and Career Academy +\*  
Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary School +

#### **District 19**

Emily C. Watkins Elementary School +  
John L. Ory Communications Magnet School +  
Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School +\*  
LaPlace Elementary School +

#### **District 21**

Jeanerette Senior High School +\*

#### **District 22**

Anderson Middle School +  
Iberia Middle School +  
New Iberia Senior High School +\*  
Westgate High School +\*

#### **District 25**

F.K. White Middle School +

#### **District 27**

LaGrange High School +\*  
Oak Park Middle School +  
Ray D. Molo Middle Magnet School +  
Washington/Marion Magnet High School +\*

#### **District 28**

Red River Charter Academy +

#### **District 29**

Lincoln Preparatory School +\*

#### **District 31**

Converse High School \*  
Ebarb High School \*  
Florien High School \*  
Many High School \*  
Many Junior High School \*  
Negreet High School \*  
Pleasant Hill High School \*  
Red River High School +\*  
Red River Junior High School +  
Zwolle High School \*

#### **District 32**

Block High School +  
Sicily Island High School +

#### **District 33**

Bastrop High School +\*  
Delta Junior High School +

#### **District 34**

Carroll High School +\*  
Carroll Junior High School +  
Madison High School +\*  
Madison Middle School +  
Martin Luther King Junior High School +  
Wossman High School +\*

#### **District 35**

Neville High School +\*  
Robert E. Lee Junior High School +

#### **District 39**

Linwood Public Charter +

+This school is a **LOSFA Field Outreach Services** participant, which operates using **state funds**.

\*This school is a **LA GEAR UP** participant, which operates using **federal funds**.

**Don't see a school listed in your district?**

**This is due to limited state and federal resources.**

# HOW DOES LOSFA PROGRAMS

## *Impact Workforce Preparation?*

### TOPS TECH

TOPS Tech is a merit-based tuition award for students seeking vocational or occupational certification in a technical post-secondary program or an academic program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council at two year, proprietary and cosmetology schools, and some four-year schools.

### TOPS TECH EARLY START

#### **TOPS Tech Early Start (TTES) - Dual Enrollment in Top Demand Occupations**

TTES provides up to \$600 per academic year for any eligible 11th or 12th grade student attending a Louisiana public high school who wishes to concurrently enroll for up to six credit hours per semester at a public college in a vocational course of study leading to an **industry-based certification in a top demand occupation**.



### CONNECT2SUCCESS

LOSFA also introduced a new initiative this year, called Connect2Success. The program is designed to increase post-secondary enrollment, by exposing students to the link between academics and careers. Connect2Success provides students with opportunities to job shadow, intern, career plan, and develop skills necessary for success in the classroom and the career of their choice. The program expands dual-enrollment support, through tutoring, mentoring, and college visits. It also increases credentialing opportunities through business and industry visits.

#### **Current partners:**

Northwestern State University of Louisiana  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Grambling State University  
Louisiana Tech University

**Creating a Well-prepared Workforce  
Through STEM Leadership Seminars,  
Professional Development, and More**



## LOUISIANA GEAR UP'S EXPLORER'S CLUB

Louisiana GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded national initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Education, which awards grants to states or partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. In partnership with 15 school districts, Louisiana GEAR UP aims to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

The Explorers' Club, a student-run organization, administered by Louisiana GEAR UP, provides peer leadership opportunities, team-building, and extends the benefits of summer programs throughout the academic year. Explorers' Club charges members to make wise academic and behavioral decisions leading to success in postsecondary education.

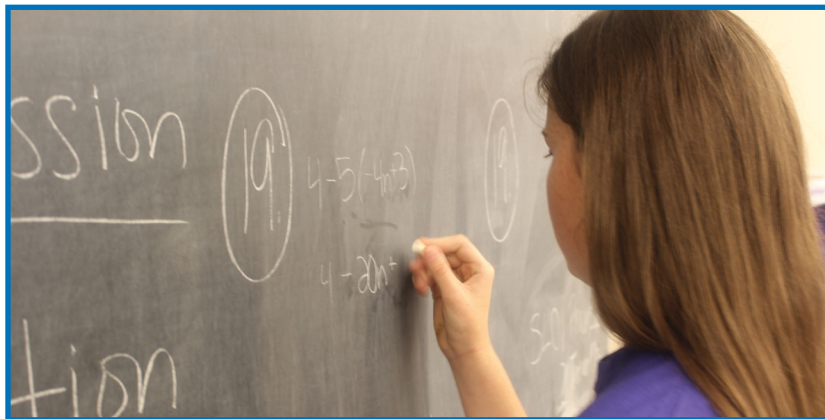
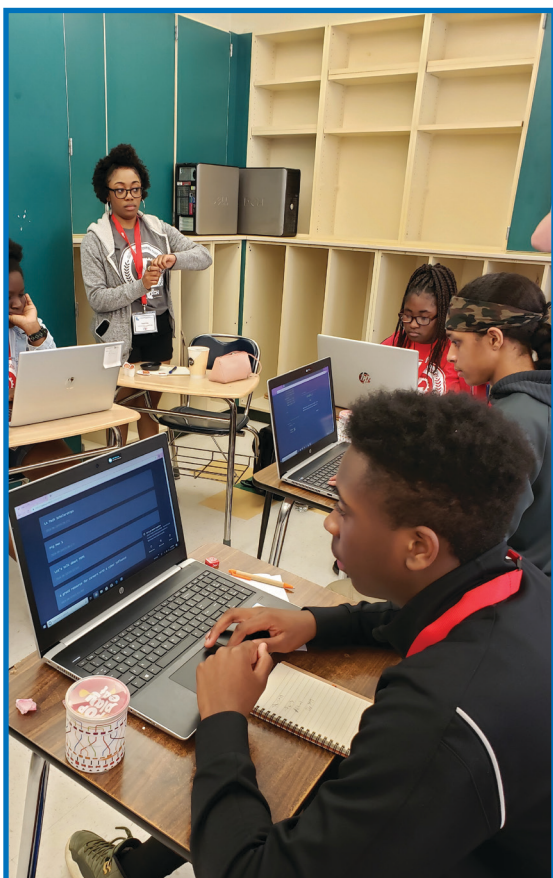


**Encouraging  
Team-building**



## SUMMER LEARNING CAMPS

A series of interactive learning sessions for GEAR UP students, focusing on STEAM, innovation, college, career and workplace preparedness.



**Inspiring Through  
the Lens of STEM**



## CAMPUS VISITS

Students across the state are provided college campus visits where students learn about postsecondary opportunities available to them. During the visits, the students gained first-hand experience in what college is like in their pursuit of higher education.



## BUSINESS & INDUSTRY VISITS

Students are provided field trips to businesses across the state to learn about workforce opportunities. Students gain first-hand experience and knowledge of industries' job markets and career requirements.



**Establishing  
Partnerships**



**Connecting Curriculums  
to Careers**



# HOW DOES LOSFA PROGRAMS

## *Help Students Decrease Loan Debt?*

### **Making College More Affordable by Maximizing Gift Aid**

What is considered "Gift Aid"?

Examples of gift aid include Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, TOPS, TOPS stipends, and institutional scholarships.



### **TOPS OPH**

TOPS is Louisiana's premier merit-based scholarship, and includes four award levels: Tech, Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards (OPH). Eligible high school graduates may receive a TOPS award amount based on appropriated funding each year. Currently, the amount is the 2016-2017 award amount; this amount can only be increased by an act of the Legislature. Certain recipients may also be eligible for an additional stipend.

### **GO GRANT**

The Louisiana GO Grant is a state grant program that assists students who can demonstrate financial need to pay for the cost of postsecondary education. The GO Grant is used to pay a portion of the cost of attendance at an eligible Louisiana institution.

### **OTHER FINANCIAL AID**

Chafee (ETV), John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program, GO-Youth ChalleNge, Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, Strategies to Empower People (STEP), BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, and Regional Contract Program (RCP) offer additional aid and savings programs to help make it more affordable for the people of Louisiana to achieve their postsecondary goals and to increase their quality of life.

# Our RESULTS



## TOPS OPPORTUNITY, HONORS, & PERFORMANCE AWARDS (OPH)

**52,053**

students received tuition payments through TOPS OPH (2018-2019 data)

**14,213**

students received TOPS Performance Stipend (\$400) (2018-2019 data)

**12,626**

students received TOPS Honors Stipend (\$800) (2018-2019 data)

**12%**

increase in TOPS Performance Award and

**36%**

Increase in TOPS Honors Award since 2012

There was a

**29%**

**INCREASE**

in TOPS Honors Award eligibility in Intensive Service Schools\* who received LOSFA support (2017-2018 data)

## TOPS TECH

**1,909**

students received tuition payments through TOPS Tech (2018-2019 data)

**27%**

increase in TOPS Tech Awards since 2016

## TOPS TECH EARLY START

**2,272**

students received tuition payments through TOPS Tech Early Start (2018-2019 data)

**9,569**

credit hours earned through TOPS Tech Early Start

## TOPS AWARDS

There was an

**87%**

**INCREASE**

in at least one category of TOPS Award eligibility in Intensive Service Schools\* who received LOSFA support (2017-2018 data)

\*Intensive Services Schools (ISS) receive financial and programmatic support from LOSFA in an effort to collaboratively address school reform needs in schools where at least 50 percent of students are economically disadvantaged and/or qualify for free or reduced lunch.

