

Sandwich High School



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 interest survey
- revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey
- understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (CCRIs)

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
- relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and PS goals

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Identify an internship opportunity related to career pathways
- Attend a career exploration day
- Interview a professional who is working in desired field
- Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest
- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
- Learn about financial wellness
- Complete a unit on education planning
- Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Identify two related PS paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process

A student should know:

- educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathway
- the general timing of PS entrance exams and applications
- importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- the different types of PS credentials and institutions

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- Attend a PS affordability workshop with a family member
- Research internships/apprenticeships that offer scholarships or money opportunities
- Understand timeline for the financial aid process
- Determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course
- Attend a college fair
- Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- Take at least one college entrance exam

A student should know:

- application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for career pathways
- how career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options
- estimated cost of each PS option
- general cost ranges of various PS institutions
- the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help financial aid
- how to find scholarship opportunities
- entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for PS program of study

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Obtain an internship opportunity related to the career pathways
- Participate in mock job interview
- Learn types of employee benefits and retirement planning
- Understand the job application process for desired field(s)
- If applicable, receive industry-based certification (s) related to career pathways
- Create a resume and personal statement
- Complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- Create a plan to pay for college using available financial resources
- Understand the student loan process and available loan options
- Explore the opportunity costs of PS choices
- Understand how to be a responsible borrower
- Understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes
- Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- Visit at least 3 PS institutions
- Meet with recent high school graduates
- Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs

A student should know:

- how salary impacts standard of living
- the affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan

By 12/31, a student should have:

- completed a financial aid application
- attended a financial aid application completion workshop
- Completed 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions

