

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 8th grade

- A student should be supported to:**
- Learn about debt and credit scores
 - Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
 - Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
 - Prepare a budget
 - Complete a career cluster survey
 - Develop public speaking skills
 - Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest
 - Memorize basic demographic information for resume/applications
 - Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
 - Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (CCRIs)
 - Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
 - Review coursework, and postsecondary/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- A student should know:**
- How salary impacts standard of living
 - The relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans

By the end of 9th grade

- A student should be supported to:**
- Explore the opportunity costs of PS choices
 - Understand different banking relations
 - Attend a PS affordability workshop with a family member
 - Understand the job application process and terms
 - Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
 - Outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans
 - Identify two related PS paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results
 - Complete a unit on education planning
 - Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
 - Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- A student should know:**
- General cost ranges of various PS institutions
 - Estimated cost of each PS option
 - The affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
 - How career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options
 - The relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and PS/career goals
 - Importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS/career plans

By the end of 10th grade

- A student should be supported to:**
- Explore internships and apprenticeships for scholarships and money opportunities
 - Be aware of job outlook by geographic area
 - Interview a business owner, employee, and retiree (any career/field)
 - Utilize technology to network outside own community
 - Attend a workshop on employer expectations and employability skills
 - Take at least one college entrance exam
 - Determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course
 - Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
 - Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- A student should know:**
- Where to find scholarship opportunities
 - The different types of PS credentials and institutions

By the end of 11th grade

- A student should be supported to:**
- Complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
 - Complete a financial aid assessment with a family member
 - Attend a career exploration day
 - Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans
 - Attend a college fair
 - Connect with a mentor
 - Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process
 - Meet with recent high school graduates
 - Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
 - Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- A student should know:**
- The terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
 - Financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options
 - The difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs
 - Application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for career pathway
 - Entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study

By the end of 12th grade

- A student should be supported to:**
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career
 - Create a resume and personal statement
 - Participate in a job shadowing opportunity
 - Participate in mock job interview
 - Interview a professional who is working in desired field
 - Meet with a college representative
 - Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
 - Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- A student should know:**
- Negative impact of remediation on PS goals
- By 12/31, a student should have:**
- Completed the FAFSA
 - Attended a FAFSA completion workshop
 - Completed 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



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