Sandwich High School

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 9th grade

A student should:

Aid and

Literacy

- Complete a career cluster survey
- Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey*
- Know one or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and postsecondary/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators*
- Know the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
- Know relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary goals

Career Exploration and Development Post-Secondary Education Exploration,

By the end of 10th grade

- 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**
- Know educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathway
- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
- Learn about financial wellness*
- Know the general timing of postsecondary entrance exams and applications
- Complete a unit on education planning
- Know importance of community service and extracurricular activities to postsecondary and career plans
- Know the different types of postsecondary credentials and institutions
- Review coursework, and postsecondary/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators*
- Attend a postsecondary options workshop
- Identify two related postsecondary paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the postsecondary and career selection process

By the end of 11th grade

- Know application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for career pathways
- Participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests*
- Know how career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at postsecondary options
- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- Know estimated cost of each postsecondary option
- Attend a postsecondary affordability workshop with a family member
- Know general cost ranges of various postsecondary institutions
- Know the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help financial aid*
- Know how to find scholarship opportunities*
- 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 postsecondary/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators*
- Know entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected postsecondary programs of study
- Know 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for postsecondary program of study
- Take at least one college entrance exam

By the end of 12th grade

- 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
- By 12/31, complete the FAFSA (or other financial aid application)*
- By 12/31, attend a financial aid application completion workshop*
- Create a plan to pay for college using available financial resources*
- Know how salary impacts standard of living
- Know the affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- Understand the student loan process and available loan options**
- Explore the opportunity costs of postsecondary choices
- Understand how to be a responsible borrower**
- Understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes*
- Know the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time
- Visit at least 3 postsecondary institutions
- Meet with recent high school graduates
- Completed 3 or more admissions applications to postsecondary institutions
- Review coursework, and postsecondary/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators*

Career Exploration and Development

Financial Aid and Literacy

Post-Secondary Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection