



D303 on PaCE to Thrive

Postsecondary and Career Expectations



By the end of 8th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career cluster survey
- attend a career exploration day
- complete a unit on education planning
- be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop

A student should know:

- the concept of career clusters of interest
- relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary (PS)/career goals



By the end of 9th grade

A student should be supported to:

- revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey
- complete an orientation to career clusters
- attend a PS options workshop
- meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators
- begin determining eligibility for advanced placement (AP) courses
- outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans
- complete a financial aid assessment with a family member

A student should know:

- one or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- general cost ranges of various PS options

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping
- select a career pathway (CP) within a career cluster of interest
- begin determining eligibility for AP courses
- identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process
- review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (every year)
- attend a PS affordability workshop with a family member

A student should know:

- educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected CP
- different types of PS credentials and institutions
- general timing of PS entrance exams and applications
- benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- revisit the career survey
- participate in a mock job interview
- create a resume and personal statement
- identify an internship opportunity related to the CP
- determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course
- complete or enroll in at least one early college credit opportunity
- attend a college fair
- visit at least 3 PS institutions
- take at least one college entrance exam

A student should know:

- application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for CP
- career attributes related to career interests
- 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
- negative impact of remediation on PS goals
- financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

By the end of 12th grade

By 12/31 of 12th grade a student should have:

- completed 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions
- met with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- attended a FAFSA completion workshop
- completed the FAFSA

By the end of 12th grade a student should be supported to:

- address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- obtain an internship opportunity related to the CP
- if applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to the CP
- complete one or more team-based challenges or projects related to the CP
- attend a financial aid award letter workshop

A student should know:

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