## GO GRANT

Louisiana GO Grant assisted

**25,584**

students in 2018-19, which equates to

**46%**

of those eligible to receive the award

(Feb. 2017 Survey of Institutions)

The 2018-19 Statewide average GO award was

**\$1,110.98**

**2018-19  
GO RECIPIENTS**

**55.5%**

were age 24 and under, and

**44.5%**

were age 25 and over

## ROCKEFELLER STATE WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIP

Three students from Southern University and A & M College were awarded

**\$2,000  
ANNUALLY**

in Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarships. These are the first Southern University students to receive this scholarship in several years

In 2018-19, Rockefeller awarded

**\$60,000**

to **26** students (2018-2019 data)



## LOUISIANA GEAR UP SUMMER LEARNING CAMPS

# 100%

of Louisiana GEAR UP's Summer Learning Camps had gains in English, Language Arts, and Math post-test scores compared to pretest scores (2017-2018 data)

Participants in the Louisiana GEAR UP 2019 Summer Learning Camps increased their English/Reading scores by

# 19.6%

and their Math scores by

# 28%

# 15

Louisiana GEAR UP students received CPR and First Aid Certifications

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

# 46,672

Signal Vine TOPS retention-related texts were sent to

# 15,349

first time college freshmen (2017-2018 data)

# 22,566

constituents received telephone support from LOSFA staff from July 2018 to May 2019 (2018-2019 data)

# 15,497

constituents received email assistance from LOSFA staff from July 1, 2018 to May 2019 (2018-2019 data)

# Over 150,000

constituents on average engage with LOSFA's scholarship social media posts

## FAFSA COMPLETION

Louisiana is ranked

# 1st

**in the nation**

for the second year in a row, for having the highest overall FAFSA completion rate (2018-2019 data)

Source: National College Access Network's (NCAN)

# 78.7%

of Louisiana's 47,837 seniors completed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline (July 1, 2019) (2018-2019 data)

Source: National College Access Network's (NCAN) FAFSA Tracker

During the past academic year, Louisiana saw FAFSA completions by high school students climb by more than

# 25%

Source: Inside Higher Ed

# 91%

of Intensive Service Schools\* who received LOSFA support services **INCREASED** in number of FAFSAs submitted and completed (2018-2019 data)

## ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

# 100%

graduation rate for 12th grade students participating in the Aspire to Inspire program (2017-2018 data)

## PreACT

# 34%

of students supported with PreACT scored at least an 18 on the assessment.

# 20%

of students supported with PreACT scored

# 20 or higher

(2017-2018 data)

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT

# 94%

of students taking Advanced Placement courses passed their courses (2017-2018 data)

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

# 97%

of students supported through dual enrollment passed their courses earning

# 615 CREDIT HOURS

(2017-2018 data)

# 84.3%

passed their courses with an **A or B** (2017-2018 data)

## COURSE CREDIT RECOVERY

# 93%

of students supported with Course Credit Recovery successfully recovered courses in subjects such as: Algebra I, Civics, World Geography, Pre-Calculus, Environmental Science, U. S. History, Business English, Civics, Biology, Financial Math, Spanish I, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Speech, and Physical Science (2017-2018 data)

## WORKKEYS

# 82%

of students supported through WorkKeys scored at least a Silver Level (2017-2018 data)

## CLEP

# 58%

of students receiving CLEP support  
passed their exam earning

## 45 CREDIT HOURS

(2017-2018 data)

## LOSFA/LOUISIANA GEAR UP'S REACH

Louisiana Office of Student  
Financial Assistance (LOSFA) /  
Louisiana GEAR UP has supported  
more than

# 35,106

Louisiana students in

# 68

schools around the state

# 15,000+

students were supported to  
visit postsecondary campuses  
emphasizing navigation and entry  
based on their match and fit  
(2018-2019 data)

## LOUISIANA COLLEGE APPLICATION & ACCESS MONTH (LCAAM)

# 52%

of schools supported increased in the  
number of students matriculating into a  
postsecondary institution immediately  
after high school\*\*

(2017-2018 data)

# 31%

of schools supported exceeded the 2018  
state matriculation rate of

# 57.4%

(2017-2018 data)

In 2019,

# 7,905

seniors participated in LCAAM,

# 3,905

more than in 2018.  
(2018-2019 data)

## FINANCIAL AID SEMINARS

# 7,776

students and families attended

# 137

TOPS, FAFSA, and General Financial  
Aid Seminars  
(2018-2019 data)

## FLY TOUR

# 4,355

middle and high school students  
attended tours at

# 9

postsecondary locations  
(2018-2019 data)







Louisiana Office Of Student Financial Assistance  
A Program of the Board of Regents

## ALL THINGS TOPS

### **What is Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)?**

TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students) is a program of state merit-based scholarships for Louisiana residents who attend either one of the Louisiana Public Colleges and Universities, schools that are a part of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Louisiana approved Proprietary and Cosmetology Schools or institutions that are a part of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

# What is the Purpose of TOPS?

**How is TOPS realizing its purpose?** LAC Title 28, Part IV, Chapter 7, sec 701D

Financially assist those students who are academically prepared to continue their education at a Louisiana post-secondary institution

**AY 2019-20 TOPS RECIPIENTS**  
(Data as of 12-27-19 - Based upon partial billings)

**52,372**  
Students received TOPS Award payments

**23,393**  
Students received TOPS Opportunity

**13,763**  
Students received TOPS Performance stipend (\$400)

**12,896**  
Students received TOPS Honors stipend (\$800)

**2,320**  
Students received TOPS Tech

**Louisiana ACT Average:**  
18.8

**National ACT Average:**  
20.7

Encourage academic excellence

**2018-19 ELIGIBLE HS GRADUATES**  
(Data as of 12-27-19)

**19,971**  
TOPS OPH Eligibles  
Average ACT: 25  
Average GPA: 3.58

**7,785**  
TOPS Tech Eligibles  
Average ACT: 17  
Average GPA: 3.04

**13,736**  
TOPS Ineligibles  
Average ACT: 16  
Average GPA: 2.30

**41,492**  
High School Graduates Processed

Provide incentives for Louisiana high school graduates to pursue post-secondary education in this state

(Data as of 12-27-19 - Based upon partial billings)

**83.8%**

**TOPS OPH Acceptance Rate**  
2018-19 High School Graduates

**14.5%**

**TOPS Tech Acceptance Rate**  
2018-19 High School Graduates

**6.9%**

**Increase in Performance & Honors Award Since 2012**

## What are the TOPS Eligibility Criteria?

AWARD	CORE CURRICULUM	CORE GPA	ACT COMPOSITE	DURATION
Opportunity	19	2.5	20**	4 years or 8 semesters
Performance	19	3.0*	23	4 years or 8 semesters
Honors	19	3.0*	27	4 years or 8 semesters
Tech	19	2.5	17	2 years

\*Beginning with 2021 graduates, the GPA required to qualify for the Performance Award will be a 3.25 and the GPA required to qualify for the Honors Award will be a 3.50.  
\*\*Determined annually based on prior year state average score, but never less than 20.

## What are the renewal requirements to keep your TOPS Award?

TOPS Recipients must successfully complete a minimum of 24 hours per academic year and earn a certain GPA for each Award Level per academic year to retain the award. Students can also track their Renewal status in the Student Hub.

AWARD	HRS EARNED/ ACADEMIC YEAR	CUMULATIVE GPA PER AY	AWARD REINSTATED (upon recovery of required GPA)
<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>24</b>	2.30 end of first academic year 2.50 end of all other academic years Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)	<b>Yes</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>24</b>	3.00 end of each academic year. Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)	<b>Yes,</b> as Opportunity
<b>HONORS</b>	<b>24</b>	3.00 end of each academic year. Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)	<b>Yes,</b> as Opportunity
<b>TECH</b>	<b>24</b>	2.50 end of all other academic years Maintain steady academic progress at the end of all other terms (2.00 TOPS cumulative GPA)	<b>Yes</b>

## How is TOPS funded?

### HISTORICAL TOPS APPROPRIATION

	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
<b>TOPS Appropriation</b>	\$224,627,136	\$249,995,430	\$265,170,030	\$209,378,062	\$293,604,296	\$294,561,972	\$311,032,540
<b>SGF</b>	\$86,503,677	\$164,954,069	\$200,091,126	\$149,116,312	\$235,706,062	\$236,641,933	\$251,830,114
<b>TOPS Fund</b>	\$138,123,459	\$85,041,361	\$65,078,904	\$60,261,750	\$57,898,234	\$57,920,039	\$59,202,426

\*At inception (FY 98-99), TOPS was funded at \$54,033,634 of State General Fund (SGF).



## TOPS Demographics

POST-SECONDARY SYSTEMS	PARENTAL INCOME				
	LESS THAN \$0	BETWEEN \$0 & \$49,999	BETWEEN \$50K & \$99,999	OVER \$100K	NOT REPORTED
LSU SYSTEM	129	3,424	3,327	8,646	658
SU SYSTEM	0	496	161	119	86
UL SYSTEM	165	8,207	7,787	11,517	1,465
LCTC SYSTEM	13	1,279	1,014	1,099	342
PRIVATE SCHOOLS	33	1,210	879	1,375	188
PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS	1	130	90	83	39
STATEWIDE TOTALS	341	14,746	13,258	22,839	2,778

POST-SECONDARY SYSTEMS	ETHNICITY								TOTALS
	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/ LATINO	MULTIPLE RACES	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	NOT REPORTED	WHITE	
LSU SYSTEM	59	731	1,670	523	135	13	297	12,756	16,184
SU SYSTEM	0	4	789	8	5	0	6	50	862
UL SYSTEM	212	680	4,439	774	313	13	505	22,205	29,141
LCTC SYSTEM	29	55	780	112	54	2	60	2,655	3,747
PRIVATE SCHOOLS	8	350	1,108	209	51	4	88	1,867	3,685
PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS	2	5	64	8	6	0	6	252	343
STATEWIDE TOTALS	310	1,825	8,850	1,634	564	32	962	39,785	53,962

Demographics of TOPS Recipients - AY 2018-19  
Source: LOSFA Award System  
Data as of 9-12-19

## Why doesn't TOPS cover all tuition, room and board, books and supplies?

ACT 18 of the 2016 Louisiana Legislature decoupled TOPS from tuition and set the "fully funded" amount going forward as the amount of tuition charged by the institution for the 2016-17 Academic Year. The 2019-20 TOPS award covers anywhere from 52.1% to 79.3% of the 2019-20 annual mandatory tuition and fees. The percentage of total COA covered by the 2019-20 TOPS award ranges from 10.9% to 41.6%. Students still have to pay all other COA.

## How much of the cost of attendance does TOPS cover?

### TOTAL EXPENSES BASED ON LIVING WITH PARENTS

	Annual Resident Tuition & Fees (12 hrs.)	Average Cost of Attendance** (living w/ parents)	Annual TOPS Opportunity Award	Additional Costs After TOPS Award	Percentage Covered by TOPS
<b>SU SYSTEM</b>					
Southern Baton Rouge	\$9,136.00	\$19,000.00	\$4,973.10	\$14,026.90	26.2%
Southern New Orleans	\$7,365.64	\$17,229.64	\$4,236.21	\$12,993.43	24.6%
Southern Shreveport	\$4,349.50	\$14,213.50	\$2,618.00	\$11,595.50	18.4%
<b>UL SYSTEM</b>					
Grambling	\$7,683.00	\$17,547.00	\$5,139.75	\$12,407.25	29.3%
Louisiana Tech *	\$9,615.00	\$19,479.00	\$5,553.00	\$13,926.00	28.5%
McNeese	\$8,063.00	\$17,927.00	\$5,147.34	\$12,779.66	28.7%
Nicholls	\$7,897.00	\$17,761.00	\$4,922.28	\$12,838.72	27.7%
Northwestern	\$8,768.00	\$18,632.00	\$5,180.00	\$13,452.00	27.8%
Southeastern	\$8,329.00	\$18,193.00	\$5,652.21	\$12,540.79	31.1%
Univ. of LA at Lafayette	\$10,370.00	\$20,234.00	\$5,406.96	\$14,827.04	26.7%
Univ. of LA at Monroe	\$8,974.00	\$18,838.00	\$5,787.52	\$13,050.48	30.7%
UNO	\$9,072.00	\$18,936.00	\$6,090.37	\$12,845.63	32.2%
<b>LSU SYSTEM</b>					
LSU Alexandria	\$6,950.90	\$16,814.90	\$4,894.25	\$11,920.65	29.1%
LSU A&M	\$11,906.00	\$21,770.00	\$7,462.98	\$14,307.02	34.3%
LSU Eunice	\$4,730.00	\$14,594.00	\$2,710.64	\$11,883.36	18.6%
LSU Shreveport	\$7,328.04	\$17,192.04	\$5,372.29	\$11,819.75	31.2%
LSU HSC NO -Allied Health	\$9,032.55	\$18,896.55	\$7,673.22	\$11,223.33	40.6%
LSU HSC NO - Dental Hygiene	\$10,345.00	\$20,209.00	\$5,517.00	\$14,692.00	27.3%
LSU HSC NO - Dental Lab Tech	\$6,291.58	\$16,155.58	\$4,987.26	\$11,168.32	30.9%
LSU HSC NO - Nursing	\$8,999.30	\$18,863.30	\$5,611.50	\$13,251.80	29.7%
LSU HSC NO - Public Health	\$11,452.32	\$21,316.32	\$8,858.00	\$12,458.32	41.6%
LSU HSC Shr - Allied Health	\$8,355.50	\$18,219.50	\$7,182.56	\$11,036.94	39.4%
<b>LCTC SYSTEM</b>					
Baton Rouge Comm. College	\$4,221.36	\$14,085.36	\$3,086.08	\$10,999.28	21.9%
Bossier Parish Comm. College	\$4,283.04	\$14,147.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,932.89	22.7%
Delgado Comm. College	\$4,279.04	\$14,143.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,928.89	22.7%
Louisiana Delta Comm. College	\$4,159.04	\$14,023.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,808.89	22.9%
L.E. Fletcher Tech. Comm. College	\$4,119.04	\$13,983.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,768.89	23.0%
Elaine P Nunez Comm. College	\$4,174.87	\$14,038.87	\$3,214.15	\$10,824.72	22.9%
River Parishes Comm. College	\$4,109.04	\$13,973.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,758.89	23.0%
South Louisiana Comm. College	\$4,205.04	\$14,069.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,854.89	22.8%
SOWELA Tech. Comm. College	\$4,184.87	\$14,048.87	\$3,214.15	\$10,834.72	22.9%
Northshore Tech. Comm. College	\$4,103.04	\$13,967.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,752.89	23.0%
Central Louisiana Tech. Comm. Coll.	\$4,109.04	\$13,973.04	\$3,214.15	\$10,758.89	23.0%
Northwest Louisiana Tech. College	\$2,976.40	\$12,840.40	\$2,081.00	\$10,759.40	16.2%

\*Converted to a semester basis, undergraduate FT = 8 AND graduate = 6 (Used 12 hrs in lieu of 15 for undergraduate and 10 hours in lieu of 12 for graduate)

\*\*Total costs of attendance (COA) based on living with parents without dependent children include: tuition & fees, room & board (\$3,434), books & supplies (\$1,300), transportation (\$3,000) and personal/miscellaneous expenses (\$2,120). From the 2019-20 Cost of Attendance Budgets for Title IV Programs prepared by LASFAA, Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

## TOTAL EXPENSES BASED ON LIVING ON/OFF CAMPUS

	Annual Resident Tuition & Fees (12 hrs.)	Room & Board (living on/off campus)	Transportation	Total Cost of Attendance** (living on/off campus)	Annual TOPS Opportunity Award	Additional Costs After TOPS Award	Percentage Covered by TOPS
<b>SU SYSTEM</b>							
Southern Baton Rouge	\$9,136.00	\$9,176.00	\$2,100.00	\$23,842.00	\$4,973.10	\$18,868.90	20.9%
Southern New Orleans	\$7,365.64	\$9,240.00	\$2,100.00	\$22,135.64	\$4,236.21	\$17,899.43	19.1%
Southern Shreveport	\$4,349.50	\$8,690.00	\$2,100.00	\$18,569.50	\$2,618.00	\$15,951.50	14.1%
<b>UL SYSTEM</b>							
Grambling	\$7,683.00	\$8,328.00	\$2,100.00	\$21,541.00	\$5,139.75	\$16,401.25	23.9%
Louisiana Tech *	\$9,615.00	\$6,675.00	\$2,100.00	\$21,820.00	\$5,553.00	\$16,267.00	25.4%
McNeese	\$8,063.00	\$8,233.00	\$2,100.00	\$21,826.00	\$5,147.34	\$16,678.66	23.6%
Nicholls	\$7,897.00	\$9,558.00	\$2,100.00	\$22,985.00	\$4,922.28	\$18,062.72	21.4%
Northwestern	\$8,768.00	\$10,174.00	\$2,100.00	\$24,572.00	\$5,180.00	\$19,392.00	21.1%
Southeastern	\$8,329.00	\$8,938.00	\$2,100.00	\$21,897.00	\$5,652.21	\$16,244.79	25.8%
Univ. of LA at Lafayette	\$10,370.00	\$9,255.00	\$2,100.00	\$25,155.00	\$5,406.96	\$19,748.04	21.5%
Univ. of LA at Monroe	\$8,974.00	\$7,855.00	\$2,100.00	\$22,359.00	\$5,787.52	\$16,571.48	25.9%
UNO	\$9,072.00	\$9,245.00	\$2,100.00	\$23,847.00	\$6,090.37	\$17,756.63	25.5%
<b>LSU SYSTEM</b>							
LSU Alexandria	\$6,950.90	\$10,120.00	\$2,100.00	\$22,600.90	\$4,894.25	\$17,706.65	21.7%
LSU A&M	\$11,906.00	\$12,276.00	\$3,843.00	\$32,906.00	\$7,462.98	\$25,443.02	22.7%
LSU Eunice	\$4,730.00	\$9,894.00	\$2,800.00	\$20,854.00	\$2,710.64	\$18,143.36	13.0%
LSU Shreveport	\$7,328.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$23,414.04	\$5,372.29	\$18,041.75	22.9%
LSU HSC NO - Allied Health	\$9,032.55	\$17,829.00	\$3,000.00	\$33,291.55	\$7,673.22	\$25,618.33	23.0%
LSU HSC NO - Dental Hygiene	\$10,345.00	\$17,829.00	\$3,000.00	\$34,604.00	\$5,517.00	\$29,087.00	15.9%
LSU HSC NO - Dental Lab Tech	\$6,291.58	\$17,829.00	\$3,000.00	\$30,550.58	\$4,987.26	\$25,563.32	16.3%
LSU HSC NO - Nursing	\$8,999.30	\$17,829.00	\$3,000.00	\$33,258.30	\$5,611.50	\$27,646.80	16.9%
LSU HSC NO - Public Health	\$11,452.32	\$17,829.00	\$3,000.00	\$35,711.32	\$8,858.00	\$26,853.32	24.8%
LSU HSC Shr - Allied Health	\$8,355.50	\$15,847.00	\$3,000.00	\$30,632.50	\$7,182.56	\$23,449.94	23.4%
<b>LCTC SYSTEM</b>							
Baton Rouge Comm. College	\$4,221.36	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,307.36	\$3,086.08	\$17,221.28	15.2%
Bossier Parish Comm. College	\$4,283.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,369.04	\$3,214.15	\$17,154.89	15.8%
Delgado Comm. College	\$4,279.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,365.04	\$3,214.15	\$17,150.89	15.8%
Louisiana Delta Comm. College	\$4,159.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,245.04	\$3,214.15	\$17,030.89	15.9%
L.E. Fletcher Tech. Comm. College	\$4,119.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,205.04	\$3,214.15	\$16,990.89	15.9%
Elaine P Nunez Comm. College	\$4,174.87	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,260.87	\$3,214.15	\$17,046.72	15.9%
River Parishes Comm. College	\$4,109.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,195.04	\$3,214.15	\$16,980.89	15.9%
South Louisiana Comm. College	\$4,205.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,291.04	\$3,214.15	\$17,076.89	15.8%
SOWELA Tech. Comm. College	\$4,184.87	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,270.87	\$3,214.15	\$17,056.72	15.9%
Northshore Tech. Comm. College	\$4,103.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,189.04	\$3,214.15	\$16,974.89	15.9%
Central Louisiana Tech. Comm. Coll.	\$4,109.04	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,195.04	\$3,214.15	\$16,980.89	15.9%
Northwest Louisiana Tech. College	\$2,976.40	\$9,656.00	\$3,000.00	\$19,062.40	\$2,081.00	\$16,981.40	10.9%

\*Converted to a semester basis, undergraduate FT = 8 AND graduate = 6. (Used 12 hrs. in lieu of 15 for undergraduate and 10 hours in lieu of 12 for graduate)

\*\*Total costs of attendance (COA) based on living on/off campus include: tuition & fees, room & board (shown above), books & supplies (\$1,300), transportation (shown above) and personal/miscellaneous expenses (\$2,130), from the 2019-20 Cost of Attendance Budgets for Title IV Programs prepared by LASFAA, Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and where applicable, the 2019-20 Cost of Attendance Budgets for each school.

\*\*\*The average costs for books & supplies for Northwestern (\$1,400), Southeastern (\$400), and LSU A&M (\$1,038) differ from the previously listed average cost for books & supplies at \$1,300.

\*\*\*\*The average costs for miscellaneous/personal expenses for LSU A&M (\$3,843) differ from the previously listed average cost for miscellaneous/personal expenses at \$2,130.





# What are the Common TOPS MISPERCEPTIONS?

**PERCEPTION:** Most TOPS students lose their awards in the first year of college, and then they drop out.

**TRUTH:** The number of students losing the TOPS award during the first year of college has decreased to 10.9% in the 2018-19 academic year. In addition, 78.1% of TOPS recipients either completed college with a credential or are still enrolled. In fact, data indicates that students who receive TOPS for any part of their higher education graduate at a much higher rate than any other aid recipients.

**19,178**  
Total TOPS  
Recipients First  
Paid in 2018-19

**2,091**  
First Paid Recipients  
That Were Cancelled

**10.9%**  
Lost Award in  
First Year

**78.1%**  
Completed with Credential  
or are Still Enrolled

## STUDENT OUTCOMES FOR TOPS RECIPIENTS

(since inception)

**COMPLETERS** (Source: LOSFA data from March 2019 and BoR's Completer/Enrollment Systems)

Certificate	3,095	0.9%
Diploma	3,523	1.0%
Associate	14,010	4.2%
Baccalaureate	135,403	40.4%
Masters and Above	30,342	9.1%
<b>Completer Subtotal</b>	<b>186,373</b>	<b>55.6%</b>
<b>Still Enrolled in Academic Year 2016 or After</b>	<b>75,281</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
Last Enrollment Record Prior to Academic Year 2016 and No Completer Record	73,168	21.9%
<b>Total Students at Public &amp; LAICU Post-secondary Institutions Who Received a TOPS Award*</b> (TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and TOPS Tech)	<b>334,822</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

TOTAL  
78.1%

Source: LOSFA data from March 2019 and BoR's Completer/Enrollment Systems

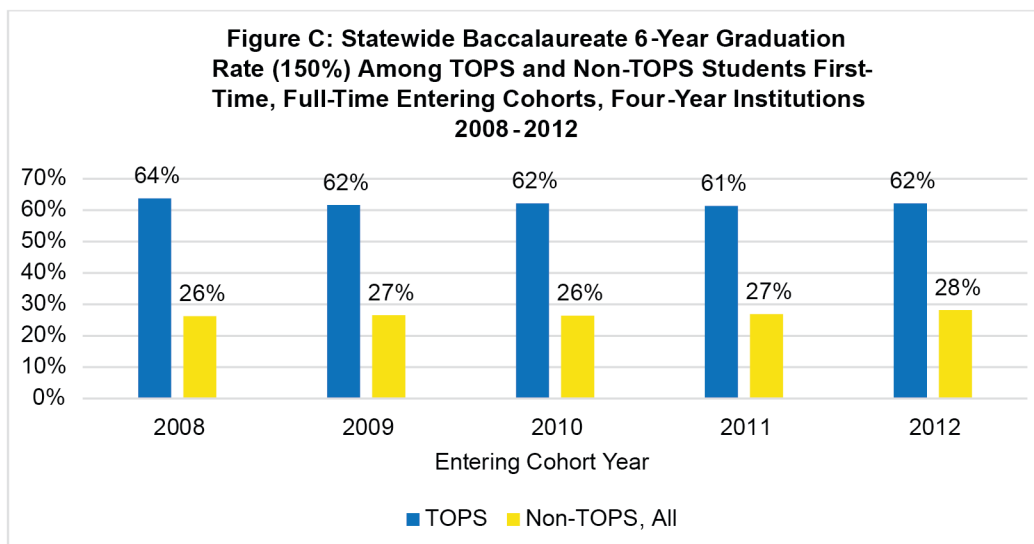


Figure C Data from: BoR TOPS 1202 Report: October 2019.

## PERCEPTION: Needy students don't get TOPS.

**TRUTH:** Slightly over half of needy students accept TOPS. 48.8% (13,328) of 2018 high school graduates who were eligible for TOPS (27,311), were also Pell Grant eligible. Of these TOPS and Pell Grant eligible students, only 58.2% (7,761 students) accepted their TOPS Award, and 15.5% (1,203) of these students received GO Grant. Data indicates that just over 50% of students who receive Pell Grant, GO Grant, and TOPS graduate from college, while needy students who do not receive TOPS graduate at a rate of just over 21%.

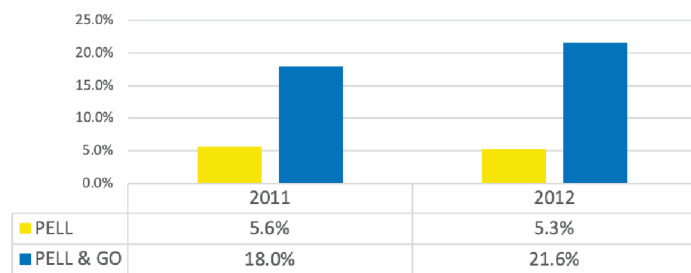
### 2018-19 TOPS RECIPIENTS

	2018-19 TOPS Recipients	2018-19 Pell Eligible TOPS Recipients	% Pell Eligible TOPS Recipients	2018-19 GO Grant Recipients	2018-19 GO Grant & TOPS Recipients	% GO Grant also TOPS Recipients
LCTC System	3,380	1,658	49.1%	7,523	158	2.1%
LSU System	15,851	4,258	26.9%	3,372	1,091	32.4%
Private Schools	3,583	1,497	41.8%	1,536	248	16.1%
Proprietary & Cosmetology Schools	300	169	56.3%	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
SU System	839	615	73.3%	2,280	98	4.3%
UL System	28,533	10,818	37.9%	12,165	2,089	17.2%

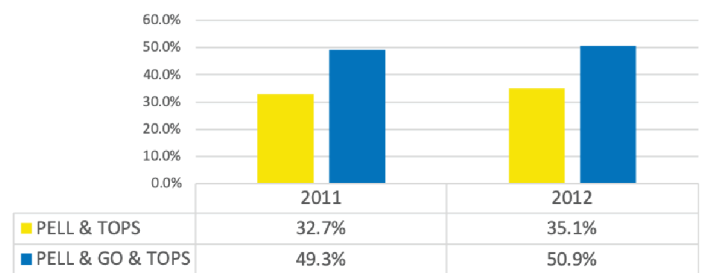
\*GO Grant is not available at Proprietary & Cosmetology Schools.

Source: Pell Eligible Data from FAFSA; TOPS and GO Recipients from LOSFA Award System.

#### Bachelor's Graduation Rate 150%



#### Bachelor's Graduation Rate 150%



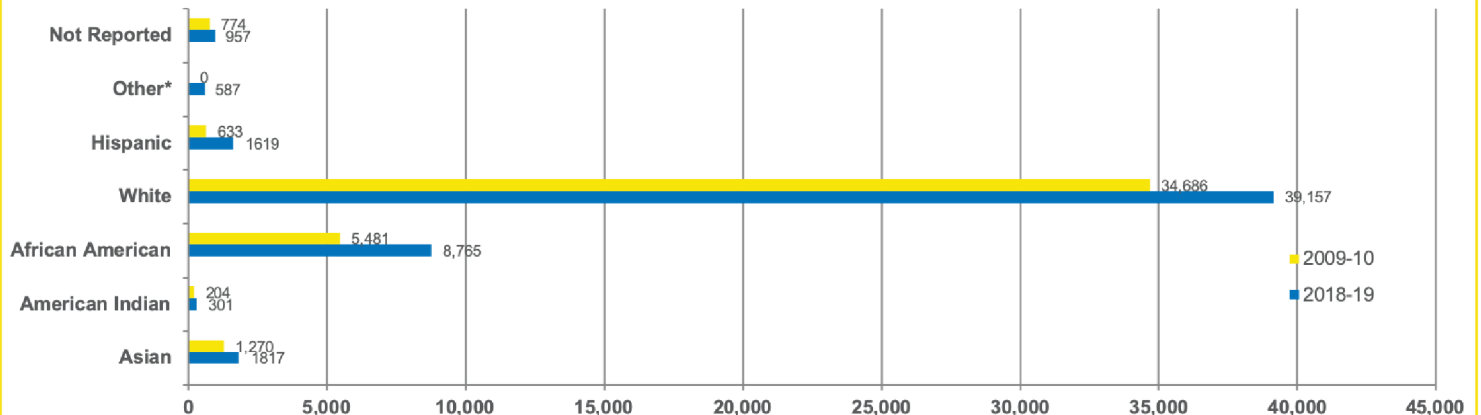
Cohort includes: Louisiana Resident, First-time in College and Transfer Students, Full-time for Given Year.

Source: LOSFA Payment Files & BoR SSPS and Completers Files as of 9/14/18.

## PERCEPTION: TOPS awards do not benefit minorities.

**TRUTH:** The number of minorities receiving TOPS has significantly increased over time.

### Growth from 2009-10 to 2018-19



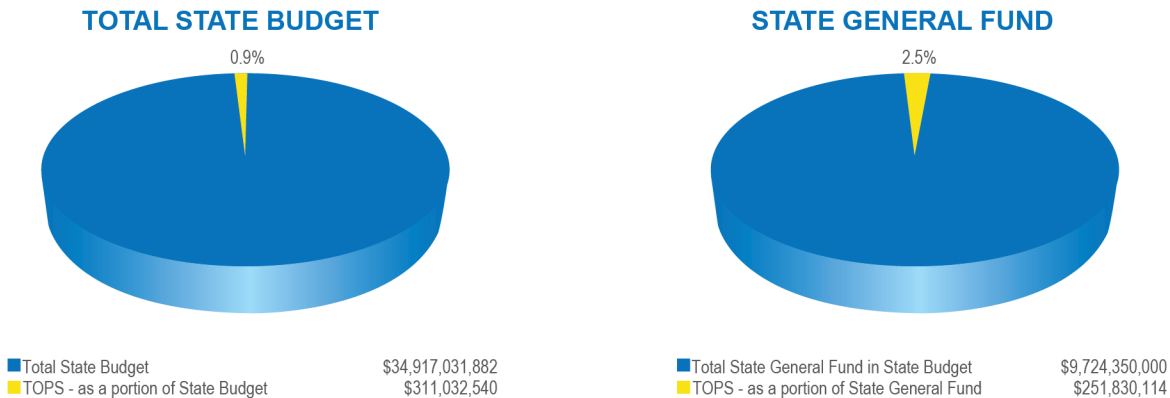
\*Other includes: Multiple races & Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island.

	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic/Latino	Other*	Not Reported	White
Increase 2009 - 10 to 2018 - 19	90	520	2,997	941	574	152	3,702
% Growth 2009 - 10 to 2018 - 19	44.1%	40.9%	54.7%	148.7%	100.0%	19.6%	10.7%



**PERCEPTION: TOPS consumes a large percentage of the State Budget.**

**TRUTH: For FY 2019-20 TOPS is equal to 0.9% of the total State Budget. For FY 2019-20 TOPS is equal to 2.5% of the total State General Fund in the State Budget.**



**PERCEPTION: TOPS expenditures are growing at an astronomical rate.**

**TRUTH: Between 2010-11 and 2015-16, TOPS increased at least 11.7 percent per year due to the GRAD ACT, a law which allowed colleges and universities to increase tuition up to 10% each year. The increase in TOPS expenditures after the expiration of GRAD Act was reduced to 2.7 percent. This increase is due to student behavior (award acceptance rates, school attended, etc.). The projected increase from 2019-20 to 2020-21 is \$8,893,211 or 2.9%. This increase could be attributable to a number of factors, including the alignment of the TOPS core curriculum with the DOE JumpStart and University pathways, the requirement that all students take the ACT and that all students file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the degree to which students are accepting their awards. It should also be noted that although the number of TOPS Opportunity Award recipients is decreasing, the number of TOPS Performance and Honors Award recipients is increasing, and these two awards come with stipends of \$400 and \$800 per year, respectively.**

**PERCEPTION: TOPS covers all costs of attending college.**

**TRUTH: ACT 18 of the 2016 Louisiana Legislature decoupled TOPS from tuition and set the “fully funded” amount going forward as the amount of tuition charged by the institution for the 2016-17 Academic Year. Total costs of attendance (COA) includes: tuition & fees, room & board, books & supplies, transportation and personal/miscellaneous expenses. The 2019-20 TOPS award covers anywhere from 52.1% to 79.3% of the 2019-20 annual mandatory tuition and fees. The percentage of total COA covered by the 2019-20 TOPS award ranges from 10.9% to 41.6%. Students still have to pay all other COA.**

**PERCEPTION: TOPS awards are disproportionately awarded to wealthy students.**

**TRUTH: Overall from 2003-04 through 2019-20, TOPS recipients were relatively equally spread across income ranges. The recent trend of more higher income students accepting TOPS awards indicates the goal of providing incentives for LA graduates to pursue postsecondary education in this state is working.**

TOPS RECIPIENTS PARENTAL INCOME RANGE					
Parental Income Range	Did Not Report	Less than \$0	Between \$0 & \$49,999	Between \$50,000 & \$99,999	Over \$100,000
Total 2003-04 to 2019-20*	16,995	893	87,238	81,832	90,846
Percentages of Total 2003-04 through 2017-18	6.12%	0.32%	31.40%	29.46%	32.70%

\*Data is for each H. S. Graduating Cohort from 2003-04 through 2019-20.

**PERCEPTION: Only LSU students benefit from TOPS.**

**TRUTH: Every public higher education institution in the state has TOPS students, and the University of Louisiana System has the most TOPS students.**

### TOPS RECIPIENTS - FALL 2018

School	TOPS Recipients #	BoR Reported Enrollment: Louisiana Undergraduates Full-Time	Percentage of Students on TOPS	School	TOPS Recipients #	BoR Reported Enrollment: Louisiana Undergraduates Full-Time	Percentage of Students on TOPS
Grambling State University	202	2,312	8.7%	Southern University and A&M College	759	3,935	19.3%
Louisiana Tech University	4,512	6,775	66.6%	Southern University in New Orleans	38	1,328	2.9%
McNeese State University	2,421	4,762	50.8%	Southern University in Shreveport	23	1,234	1.9%
Nicholls State University	2,497	4,662	53.6%	<b>SU SYSTEM TOTAL</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>6,497</b>	<b>12.6%</b>
Northwestern State University	2,530	4,922	51.4%	Baton Rouge CC	546	3,914	13.9%
Southeastern Louisiana University	4,420	8,666	51.0%	Bossier Parish CC	506	3,221	15.7%
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	6,894	11,568	59.6%	Central Louisiana TCC	60	1,122	5.3%
University of Louisiana at Monroe	2,806	4,351	64.5%	Delgado CC	506	5,414	9.3%
University of New Orleans	1,794	4,304	41.7%	L. E. Fletcher TCC	201	1,095	18.4%
<b>UL SYSTEM TOTAL</b>	<b>28,076</b>	<b>52,322</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	Louisiana Delta CC	114	1,830	6.2%
L.S.U. at Alexandria	576	1,648	35.0%	Northshore TCC	149	1,546	9.6%
L.S.U. and A&M College	13,486	18,123	74.4%	Northwest Louisiana TC	56	482	11.6%
L.S.U. at Eunice	610	1,628	37.5%	Elaine P. Nunez CC	90	856	10.5%
L.S.U. in Shreveport	567	1,398	40.6%	River Parishes CC	231	1,542	15.0%
L.S.U. Health Sciences Center - NO	331	816	40.6%	South Louisiana CC	352	3,313	10.6%
L.S.U. Health Sciences Center - Shrv	34	45	75.6%	Sowela Technical CC	418	1,749	23.9%
<b>LSU SYSTEM TOTAL</b>	<b>15,604</b>	<b>23,658</b>	<b>66.0%</b>	<b>LCTCS SYSTEM TOTAL</b>	<b>3,229</b>	<b>26,084</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
Source: TOPS Payment Data 2/22/19 & BoR SPXLS 2018 Fall Enrollment file				<b>STATEWIDE PUBLIC HIED TOTAL</b>	<b>47,725</b>	<b>108,561</b>	<b>44.0%</b>

**PERCEPTION: TOPS students are just mediocre/average students.**

**TRUTH: 2018-19 High School (HS) Graduates who became 2019-20 TOPS OPH recipients had an average ACT of 24 and an average HS GPA of 3.58 on the TOPS Core Curriculum. 2019-20 TOPS OPH eligibles had an average ACT of 25 and an average HS GPA of 3.58 on the TOPS Core Curriculum. The average ACT scores for both TOPS recipients and TOPS eligibles exceed the statewide ACT average of 18.8 and the national average ACT of 20.7. The TOPS Core Curriculum is a rigorous set of requirements: 4 units of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, 2 units of Foreign Language and 1 unit of Art. TOPS encourages students to pursue AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment courses by grading these courses using a 5 point scale.**

### HIGH SCHOOL GRAD YEAR 2018-19

	NATIONAL	STATEWIDE	TOPS ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OPH	TOPS ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TECH	TOPS RECIPIENTS OPH	TOPS RECIPIENTS TECH
ACT (Average)	20.7	18.8	25	17	24	17
GPA (Average)	N/A	N/A	3.58	3.04	3.58	3.06

The image shows a collage of FAFSA forms and documents. The main focus is the 'FAFSA Step One (Student)' form, which includes sections for 'Filing Status' (Single, Married filing jointly, Married filing separately), 'Exemptions' (Yourself, Spouse, Dependents), and 'Income' (Wages, Tax). There are also smaller forms visible, including one with a 'CAUTION' warning and another with a 'Before you' header.

For more information about the four different award components of the TOPS Program and other important TOPS information, visit [osfa.la.gov](https://osfa.la.gov).





Louisiana Office Of Student Financial Assistance  
A Program of the Board of Regents

## ALL THINGS GO

### **What is the Louisiana GO Grant?**

The Louisiana GO Grant is a state grant program that assists students who can demonstrate financial need to pay for the cost of postsecondary education. The GO Grant is used to pay a portion of the cost of attendance at an eligible Louisiana institution.

# What is the Purpose of the GO GRANT?



## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this program is to provide a need-based component to the state's financial aid plan to support nontraditional and low to moderate-income students who need additional aid to afford the cost of attending college.

## HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY FOR A GO GRANT?

Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year in which they intend to enroll in college.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Louisiana GO Grant, a student must:

- Be a Louisiana Resident;
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Receive a federal Pell grant
- Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid ("gift aid") from student's Cost of Attendance (COA)
- Be a student enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution on at least a half-time basis (minimum 6 hours at semester school or 4 hours at a quarter school).

## WHO DETERMINES IF A STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR GO GRANT?

The Financial Aid Office of the eligible participating institution is responsible for determining a student's eligibility based on their Packaging Policy.

## WHAT IS A PACKAGING POLICY?

Institutions must have a written packaging policy for GO Grant Awards. The packaging policy must provide the following:

- Semester, quarter or term award amounts that are equal to the annual maximum amount at the institution divided by the number of semesters, quarters or terms during the academic year (excluding summer sessions, quarter and terms);
- Basis for any institutionally set maximum award amount that is less than the authorized maximum amount established in the framework;
- Priority for students who are 25 or older;
- Award amounts for students who attend school less than full-time;
- Procedures for identification of transfer and re-entering students that ensure such students receive awards on the same basis as continuing students;

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

(NOTE: Eligibility criteria MAY NOT use academic criteria other than Satisfactory Academic Progress for receipt of Title IV aid and it MAY NOT automatically eliminate students receiving a TOPS award.)

## What happens if the number of eligible students exceeds the school's academic year allocation?

The school should devise criteria for disbursing funds in the event its allocation will not fund all students eligible and should make this criteria part of its Packaging Policy. See the following excerpt from Student Financial Aid Bulletin S2010-04:

In the event that the allocation is insufficient to fund all eligible students, schools will have autonomy relative to award distribution, e.g., first come, first served; priority to incoming students; priority to continuing students; or another method in line with the school's priority order. Schools are required to document the chosen priority/distribution method as a matter of policy and to adhere to the policy in a consistent manner. Documentation of compliance should be sufficiently present for audit purposes.

## AWARD AMOUNTS \*\*

Award amounts to eligible students are based on the institution's allocation and their packaging policy. Awards may vary with each academic year. Awards will not be paid for summers sessions, quarters or terms.

### Maximum and minimum annual award amounts for the current Academic Year:

Minimum Annual Award	\$300
Maximum Annual Award	\$3,000

\*\* Students should check with the financial aid office at the school they plan to attend regarding policy on award calculation and distribution.



**Who calculates the remaining need and award amount?**

The college/university at which a potential GO Grant recipient is enrolled will calculate the remaining financial need and will determine the award amount.

**How does a college/university calculate the award amount?**

Award amounts to eligible students are based on the institution's allocation of GO Grant funding and their Packaging Policy. Awards may vary with each academic year. Institutions are expected to make a good faith effort to distribute their GO Grant allocation in a manner that reaches students with the most financial need to bring their maximum financial need met with gift aid to 60%.

**Once awarded a GO Grant, is the award automatically renewed in subsequent semesters/years?**

A student is eligible to receive a GO Grant in subsequent semesters if the renewal requirements are met; however, a student is not guaranteed to receive the GO Grant in subsequent semesters/years.

**RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Must file a FAFSA or the Renewal FAFSA at least annually;
- Continue to receive a Federal Pell Grant;
- Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid ("gift aid") from student's Cost of Attendance (COA).
- The Award can be renewed for subsequent years to a maximum lifetime award that correlates to that of the Federal Pell Grant.

\* Residency: Louisiana resident as of the day the FAFSA is filed and Louisiana is the student's true and fixed domicile as reported on the FAFSA. If student's state of residence on the FAFSA is not reported as LA, but a dependent student claims that a non-custodial parent is a Louisiana resident, or that parents are Louisiana residents living out of state, LOSFA will determine residency based on the completion, by the parents, of a residency affidavit.

\*\* Students should check with the financial aid office at the school they plan to attend regarding policy on award calculation and distribution.



## How are GO Grants funded?

GO Appropriation  
State General Fund (SGF)

FY 2019-20  
\$28,429,108

## How are GO Grants Allocated?

SCHOOL	2018-2019 ALLOCATION
LSU-BR	\$ 2,220,320
LSU-A	\$ 317,475
LSUMC-NO	\$ 202,523
LSUMC-S	\$ 10,375
LSU-E	\$ 279,508
LSU-S	\$ 972,304
<b>LSU SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,002,505</b>
SOUTHERN-BR	\$ 1,340,500
SOUTHERN-NO	\$ 289,107
SOUTHERN-S	\$ 226,877
<b>SU SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,856,484</b>
NICHOLLS	\$ 1,128,064
GRAMBLING	\$ 1,054,036
LA. TECH	\$ 1,162,145
MCNEESE	\$ 1,550,837
ULM	\$ 1,737,486
NORTHWESTERN	\$ 1,647,728
SOUTHEASTERN	\$ 3,081,858
ULL	\$ 2,518,170
UNO	\$ 1,221,437
<b>UL SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 15,101,761</b>

SCHOOL	2018-2019 ALLOCATION
BATON ROUGE CC	\$ 642,093
BOSSIER PARISH CC	\$ 269,021
CENTRAL LOUISIANA TCC	\$ 80,015
DELGADO CC	\$ 2,683,909
L E FLETCHER TCC	\$ 107,387
LOUISIANA DELTA CC	\$ 281,289
NORTHSHORE TECH CC	\$ 38,700
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA TCC	\$ 86,287
NUNEZ CC	\$ 76,520
RIVER PARISHES CC	\$ 83,341
SOUTH LA. CC	\$ 466,489
SOWELA TECH CC	\$ 250,758
<b>LCTC SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,065,809</b>
CENTENARY	\$ 65,484
DILLARD	\$ 315,533
LA COLLEGE	\$ 233,846
LOYOLA	\$ 284,480
UNIV. OF HOLY CROSS	\$ 65,423
FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY	\$ 364,742
TULANE	\$ 355,377
XAVIER	\$ 717,664
<b>INDEPENDENTS' SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,402,549</b>

**Total \$28,429,108**

Allocation of Funds: (Prior FY Allocation Expended/prior FY appropriation) X total appropriated for current FY  
 Reallocation of Funds: Funds not used by the deadline are swept and redistributed to schools that have committed all funds and have additional students with need.  
 Allocations for subsequent year are adjusted accordingly.

