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**By Chris Prinzel**  
**USF CONNECT**

**Tampa Bay Technology Company to Provide Academic Planning Software to Pinellas and Hillsborough County School Districts**

*Lighthouse Guidance Systems, Inc. contributes to the advancement of modern education tools*

**TAMPA, Fla. (August 29, 2013)** – [Lighthouse Guidance Systems, Inc.](#) (LHG Systems), a Florida based education technology company, has partnered with Pinellas and Hillsborough County school systems, providing its academic planning software, LGS Connect, to high schools and middle schools throughout the districts. The product was launched this past May.

LGS Connect provides guidance counselors and school administrators with a new method for monitoring student academic progression. Through its text message infrastructure, counselors can schedule appointments with students and parents, as well as track GPA performance, via text. Using the system, students can create a personalized academic track that tells them what they need to achieve to be accepted into the college or university of their choice.

“LGS Connect is an innovative counselor resource that assists counselors with accurately advising students’ individual goals.” stated Andrew Weatherill, the K-12 Guidance Supervisor for Pinellas County Schools.

Founded by William Farragut in 2010, LHG Systems has been developing programs with the goal of advancing modern education, and in August of 2012 joined [USF CONNECT’s Tampa Bay Technology Incubator](#) at the [University of South Florida](#).

“Lighthouse Guidance Systems will not only satisfy the state mandate, which requires students to have a personalized academic electronic planner, it will provide students and parents with the tools necessary to monitor the student’s weighted/unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA), graduation requirements, Bright Futures GPA and community service hours along with the State University System recalculated GPA for college admissions,” said Ansberto Vallejo, Supervisor for Career and Postsecondary Planning for Hillsborough County Public Schools. “Our middle school, high school and college and career counselors are excited about utilizing Lighthouse Guidance Systems.”

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*USF CONNECT focuses on the needs of Tampa Bay’s technology and bio/life sciences entrepreneurs throughout the business life cycle, providing the facilities, partners and resources for successful business development. USF CONNECT offers access to technologies, workforce programs, technology commercialization, critical research equipment, and incubator facilities, adding value and delivering targeted, high level expertise to its member businesses.*

*The Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI) is one vehicle through which USF CONNECT grows successful companies. TBTI supports technology research as a catalyst for economic development and advocates the creation and development of facilities for high-technology companies and related support functions.*

*The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF ranks 50th in the nation for federal expenditures in research and total expenditures in research among all U.S. universities, public or private, according to the National Science Foundation. Serving more than 47,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion and an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.*

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