Illinois PaCE: Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help make decisions on careers and postsecondary (PS) education or training, plan a course of study, and make financial aid assessments with family members.

### By the end of 8th grade

**A student should be supported to:**
- Revisit career cluster survey and take a career interest survey
- Complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans with the ISBE College and Career Readiness Framework
- Begin determining eligibility for 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 9th grade

**A student should be supported to:**
- Revisit career cluster survey and take a career interest survey
- Complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans with the ISBE College and Career Readiness Framework
- Begin determining eligibility for AP courses
- Identify 2-3 adults to support him/her through the PS and career selection process
- Compare current cumulative GPA, academic, and career indicators to ISBE College and Career Readiness Framework (every year)
- Attend a PS affordability workshop with an adult 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 apps
- Benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion

### By the end of 10th grade

**A student should be supported to:**
- Revisit the career survey and participate in a mock job interview
- Create a resume and personal statement
- Identify an internship opportunity related to CP
- Determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrolled 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:**
- App deadlines, test timing, cost, and prep for industry-based certification for CP
- Career attributes related to career interests
- Entrance requirements, including app deadlines, for expected PS program of study
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, and one reach school for PS program of study
- Benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- Financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

### By the end of 11th grade

**A student should be supported to:**
- Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- Attend a FAFSA completion workshop
- Obtain an internship opportunity relating to CP
- If applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) relating to CP
- Complete one or more team-based challenges or projects relating to 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

### By the end of 12th grade

**A student should have:**
- Completed 3 or more PS entrance requirements, including app deadlines, test timing, and prep for industry-based certification for CP
- Career attributes related to career interests
- Entrance requirements, including app deadlines, for expected PS program of study
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, and one reach school for PS program of study
- Benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- Financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

**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