## GO Grant Demographics

GENDER			
	FEMALE	MALE	NOT REPORTED
LSU SYSTEM	1,972	1234	34
SU SYSTEM	1,499	614	22
UL SYSTEM	7,575	3,776	137
LCTC SYSTEM	5,213	1728	322
LAICU SYSTEM	795	335	328
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,054</b>	<b>7,687</b>	<b>843</b>

AGE		
	24 & BELOW	25 & OVER
LSU SYSTEM	2,190	1,050
SU SYSTEM	1,405	730
UL SYSTEM	8,074	3,414
LCTC SYSTEM	1,479	5,784
LAICU SYSTEM	935	523
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,083</b>	<b>11,501</b>

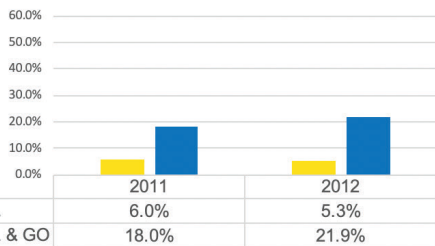
ETHNICITY									
	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/ LATINO	MULTIPLE RACES	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	NOT REPORTED	WHITE	TOTALS
LSU SYSTEM	22	180	906	218	98	6	94	1,716	3,240
SU SYSTEM	5	5	1,968	10	33	3	69	42	2,135
UL SYSTEM	83	214	4,931	570	456	20	282	4,932	11,488
LCTC SYSTEM	51	94	3,965	444	262	159	118	2,170	7,263
LAICU SYSTEM	5	46	718	49	15	0	356	269	1,458
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>12,488</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>9,129</b>	<b>25,584</b>

Demographics of GO Recipients - AY 2018-19  
 Source: LOSFA Award System and BoR Statewide Student Profile System (SSPS)  
 Data as of 9-12-19



## GO Grant Performance

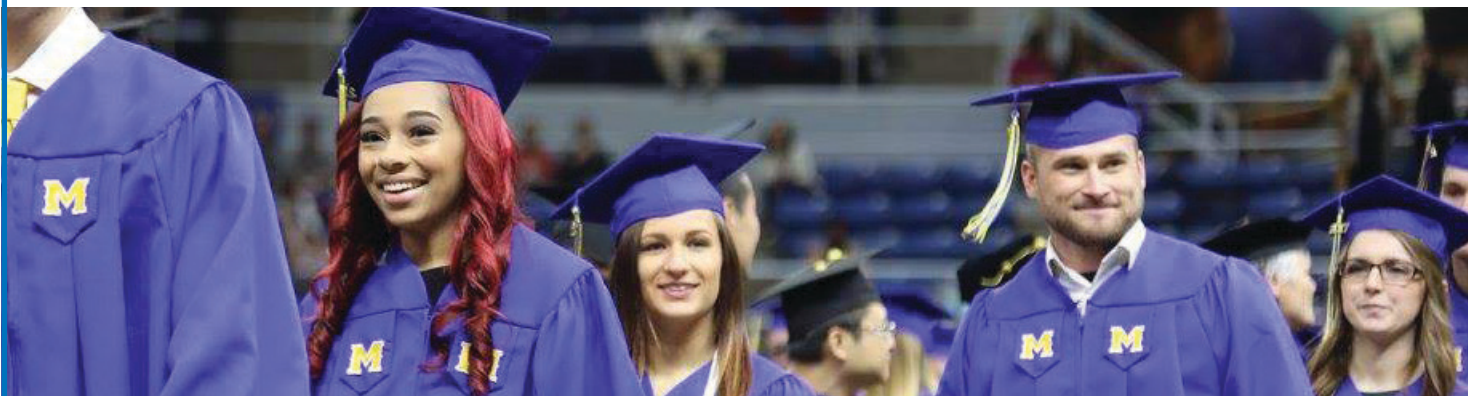
Graduation Rate Within 150% Timeframe



Cohort includes: Louisiana Resident, First-time in College and Transfer Students, Full-time for Given Year.  
Source: LOSFA Payment Files & BoR SSPS and Completers Files as of 9/20/19

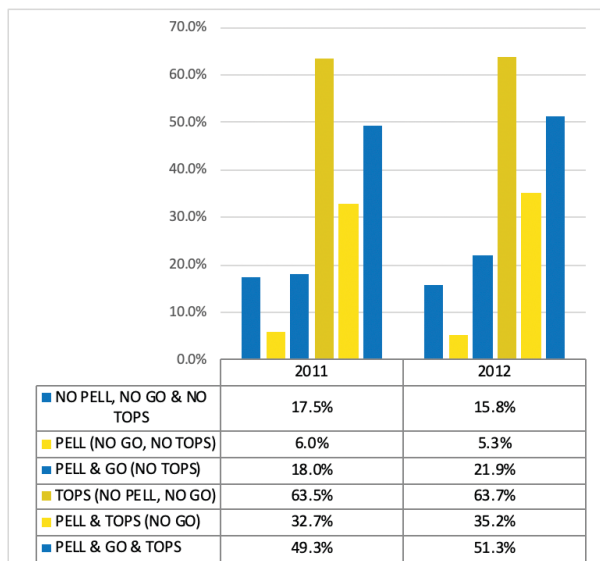
Demographics of Completer Cohort

2011								
Ethnicity	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/LATINO	MULTIPLE RACES	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	NOT REPORTED	WHITE
PELL	0.9%	1.0%	59.5%	3.1%	1.3%	0.1%	3.8%	30.4%
PELL & GO	0.6%	1.4%	59.2%	3.5%	2.6%	0.0%	4.7%	28.1%
ACT SCORE	16 & below	17-19	20-22	23-26	27-36	None Reported	Female	Male
PELL	13.0%	11.1%	3.6%	1.2%	0.2%	70.9%	61.3%	38.7%
PELL & GO	12.9%	28.1%	7.6%	2.7%	0.6%	48.1%	62.8%	37.2%
2012								
Ethnicity	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/LATINO	MULTIPLE RACES	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	NOT REPORTED	WHITE
PELL	0.6%	1.0%	62.8%	3.3%	1.7%	0.1%	4.1%	26.4%
PELL & GO	0.4%	1.3%	60.5%	3.9%	2.8%	0.2%	3.9%	27.0%
ACT SCORE	16 & below	17-19	20-22	23-26	27-36	None Reported	Female	Male
PELL	11.8%	13.9%	8.0%	3.0%	0.7%	62.7%	60.2%	39.8%
PELL & GO	11.9%	28.0%	10.2%	4.6%	0.8%	44.5%	64.4%	35.6%



## Preparation is Key to Postsecondary Success

Graduation Rate Within 150% Timeframe



Demographics of Completer Cohort

2011								
Ethnicity	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/LATINO	MULTIPLE RACES	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	NOT REPORTED	WHITE
NO PELL, NO GO & NO TOPS	0.7%	1.7%	25.1%	3.3%	1.4%	0.1%	5.1%	62.8%
PELL (NO GO, NO TOPS)	0.9%	1.0%	59.5%	3.1%	1.3%	0.1%	3.8%	30.4%
PELL & GO (NO TOPS)	0.6%	1.4%	59.2%	3.5%	2.6%	0.0%	4.7%	28.1%
TOPS (NO PELL, NO GO)	0.4%	1.3%	5.9%	2.6%	1.8%	0.1%	1.7%	86.2%
PELL & TOPS (NO GO)	0.7%	2.8%	24.0%	4.3%	2.4%	0.1%	2.7%	62.9%
PELL & GO & TOPS	0.5%	3.1%	29.7%	3.6%	3.9%	0.1%	1.7%	57.4%
ACT SCORE	16 & below	17-19	20-22	23-26	27-36	None Reported	Female	Male
NO PELL, NO GO & NO TOPS	7.3%	21.5%	10.8%	6.0%	1.4%	53.0%	46.2%	53.8%
PELL (NO GO, NO TOPS)	13.0%	11.1%	3.6%	1.2%	0.2%	70.9%	61.3%	38.7%
PELL & GO (NO TOPS)	12.9%	28.1%	7.6%	2.7%	0.6%	48.1%	62.8%	37.2%
TOPS (NO PELL, NO GO)	0.1%	0.8%	29.4%	36.8%	23.7%	9.3%	53.9%	46.1%
PELL & TOPS (NO GO)	0.8%	2.6%	35.2%	25.7%	13.1%	22.6%	63.7%	36.3%
PELL & GO & TOPS	0.2%	1.5%	46.1%	32.7%	10.3%	9.1%	62.9%	37.1%
2012								
Ethnicity	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/LATINO	MULTIPLE RACES	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	NOT REPORTED	WHITE
NO PELL, NO GO & NO TOPS	0.8%	1.5%	27.0%	4.3%	2.1%	0.1%	5.0%	59.1%
PELL (NO GO, NO TOPS)	1.0%	1.0%	62.8%	3.3%	1.7%	0.1%	4.1%	26.4%
PELL & GO (NO TOPS)	0.4%	1.3%	60.5%	3.9%	2.8%	0.2%	3.9%	27.0%
TOPS (NO PELL, NO GO)	0.5%	1.6%	6.6%	4.1%	2.8%	0.1%	2.8%	82.6%
PELL & TOPS (NO GO)	0.6%	3.3%	24.7%	4.9%	3.3%	0.0%	2.1%	61.1%
PELL & GO & TOPS	0.8%	3.4%	33.4%	5.2%	4.5%	0.0%	2.1%	50.6%
ACT SCORE	16 & below	17-19	20-22	23-26	27-36	None Reported	Female	Male
NO PELL, NO GO & NO TOPS	4.8%	18.2%	15.9%	8.8%	2.6%	49.9%	46.1%	0.6%
PELL (NO GO, NO TOPS)	11.8%	13.9%	8.0%	3.0%	0.7%	62.7%	60.2%	39.8%
PELL & GO (NO TOPS)	11.9%	28.0%	10.2%	4.6%	0.8%	44.5%	64.4%	35.6%
TOPS (NO PELL, NO GO)	0.0%	0.6%	27.9%	39.6%	24.5%	7.4%	52.9%	47.1%
PELL & TOPS (NO GO)	1.0%	1.0%	36.1%	36.4%	16.1%	10.2%	62.8%	37.2%
PELL & GO & TOPS	0.2%	1.4%	43.8%	34.1%	12.0%	8.5%	64.2%	35.8%

