



The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and Louisiana GEAR UP (LGU) make it a goal to connect with and empower families with resources to promote student success.

LOSFA and LGU programming **promotes, prepares, and provides** equity of college access for the families and students that we serve. Through the Family Engagement Newsletter, we will give you tools to help you(r) child(ren) prepare for college and make the most of their high school years.

In this issue, you will learn about LOSFA and LGU programs, initiatives, and college financing options.

If you have any questions about college access or the programs that we offer, text LOSFA to 50065.

Your Parent Engagement Liaison,

Chauntreniece Davis

Louisiana GEAR UP programming is facilitated by On-Site School Coordinators (OSSCs), Explorers' Club Sponsors, and Parent Liaisons in 15 districts across the state. They host college access events for students and parents.

Who are your GEAR UP Sponsors?

Be on the lookout for GEAR UP sponsored events at your child's school whether in person or virtual.

Parent Liaison Initiatives



Amanda Dillon hosted a Virtual TOPS Presentation for parents and students at Broadmoor High School.



Carol Ware collaborated with a nonprofit organization, MetroMorphosis, to provide two Dell laptops for two students at Tara High School.

Stay informed!

Text 'LOSFA' to 50065 to sign up for important reminders and alerts.

CONNECT TO COLLEGE ACCESS *as a Family!*



@LouisianaGearUp



Signal Vine

TEXT LOSFA
TO
50065



@la_gearup

What is Explorers' Club?

Did you know your student has the opportunity to join the Louisiana GEAR UP Explorers' Club?



Louisiana GEAR UP
EXPLORERS' CLUB

Academics → Advocacy → Behavior & Leadership → College Preparation & Career Exploration

Explorers' Club is a student-run organization that provides peer leadership opportunities 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.



The Louisiana GEAR UP Explorers' Club mission is to:

Encourage all Louisiana GEAR UP students to develop positive behaviors and achieve academic success through the enhancement of various opportunities of exploration; nurturing their pursuit of lifelong learning and improvements to themselves, their schools, and their community.

Its framework is based on the four domains:

- Academics
- Advocacy
- Behavior and Leadership
- College Preparation and Career Exploration

[View our Louisiana GEAR UP Explorers' Club page](#)

Click [here](#) for more information on GEAR UP's College and Career Clubs.

How can students get money for college?

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) posts scholarships monthly.

Click the button below to visit our [scholarships page](#).



[View Scholarships!](#)

Another resource for financial aid is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). By completing the FAFSA, students can find out their eligibility for federal financial aid.

The class of 2021 is encouraged to complete the FAFSA by **February 1, 2021**.

For assistance with the FAFSA, you can schedule an appointment [here](#) or text LOSFA to 50065 for questions.



#ICYMI

In case you missed it, LOSFA launched *My LOSFA College Advocate*, a high school grade-level checklist that will allow you to support your child with their academic futures.

The series will include videos throughout the year for students to see what they should be doing, in terms of preparing for college.

Click the picture below to watch and follow the series on LOSFA's YouTube Channel: LOSFA1000



Planning for college does not have to be stressful - especially if those conversations start early and happen often. Your children recently received some valuable information that will assist with the process.

High school juniors and the seniors received *Louisiana Next*, a magazine with information from LOSFA about TOPS, ways to find career matches, and steps to avoid FAFSA errors. They also received a copy of *Your Future, Your Choice*, a magazine created by LOSFA's Field Outreach Services that includes important information and checklists for high schoolers.

Middle school students received *The Middle Matters*, to aid in their journey to prepare for high school and beyond.

Click the pictures below to view the magazines.



[Click here to view some common financial aid terms](#)

About Louisiana GEAR UP

Louisiana GEAR UP is a federally funded national initiative under the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA). Louisiana GEAR UP is meant to increase academic performance, increase the number of students who graduate from high school and enroll at a post-secondary institution, and enhance student's academic preparation, leadership and career awareness.

[Visit the Louisiana GEAR UP website](#)

