Regional Office of Education (ROE) #35

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. Postsecondary education includes any formal learning after high school and can include earning an academic credential or learning a trade.

By the end of 9th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career cluster survey
- complete a career interest survey
- compare and contrast strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- research career and labor market information and opportunities
- research career prerequisites and opportunities to learn related to areas of interest
- Outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans

A student should know:

- one or two careers for further exploration
- 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
- general cost ranges of various PS options

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- identify a Career Pathway (CP) related to career cluster and career interest surveys
- attend a career exploration activity
- identify 2-3 adults to support through the career and PS selection process
- select high school courses as they relate to career and/or PS plan
- attend a basic financial aid workshop with a family member

A student should know:

- educational requirements, cost, entry level and median salary for chosen CP
- skills related to career interests
- different types of PS and career credentials and institutions
- benefit of early college credit related to PS success and completion
- general timing of PS entrance exams and applications

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- revisit/update career interest survey
- visit one or more workplace in desired career field
- identify and complete a job shadowing experience
- create a resume and personal statement
- participate in a mock job interview
- attend a career fair aligned to PS plan
- enroll in and complete at least one early college credit opportunity
- take at least one college entrance exam
- meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS process are completed on time
- be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop

A student should know:

- application deadlines, test timing, cost and preparation for industry-based certification for chosen CP
- entrance requirements, application deadlines, and cost to achieve PS goals
- 3-5 options for achieve PS goals, one safe option and one reach option
- negative impact of remediation on PS goals
- criteria for applying for scholarships
- financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- if applicable, complete one or more team-based challenges or projects related to identified CP
- if applicable, obtain an internship opportunity related to CP
- if applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to CP (CE)
- address any remedial needs (specific to Math and/or ELA) to assist in PS readiness
- complete a financial aid workshop with a family member

A student should know:

- how CP courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options
- estimated cost of chosen PS options
- affordability of PS options in relation to entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan

By 12/31, a student should have:

- completed 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions
- ensured all steps in the PS admissions process are completed in time
- attended a Financial Aid Application completion workshop with a family member
- completed a FAFSA application

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Career Exploration and Development | Postsecondary Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection | Financial Aid and Literacy