Cohort includes: Louisiana Resident, First-time in College and Transfer Students, Full-time for Given Year.

Source: LOSFA Payment Files & BoR SSPS and Completers Files as of 9/20/19.

Parental income data is not reported in SSPS and/or Statewide Completers System and LOSFA only has income data for students who have filed a FAFSA.

# *How to Contact* **LOSFA FOR ASSISTANCE**

## **FASTEST RESPONSE:**

For the fastest response, send an email to:  
**CustServ@la.gov** or text **“LOSFA”** to **56500**.  
For questions related to START, send an email to:  
**START@la.gov**

## **WEBSITE:**

For more information about LOSFA's programs, visit:  
**osfa.la.gov**

## **SIGNAL VINE TEXT MESSAGING:**

To receive important information and updates from LOSFA, sign up for Signal Vine by  
texting **“LOSFA”** to **56500**.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

🐦 @LOSFA    📘 @LOSFA    📷 @losfa001

## **EVENT REQUESTS:**

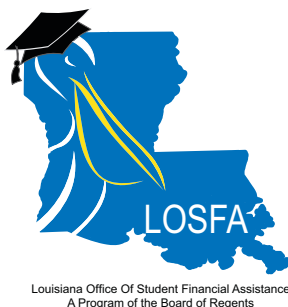
For event requests, fill out the form on the following pages.



**FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT, CONTACT US TODAY!**



To schedule an event with LOSFA at your college or university, please submit the event request form below.



# LOSFA Event Request Form

Please provide at least three (3) option dates with a 30-day notice to confirm your event.

The completed form should be emailed to [Breanna.Paul@la.gov](mailto:Breanna.Paul@la.gov) and [Sabrina.Johnson2@la.gov](mailto:Sabrina.Johnson2@la.gov) or faxed to 225-208-1597.

Please type or print legibly. Be sure to complete all fields entirely.

School/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please include city and ZIP code.*

• Location of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

(Specific location of event. Example: Cafeteria, Gymnasium, Computer Lab, Room 123)

• Parking location: \_\_\_\_\_

(If the parking location is different from the street address, please list here)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Event Information

Event Date Option 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Start time: \_\_\_\_\_ End time: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date Option 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Start time: \_\_\_\_\_ End time: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date Option 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Start time: \_\_\_\_\_ End time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Event Type:

☐ TOPS Seminar (20-30 minutes)

☐ FAFSA Seminar (15 minutes)

☐ TOPS & FAFSA Seminar (30-40 minutes)

☐ Financial Aid Seminar (50-60 minutes)

☐ Aspire to Inspire Mentoring Session

☐ Cross-Curricular College Access Activities

☐ College Match & Fit Workshop

☐ Louisiana College Application & Access Month (LCAAM) event

☐ TOPS Retention Seminar (30 minutes)

☐ START Seminar (30 minutes)

☐ Pre-TOPS Retention Workshop

☐ Browse Session/College Fair

☐ FSA ID & FAFSA Completion Workshop

☐ College Acceptance/Award Recognition Day

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Requested LOSFA Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_ Will your Trailblazer be at this event? ☐ Yes ☐ No

## Attendee Breakdown

Expected number of PARENTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected number of STUDENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) of students participating: ☐ 6<sup>th</sup> ☐ 7<sup>th</sup> ☐ 8<sup>th</sup> ☐ 9<sup>th</sup> ☐ 10<sup>th</sup> ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> ☐ 12<sup>th</sup> ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you inviting any other schools and/or organizations to participate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list them here and let us know where LOSFA will participate in the seminar/workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

Will there be A/V Equipment available to LOSFA to use for the presentation? ☐ Laptop Computer ☐ LCD Projector

Notes/ Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Event Type Descriptions:**

### **TOPS Seminar**

This seminar provides information on Louisiana's Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). This seminar includes information on program requirements in high school and continuation requirements once students enter postsecondary education institutions. It is usually conducted in 20-30 minutes.

### **FAFSA Seminar**

This seminar provides information on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A Completion Workshop assists parents and students when completing the FAFSA; this seminar provides information. It is usually conducted in 15 minutes.

### **TOPS & FAFSA Seminar**

This seminar provides information on Louisiana's Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as well as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is usually conducted in 30-40 minutes.

### **START Seminar**

This seminar provides information on Louisiana's 529 College Savings Plan. Adults will receive information on the savings plan, investment options and process to open an account for their student(s). It is usually conducted in 30 minutes.

### **Financial Aid Seminar**

This seminar provides information on all types of Financial Aid including federal, state, military and private sources for financial aid. This seminar can also include information on TOPS and FAFSA information. It is usually conducted in 50-60 minutes.

### **TOPS Retention Seminar**

This seminar is usually held at postsecondary education institutions catering to students who were awarded TOPS. Students will also receive information on how to avoid cancellation and/or suspension of their TOPS Award as they matriculate through their postsecondary education institutions.

### **Browse Session**

This is neither a seminar nor a workshop. A browse session is usually held at a college fair or expo. Students and/or parents will be able to approach a LOSFA representative with questions on TOPS, Financial Aid and College Access information.

### **Aspire to Inspire Mentoring Sessions**

LOSFA's Aspire to Inspire (A2I) comprehensive mentoring program provides services to those students who are identified as needing additional support inside and outside of the classroom. Typical issues addressed during mentoring meetings include academic, social, organization/life skill development and college and career guidance. Students are referred by an On-Site School Coordinator (OSSC), Explorers' Club Sponsor (ESC), other school staff, partner organizations or by self-identification.

### **Cross-Curricular College Access Activities**

The Cross-Curricular College Access Activities are classroom lessons that integrate content and skills from multiple college access and career areas into one cohesive learning experience. During these lessons, students can learn and apply the LOSFA 5-Point Match, explore their career interests along with colleges that offer their degree and examine their cost of living after college.

### **College Match and Fit Workshops (College Kickoff Event for Seniors)**

The College Match and Fit Workshops are designed to incorporate LOSFA's 5-Point Match Tool. The 5-Point Match is used to help students find their own unique postsecondary fit, whether it be a university, community college, technical college, proprietary school, cosmetology school, the military or the workforce. Students can explore their career interests while learning about colleges that offer their program of study.

### **Louisiana College Application and Access Month (LCAAM)**

The purpose of LCAAM is to assist 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with navigating the complex college admissions process and to ensure that they apply to at least one postsecondary institution of interest. Schools have the opportunity to invite families to attend and to take advantage of completing and submitting college applications with their students. LCAAM events may include college applications, FSA ID registrations, FAFSAs, career searches, employment applications, military searches and military applications.



**FSA ID Completion Workshop**

LOSFA Representatives will assist both students and parents in creating their FSA ID at this workshop. The FSA ID is a combination of a username and password required to submit the FAFSA. The FSA ID workshop can be held in conjunction with a FAFSA Completion Workshop or separately.

**FAFSA Completion Workshop**

Students and parents will receive support completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). LOSFA Representatives will be providing step-by-step assistance during this workshop. Both students and parents will need to bring their tax return information from two year's prior. For example, if a student is entering college as a freshman in the fall semester of 2020; students and parents need to bring tax information from 2018.

**Pre-TOPS Retention Workshop**

The TOPS Retention Workshop will provide students the information needed to determine whether the student is progressing successfully toward TOPS Award eligibility. Students will also receive information on how to avoid cancellation and/or suspension of their TOPS Award once they enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

**College Acceptance/Award Recognition Day**

As a follow-up to Louisiana College Application and Access Month (LCAAM), students who have been accepted to a college will be formally recognized in existing school award ceremonies.

**Other (please specify):**

If your dreams include anything with college access for your students, LOSFA will be able to help. Some examples of seminars/workshops: Scholarship Searches, How to create a Student Hub Account, etc.



Louisiana Office Of Student Financial Assistance  
A Program of the Board of Regents

[osfa.la.gov](http://osfa.la.gov)