Black Hawk Regions Pathway

Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help make decisions about career and post-secondary (PS) education or training, to plan a course of study, and to make financial aid assessments with family members.

By the end of 8th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Attend a career exploration day
- Complete a career cluster survey
- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
- Address any remedial needs in math/ELA

A student should know:

 Educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathway

Career Exploration and Development Financial Aid and Literacy Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection

By the end of 9th grade

A student should know:

- One or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- The relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- The benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- The relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and PS goals

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey
- Participate in mock job interview
- Learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- Research internships/apprenticeships that offer scholarships or money opportunities
- Understand how taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- Take at least one college entrance exam

A student should know:

General cost ranges of various PS options

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Identify two related PS paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with career cluster survey results
- Learn about financial wellness
- Understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Complete a college fit/match inventory
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators
- Identify two related PS paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results

A student should know:

- The difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help financial aid
- The affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- How salary impacts standard of living
- The different types of PS credentials and institutions

By the end of 12th grade

- A student should be supported to:
 Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Create a resume and personal statement
- Attend a college fair

A student should know:

- How to find scholarship opportunities
- Estimated cost of each PS option

Career Exploration and Development

Financial Aid and Literacy

Post-Secondary Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection