

Postsecondary and **Career Expectations**

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

By the end of 9th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- Complete an orientation to career clusters
- Complete a career cluster survey
- Begin determining eligibility for advanced placement courses
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process
- Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans

A student should know:

- where to find scholarship opportunities
- the concept of career clusters of interest
- one or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- the general timing of PS entrance exams and applications

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Complete a financial aid assessment with a family member
- Understand different banking relations
- Prepare a budget
- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest
- Attend a career exploration day
- Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans
- Meet with a college representative
- Complete a college fit/match inventory
- Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans

A student should know:

- the affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- how salary impacts standards of living
- general cost ranges of various PS institutions
- educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career clusters
- own learning style and how it relates to career interests
- career attributes related to career interests
- relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary/career goals

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
- Outline a plan to pay for college
- Create a plan and timeline for financial aid process
- Learn about debt and credit scores
- Revisit the career survey

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- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Create a resume and personal statement
- Complete an elective course to explore career interests
- Identify an internship opportunity related to career pathways
- Identify two related PS paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results
- · Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators
- Understand the college placement process
- · Attend a college fair
- Take at least one college entrance exam
- Visit at least 3 PS institutions
- Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans

A student should know:

- estimated cost of each PS option
- the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs
- how career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at postsecondary options
- · 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for postsecondary program of study
- entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected postsecondary programs of study

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- Attend a financial aid award letter workshop
- Obtain an internship opportunity related to the career pathways
- Participate in a job shadowing
- Participate in mock job interview

A student should know:

opportunity

- the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

By 12/31, a student should have:

- attend a FAFSA completion workshop
- complete the FAFSA
- complete 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions
- meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans







