



**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.

By the end of 8th grade	By the end of 9th grade	By the end of 10th grade	By the end of 11th grade	By the end of 12th grade
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**A student should be supported to:**

- complete a career interest survey
- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- meet with a high school student pursuing a pathway of interest

**A student should know:**

- the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
- importance of community service and extracurricular activities to postsecondary and career plans

**A student should be supported to:**

- complete a college fit/match inventory
- connect with a mentor
- take at least one college entrance exam

**A student should know:**

- negative impact of remediation on postsecondary goals

**A student should be supported to:**

- learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- understand the job application process for desired field(s)
- create a resume and personal statement
- participate in a mock job interview
- research internships and/or apprenticeships that offer scholarships or opportunities to earn money
- enroll as appropriate in early college credit courses
- attend a postsecondary options workshop
- meet with a college admissions representative

**A student should know:**

- one or two careers for further exploration
- skills related to career interests
- educational requirements, cost, and expected entry-level/midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathway
- general cost ranges of various postsecondary options
- how to find scholarship opportunities
- how salary impacts standard of living
- different types of postsecondary credentials and institutions

**A student should be supported to:**

- be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- explore opportunities along the Work-Based Learning Continuum
- attend a basic financial aid presentation with a trusted adult
- understand the student loan process and available loan options
- understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes
- understand the various aspects of personal banking
- attend a college fair
- meet with a college admissions representative

**A student should know:**

- the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help financial aid
- financial aid deadlines for chosen postsecondary options
- affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- general timing of postsecondary entrance exams and applications

**A student should be supported to:**

- participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- interview a professional who is working in a desired field
- understand how to be a responsible borrower
- complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications
- compare campus life opportunities
- meet with a college admissions representative

**A student should know:**

- terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- estimated cost of chosen postsecondary options
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for postsecondary program of study

**By 12/31, a student should have:**

- attended a financial aid application completion workshop
- completed a financial aid application
- ensured all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time
- completed 3 or more admissions applications to postsecondary institutions

