

Ridgewood 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 8th grade	By the end of 9th grade	By the end of 10th grade	By the end of 11th grade	By the end of 12th grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an orientation to career clusters • Complete a career cluster survey • Attend a career exploration day • Prepare a budget • Be exposed to a financial unit in a course or workshop • Know how salary impacts standard of living • Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college • Know the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans • Outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to postsecondary plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey • Know one or two career clusters for further exploration and development • Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest • Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests • Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school • Know own learning style and how it relates to career interests • Develop public speaking skills • Complete a financial aid assessment with a family member • Know general cost ranges of various postsecondary institutions • Attend a postsecondary options workshop • Attend a college fair • Know the different types of postsecondary credentials and institutions • Complete a college fit/match inventory • Complete or enroll in at least one early college credit opportunity • Review coursework, and postsecondary/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (every year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career clusters • Know career attributes related to career interests • Know how career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at postsecondary options • Know where to find scholarship opportunities • Know the affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt • Explore internships and apprenticeships for scholarships and money opportunities • Attend a postsecondary affordability workshop with a family member • Identify two related postsecondary paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results • Outline a plan for high school courses to prevent remediation at the college level • Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and postsecondary/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a job shadowing opportunity • Complete an elective course to explore career interests • Participate in mock job interview • Create a resume and personal statement • Identify an internship opportunity related to career pathways • Know financial aid deadlines for chosen postsecondary options • Create a plan and timeline for financial aid process • Learn about debt and credit scores • Outline a plan to pay for college • Know the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs • Visit at least 3 postsecondary institutions • Determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course • Know 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for postsecondary program of study • Know the general timing of postsecondary entrance exams and applications • Take at least one college entrance exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain an internship opportunity related to the career pathways • If applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to the career pathways • Know the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan • Know estimated cost of each postsecondary option • By 12/31 Complete the FAFSA • By 12/31 Attend a FAFSA completion workshop • Secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications • Understand the college placement process • By 12/31 Complete 3 or more admissions applications to postsecondary institutions • By 12/31 Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time



- Career Exploration and Development
- Financial Aid and Literacy
- Post-Secondary Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection