



Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each 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:

- complete a career cluster survey
- complete a career interest survey
- participate in an opportunity to develop public speaking skills
- learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- select coursework for PS/career plans aligned with the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (CCRIs)
- outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans
- understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- understand the various aspects of personal banking

A student should know:

- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career interest survey
- be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- compare and contrast personal strengths and weakness with career choice
- create a resume and personal statement
- participate in a mock job interview
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the PS and career selection process
- understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes

A student should know:

- one or two careers for further exploration
- skills related to career interests
- educational requirements, cost, expected entry-level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathway
- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- the benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- different types of PS credentials and institutions
- · how salary impacts standard of living
- general cost ranges of various PS options

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career interest survey
- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- enroll as appropriate in early college credit courses
- complete a college fit/match inventory
- · connect with a mentor
- · attend a college fair
- meet with a college admissions representative
- visit at least 3 PS institutions
- complete a financial aid assessment with a family member
- create a plan to pay for college using available financial resources

A student should know:

- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- how to find scholarship opportunities

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career interest survey
- revisit the career interest survey
- visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- address remedial needs in math/ELA
- secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications
- visit at least 3 PS institutions
- learn about financial wellness
- understand how to be a responsible borrower
- understand the timeline of the financial aid process
- understand the student loan process and available loan options

A student should know:

- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study
- the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- estimated cost of chosen PS options
- financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

By 12/31, a student should have:

- complete 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions
- ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- attend a financial aid application completion workshop
- complete a financial aid application









