

Edwardsville Middle Schools



Postsecondary and Career Expectations

At the middle school and early high school level, the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework is designed to provide students with guided exploration of postsecondary planning and options in a manner that is consistent with adolescent development. Meaningful participation in postsecondary preparation programs requires that students perceive college and/or career as possible and probable. Too often, programs are designed to serve only students who already have a college-going or career-oriented identity. The developmental work in the middle school framework is intended to prepare students to more fully engage with the PaCE Framework throughout the critical high school years.



By the end of 6th grade	By the end of 7th grade	By the end of 8th grade
EXPOSED TO: - Information about and examples of a wide range of careers - Language that emphasizes individual skills, strengths and assets - Practices that develop a growth mindset SUPPORTED TO: - Explore their interests - Practice their strengths - Develop their confidence in their abilities	SUPPORTED TO: - Engage in guided self-reflection - Articulate aspirations - Envision a positive future - Explore their habits - Create or change a habit - Record their progress - Explore career interests - Explore their strengths - Effectively ask for help - Understand a growth mindset	SUPPORTED TO: - Explore barriers to aspirations - Articulate personal strengths - Identify sources of motivation - Explore career interests - Develop an educational plan for at least one career interest - Compare possible financial futures - Demonstrate a growth mindset - Explore learning styles - Map a support network - Complete a unit on education planning EXPOSED TO: - The concept of career clusters of interest - Relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary/career goals - Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop - The relationship between the HS credit system, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
Aspiration	Planning	Self-Advocacy

*This PaCE framework is currently in a developmental stage and will be updated accordingly.