Illinois PaCE 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 selection, and to make financial aid assessments with family members.

END OF 8th GRADE

END OF 9th GRADE

END OF END OF 10th GRADE

END OF 12th GRADE

A Student should be supported to:

- Articulate personal strengths.
- Explore barriers to aspirations.
- Explore learning styles.
- · Gain self-advocacy skills.
- Complete a career cluster survey.
- Attend a career exploration day.
- Complete a unit on education planning.
- Explore extracurricular options for HS.
- Attend Freshman Orientation activities.
- Map a support network.
- Understand how HS courses relate to PS plans and select courses based on PS goal.

A student should be exposed to:

- The concept of career clusters of interest.
- The relationship between community service/ extracurricular activities and PS goals.
- A financial literacy unit in a course or workshop.

A student should be supported to:

- Complete a career cluster survey and interest survey
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Develop a personalized learning plan
- Select course work for PS plans aligned with the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators
- Enroll as appropriate in advanced placement (AP) courses
- Participate in clubs and activities at school that correspond with your areas of interest.
- Attend a basic financial aid presentation with a family member
- Set SMART Goals related to academics and PS plans.
- Complete ACT Preparation activities
- Set a PreACT goal and report official score.

A student should know:

- One or two careers for further exploration
- The relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- The importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- Graduation requirements and academic standing and the negative impact of remediation on PS goals

A student should be supported to:

- Explore internship, workplace learning, or community service opportunities related to career pathway.
- Participate in activities related to their career cluster of interest.
- Explore career pathways and the College and Career Pathway Endorsement (CCPE).
- Connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the PS and career selection process.
- Review coursework, and PS plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (every year).
- Attend a basic financial aid presentation with a family member.
- Complete interactive career and financial literacy simulation scenarios aligned with PS planning goals.
- Complete ACT Preparation activities.
- Set a PreACT goal and report official score.

A student should know:

- Educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected Career Pathway (CP).
- The skills related to career interests.
- Different types of PS credentials and institutions.
- The general timing of PS entrance exams and applications.
- The benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion.

A student should be supported to:

- Revisit career interest survey and update career goals.
- Create a personal statement for PS planning.
- Determine readiness for college-level coursework in core courses.
- · Attend a college fair.
- Visit at least 3 PS institutions both in person and virtually.
- Complete a Postsecondary Plan Workshop and update PS planning.
- Indicate college major or secondary training program & credential goals.
- Explore careers aligned with personality traits and interests.
- Complete ACT Preparation activities.
- Report official ACT scores.

A student should know:

- Application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for CP.
- Entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study.
- Multiple PS options aligned with career goals.
- Financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options.



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

- Learn about what motivates one's post secondary planning.
- Update post secondary, career, and academic goals.
- Engage with career development opportunity related to the CP, if applicable.
- Receive industry-based certification(s) related to the CP, if applicable.
- Complete the year-end survey to communicate PS plans and enroll in RLAS Alumni database.
- Complete 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions.
- Ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- Attend a Financial Aid Application completion workshop.
- · Complete a financial aid application.
- Record college, training, or PS decision.
- Ensure all graduation requirements have been met.

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 expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt.
- Terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan.

